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172

CHARACTERISTICS OF MALE BATTERERS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSERS:  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX ROLE ATTITUDES AND THE APPROVAL AND  
SEVERITY OF THE USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE BY MEN IN A FAMILY CONTEXT

by

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SEVERITY OF THE USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE BY MEN IN A FAMILY CONTEXT

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(ABSTRACT)

**Purpose.** This study examined the link between sex role stereotyping and male violence to provide an empirical base for the development of an appropriate predictive model of marital violence and to improve treatment provided to this population.

**Method.** The sample of study included 44 men participating in programs for batterers and 71 men in programs for substance abusers. Subjects were compared according to approval and severity of use of physical violence, childhood history of violence, level of alcohol use, and sex role attitudes.

**Results.** Results of the study indicated that level of sex role egalitarianism was not significantly related to use of marital violence. However, level of violence in childhood, level of alcohol abuse and level of approval of marital violence were related to the use of violence by men in a family context.

Statistical analysis of the data revealed no significant differences between the batterers and substance abusers on the

level of sex role egalitarianism, the level of violence in childhood, nor on the level of approval of marital violence. Significant differences were revealed between the groups on their level of the use of alcohol. Similarities between the two groups suggest joint treatment potential.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
ARTICLE: Characteristics of Male Batterers and Substance Abusers: The Relationship Between Sex Role Attitudes and the Approval and Severity of the Use of Physical Force by Men in a Family Context..	1
Introduction.....	1
Purpose.....	3
Hypotheses.....	4
Review of the Literature.....	5
Feminist Understanding of Male Violence.....	5
Sex Role Egalitarianism.....	7
History of Violence in Childhood.....	9
Substance Abuse and Violence.....	12
Definition of Terms.....	13
Methodology.....	16
Data Collection.....	16
Measurement of Variables.....	17
Instruments.....	18
Sample.....	21
Results.....	24

Demographic Characteristics of the Sample.....	24
Hypotheses testing.....	31
Discussion.....	38
REFERENCES.....	44
APPENDIX A: Review of Related Literature.....	49
Spouse Abuse and Sex Roles.....	53
Spouse Abuse and Divorce.....	55
Factors Contributing to Spouse Abuse.....	55
Myths about Spouse Abuse.....	58
Locating the Sample Population.....	59
APPENDIX B: Instrument.....	66
APPENDIX C: Letter to Administrators.....	78
APPENDIX D: Scales used in the instrument.....	80
APPENDIX E: A brief proposal of the project.....	82
APPENDIX F: Memo to Administrators.....	84
APPENDIX G: Letter to group members.....	86
APPENDIX H: General information and informed consent.....	88
REFERENCES.....	90
VITA.....	92

## LIST OF TABLES

1. Composition of participating agencies.....	23
2. Demographic characteristics of the sample - age.....	25
3. Demographic characteristics of the sample - education.....	26
4. Demographic characteristics of the sample - marital status.....	28
5. Demographic characteristics of the sample - race.....	29
6. Demographic characteristics of the sample - gross annual income.....	30
7. Demographic characteristics of the sample - religious perspective.....	32
8. Demographic characteristics of the sample - political views.....	33
9. Intercorrelations of variables.....	34
10. Mean frequencies, standard deviations and t-test comparisons between responses of batterers (N = 44) and substance abusers (N = 71).....	35
11. Intercorrelations of variables with subjects scoring below the mean of social desirability...	41
12. Common myths about spouse abuse.....	60

"People are not for hitting." John Valusek

## INTRODUCTION

According to a 1976 national survey (Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz, 1980), in 1975 1.8 million wives were severely assaulted by their husbands. Violence in marriage is understood to be a widespread problem in nearly one-third of the married population (Straus, et al., 1980). Straus, whose research in the field of marital violence is extensive, theorizes that this estimate may be significantly lower than the actual extent of the problem, which may be double the reported level.

In the light of the prevalence of spouse abuse, an understanding of factors which may be predictors of family violence, is of great interest and importance in order to stop spousal battering. This study, which focuses more particularly on sex role egalitarianism and male violence is especially valuable in adding to information about factors related to spouse abuse.

The understanding of the factors which contribute to wife battering are thought to be well known. Stereotypically, the men are presumed to be lower-class, uneducated, alcoholic men who make up a small proportion of the population (Pizzey, 1974).

A study by Faulk (1974) is of interest in this regard. His study of men who were imprisoned as a consequence of abuse of their partners reported high rates of psychiatric difficulties. Coleman (1980), studying abusive men in a social service setting,

reported that less than 25 percent of the men had reported any psychiatric history and that of these only half reported hospitalization as a result of their problems. Edleson et al. (1985) suggests that the differences in the results of these two studies are due to the populations studied, not to the characteristics of batterers.

The differences in interpersonal skills of battering and nonbattering men was the concern of the study by Rosenbaum and O'Leary (1981a). The least assertive of the three groups of men, in this study, were violent men. They were significantly less forceful than men in satisfactory, nonviolent relationships. However, as a group, they were not significantly less assertive than men in nonviolent but distressed relationships. Those with the lowest scores of marital satisfaction were violent husbands, but they did not differ significantly from husbands in distressed relationships.

Several studies have considered both the violence which the man has shown outside his home and his overall record of violence. These studies found that in about a third to half of the reported cases, the men were also violent with nonfamily members. Some had been arrested and then imprisoned for such violence (Coleman, 1980; Fagan, Stewart, and Hansen, 1983; Gayford, 1975). On the other hand, some studies have found men who batter to be mostly without criminal records. Faulk (1974) and Roy (1982) found that

men who did have records, had been predominately arrested for woman battering and other charges related to domestic violence.

Thus, previous studies have considered psychiatric difficulties of male batterers (Coleman, 1980), interpersonal skills (Rosenbaum & O'Leary, 1981b), and criminal behaviors (Fagan, et al., 1983). In addition studies have been conducted on the impact of alcohol use (Eberle, 1982), childhood history of violence (Steinmetz & Straus, 1973), and stereotypical value systems (Finn, 1986) on male battering.

However, methodological concerns including use of nonstandardized measures, and inadequate comparison groups have lead to conflicting and contradictory results. This study was undertaken to expand and assist in future clarification of existing research by specifically comparing male batterers and substance abusers, with particular attention to sex role attitudes and the approval and severity of the use of physical force by men in a family context.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this study was to examine the link between sex role stereotyping and male violence which would provide an empirical base for the development of an appropriate predictive model of marital violence and to improve treatment provided to this population.

The sample selected for this study was drawn from anger

control treatment programs and substance abuse programs in order to increase variability in the level of violence within the entire sample and to make comparisons between the groups.

The expressed sex role attitudes of each group were correlated with the approval of violence in relationships as well as with the severity of the use of force used by these men in their families. It was believed that the analysis of the commonalities and differences of these two groups of men might identify this factor, sex role egalitarianism, as a predictor of battering behavior in men.

#### Hypotheses

Sex role egalitarianism, childhood history of violence, substance abuse, and attitude toward marital violence will predict significant variance in the use and approval of marital violence in men involved in both substance abuse and anger management programs.

Specifically:

- 1) The more egalitarian attitudes the participant has, the less likely he is to abuse his partner.
- 2) The greater the level of violence in the participant's childhood, the more likely he is to abuse his partner.
- 3) The more likely the participant is to abuse alcohol, the more likely he is to abuse his partner.
- 4) The more likely a man is to approve of marital violence, the

more likely he is to abuse his partner.

## Review of the Literature

### Feminist Understanding of Male Violence

The use of a feminist perspective in developing this research has influenced the questions asked and the topic investigated. Male violence, and in particular the impact stereotypical, sex-biased attitudes have on perpetuating male violence are issues which first emerged in feminist-sponsored research and shelters for battered women. Thus, understanding the basis of these ideas is important in order to understand the theoretical framework from which this research evolved.

Additionally, the subordinate status of women in most of the world's communities, including America, is well recorded (Blumberg, 1987; Chafetz, 1984). Straus (1976) has reported that the use of physical force is the ultimate resort used to keep subordinate groups in their place. It is therefore not surprising to read of his finding that women in Euro-American societies have frequently been the victims of physical abuse.

Martin (1981) suggests that battering men are only an extreme on the continuum of what it means to be considered a man in our society. She asserts that all men, to one degree or another, share in the predicament of the male batterer when they are incapable of communicating their feelings, when they do not strive toward equity in their relationships, when they depreciate the

feminine aspect of themselves or when they devalue the women with whom they interact.

Miller (1976) wrote that dominant groups specify the permissible roles for subordinates which unusually involve performing tasks which the dominant group prefers not to perform for itself. Roles which the ruling group keeps for itself are scrupulously guarded and secured against subordinates with the excuse of inborn, natural weakness or inadequacy of the mind or body. If the subordinates accept their designated positions, they are regarded well adjusted, as black Americans were considered good during the time of legal segregation as long as they kept their place. This is the way in which unequal relationships are camouflaged and legitimized, and the way in which they become part of our cultural values, morality and social structure.

To exhibit any of the roles which are designated for subordinates, or to believe that other persons observe those characteristics in the dominant group, may be conceived as a sign of weakness in those members. It is possible that men who determine their role vis-a-vis their partners in terms of their superiority, are threatened when that supremacy is questioned. This supremacy may also be viewed as power. Blau (1964) has defined power as "the ability of persons or groups to impose their will on others despite resistance". Power also includes the ability to authorize or punish the person who opposes the efforts

to be controlled. Research by Straus, et al. (1980) indicates that wife battering is much more common where the power is concentrated in the hands of the husband. Conversely, the least amount of battering happens in democratic households.

The recognition "that virtually all men are angry at women; that a man who batters is acting out in an extreme form of what most men feel, at least part of the time" is proposed by Morlan (1977). Morlan credits the anger men feel toward women to the repression of emotion in men, to restriction of intimacy of relationships with women, and to the cultural models which inform men that they are to be powerful.

The use of a feminine perspective to strengthen the understanding of male violence in this study has also suggested the importance of sex role egalitarianism as a possible contributor to that violence. The relationship between traditional sex role values and violence continues to be a controversial subject. Traditional sex role attitudes have been suggested as a predictor of domestic violence.

#### Sex Role Egalitarianism

Hotaling and Sugarman (1986) report in their comprehensive analysis of risk markers, i.e. those attributes or characteristics associated with an increased probability to either the use of husband to wife violence, or the risk of being victimized by husband to wife violence, "Traditional sex role expectations

turned out to be the only consistent nonrisk marker among male characteristics. Only two of eight studies found batterers to hold more traditional sex role expectations than nonbatterers. Male dominant expectations may be so pervasive that it is not possible to differentiate violent from nonviolent males on this dimension (p. 114)." As the roles of men and women have been rapidly changing in our society, continued study and analysis of these results are vital.

An important study in this area of sex role bias was undertaken by Finn (1986), who explored the attitudes toward sex roles and attitudes endorsing the legitimacy of physical force by men in the marital relationship. The subjects of this study were 300 college undergraduates in two mid-sized Southern universities. The sample consisted of 80 white males, 80 black males, 70 white females and 70 black females. This study investigated sex and racial differences in sex role attitudes of college students. Additionally, the relationship between sex role attitudes and attitudes regarding physical force in marriage were examined. In line with other studies (Albrecht et al., 1979; Tomeh, 1978), men were found to be significantly more likely to hold traditional sex role attitudes than women.

Finn (1986) states: This study also lends support to the hypothesized relationship between traditional sex role socialization and attitudes endorsing the use of physical force.

Those who believe a man should 'wear the pants' in the family, whether male or female, are also likely to believe he ultimately has the right to maintain his position with physical force. Conversely, as sex role attitudes become more egalitarian, attitudes legitimizing force decrease. This study has found that a traditional sex role orientation is the strongest predictor of attitudes supporting marital violence, while sex and race per se play a relatively small or non-significant function.

As noted in the limitations of that study, the relationship between expressed attitudes of college students and future behavior is complex, and no causal link can be implied. Finn (1986) states that the conclusions are thus speculative and that future research must establish the connection between attitudes and actual behavior related to domestic violence.

#### History of Violence in Childhood

In focussing on expanding the understanding of possible predictors of male violence, childhood experiences of batterers are an essential area of investigation. Straus et al. (1980) have powerfully asserted that being a participant in a violent family is how each generation learns to be violent.

When one member of a couple had experienced the double pain of being hit as a child as well as seeing his/her parents hitting each other, there was a one in three chance that at least one act of violence had occurred during the year of Straus' study. Straus

et al. (1980) also found that one out of every ten husbands who experienced that kind of violence at home turned out to be a wife beater. This is a 600 percent greater rate of wife-beating than was found for husbands who came from non-violent homes.

Additionally, Straus's studies demonstrated that violent husbands and wives were likely to be child abusing parents. The children who were the victims of the abuse were more violent to their siblings. Pizzey (1974) also reported this finding.

When looking closely at the conclusions by Straus et al. (1980), it is noticeable that many persons whose parents were not particularly violent toward them exhibit violence nonetheless. However, these rates are a fraction of the rate for those who did come from violent homes.

A 1976 study of violent inmates in San Quentin prison (Maurer, 1976) showed that 100 percent of them experienced extreme violence between the ages of one and ten. Welsh (1976) has written that he has never worked with a violent juvenile delinquent who did not experience extreme violence in his childhood. He also asserts that even should extreme violence cease before the child is four years old, that child is still likely to present violent tendencies as a juvenile.

Using wives' reports, significant differences were found between violent and nonviolent husbands on measures of violence in their families of origin by Rosenbaum and O'Leary (1981b), using

wives' reports. Abusive husbands had experienced more violence and had witnessed more violence than nonabusive husbands, according to those accounts. The husbands corroborated the reports of having witnessed violence between their parents.

In a study of 4,000 abusive men as reported by their partners (Roy, 1982), about four out of five men were reported to have seen their fathers batter their mothers or to have been a victim of abuse themselves.

In 1983, a study by Fagan, Stewart, and Hansen, based on victim reports, found that 57 percent of the victims reported that their male partners had been subject to some type of domestic violence as they were growing up.

Studies by researchers (Kempe, et al., 1962; Steele and Pollock, 1974; Pizzey, 1974; Straus, et al. 1980; Hotaling and Sugarman, 1986) indicate that when violence occurs in families, the children who experience that violence either as observers or victims, are more likely to batter their own children or spouses. It is important to note that children comprise the largest population in shelters for battered women.

Straus, et al. (1980) point out three important unintended lessons which children learn when they experience violence in the home. The first of these unintended lessons is that those who love you are also those who hit you. It establishes the moral rightness of hitting other members of the same family. The second

of the unintended lessons learned through physical punishment is the concept that violence can be used and, indeed, should be used to secure good ends. And a third unintended lesson learned is that violence is permissible when other things do not work.

#### Substance Abuse and Violence

The linkage of violent episodes within the family and both alcohol and drug dependency has often precluded in depth work with the problem of spousal abuse. The chemical dependency problem has been considered the determinant factor in explaining abusive behavior and thus is often the area of study and the area where therapeutic change was stressed. In a survey of battered women receiving emergency hospital services, 87 percent of the women reported that their partners used alcohol and drugs in more than moderate amounts (Appleton, 1980). Bayles (1978), Coleman and Straus (1983), Fagan, Stewart, and Hansen (1983), Gayford (1975), Gelles (1974), Pizzey (1974), and Walker (1979) have also reported significant use of drugs or alcohol by men who batter.

A study by Roy (1982), reports figures which contradict these findings. In her study she found that less than 50 percent of the women reported alcohol as a consistent contributing factor in abuse. In telephone conferences with two mental health professionals working with batterers in Maryland in November 1987, (Bailey, Rapport, 1987), Roy's figures were in agreement with their extensive experience. Rosenbaum and O'Leary (1981b) also

report that alcohol use was not significantly different for abusive and nonabusive husbands.

Another study reports results which also fail to confirm the generally held opinion that alcohol use and battering are closely related. Eberle (1982) examined several possible linkages between alcohol use and woman battering, and found that few such linkages could be identified. The association between woman battering and alcohol was found to be stronger in older men. Additionally, when both partners were intoxicated, the incidence of battering increased. This study found, also, "that alcohol users and nonusers could not be distinguished by the level of injury, the amount of injury, the extent of violence toward children, or on the basis of socioeconomic factors" (in Edleson et al., 1986, p. 235).

These studies indicate that the connection between battering and alcohol use is not as conclusive as generally thought. Thus, this research project is undertaken to consider men who batter their partners and study some of their attitudes, particularly as these attitudes relate to their sex role bias and to compare these characteristics with men who are identified as substance abusers.

#### Definition of Terms

The terms used in this study require definition. In the professional literature, 'violence' is defined as an act carried out with the intention, or perceived intention, of causing

physical pain or injury to another person (Straus and Gelles, 1986). In this study the word violence will be used in this context.

Straus and Gelles (1986) define severe violence as acts that have a relatively high probability of causing injury to the person being hit. Thus, kicking is classified as severe violence because kicking a child or spouse has a much greater potential for producing an injury than an act of 'minor violence' such as spanking or slapping.

The term 'abuse' is restricted to 'physical' abuse because of the limits of this study. Indeed, psychological abuse and sexual abuse are as destructive as physical abuse. Further research which focuses on egalitarian attitudes of males in these areas is indicated.

The word 'family' also requires definition. It is of interest to note that this word comes from the Latin word familia, meaning "servants in the household" (Webster's, 1983). "Family" may be used to describe a group of people related by blood or marriage (Webster's, 1983). However, the definition which more specifically describes the composition of families today is "the basic unit of society having as its nucleus two or more adults living together" ... (Webster's, 1977). In this study, the latter definition will be operative. Only heterosexual couples were included in this study. Battering in homosexual

relationships is an important issue, but beyond the subject of this investigation.

## METHODOLOGY

### Data Collection

Local administrators of support programs for male batterers and for substance abusers were contacted by telephone to request the participation of their clients in this study. They were informed as to the length of the questionnaire (Appendix C), the assessment scales included (Appendix D), as well the length of time needed for its completion. The directors were given an overview of the work done at Virginia Tech. Agency directors were assured of the confidentiality of the information received from the participants and that they would receive the results of this research. Neither respondents nor agencies were paid to participate in the study.

The questionnaire, a brief proposal (Appendix E), and a letter requesting participation (Appendix C) was forwarded to those program directors who indicated an interest in participating in this study. Each participant received with the questionnaire a letter (Appendix G), thanking them for participation in the study (Appendix F), and an informed consent statement (Appendix H). Participants were requested to return to the questionnaire to Virginia Tech in a stamped envelope which was provided with each questionnaire. These envelopes were addressed to be returned to Virginia Tech in care of the researcher. The researcher's middle initial was different for each agency, allowing for statistical

information as to the number and identity of questionnaires returned from each agency to be determined.

#### Measurement of Variables

An empirical test of the hypotheses was conducted by comparing the results of select scales with the participants' tendency to approve of and to use violence with their partners. These measures are described below for each of the hypotheses. Five different characteristics of the batterers and substance abusers were measured: (1) the level of sex role egalitarianism, (2) the level of violence in childhood, (3) the level of alcohol use, (4) the level of approval of marital violence, (5) the level of use of marital violence.

The "level of sex role egalitarianism" has been defined by Beere (Beere, et al., 1984, p. 564) as "an attitude that causes one to respond to another individual independently of that other individual's sex". The Sex Role Egalitarianism (SRE) Scale (Beere, King, Beere & King, 1984) was utilized to measure this attitude.

The "level of violence in childhood" was measured using items from the Domestic Conflict Containment Questionnaire (Neidig & Friedman, 1984).

The "level of alcohol use" was measured using the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST), (Selzer, 1971).

The "level of approval of marital violence" was measured using the Approval of Marital Violence (AMV) Scale (Saunders,

1980).

The "level of use of marital violence" was measured using the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), (Straus, Form N, 1979).

#### Instruments

##### Approval of Marital Violence Scale

Saunders (1980) developed The Approval of Marital Violence Scale by combining two other scales: the marital violence scale used by Straus et al. (1970) and one developed in a study by Stark and McEvoy (1970). Saunders asked respondents to rate events using the semantic differential response model with seven points between the bipolar adjectives. Stith (1986) developed a slight modification in her study, asking the subjects to respond to how "justified", or "unjustified", and "acceptable" or "unacceptable" the behaviors were perceived (see Appendix A, questions #56 to #63, the AMV), whereas Saunders asked subjects to rate their response using the words "unnecessary", "not normal", and "good". In the current study, Stith's modification was used. Stith (1986) reported an internal reliability coefficient (alpha) of .84 for this scale. Some evidence of validity is also reported because, as predicted, men were more likely than women to approve of violence as a response to a partner's unfaithfulness.

This scale was selected in order to determine the relationship between the subject's attitude about marital violence and his use of violence.

### Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS)

Each respondent was asked to complete Form N of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS). CTS measures the use of reasoning, verbal aggression and violence within the familial relationship. One of the main advantages of using this scale is that the items begin with those low in coerciveness and becomes gradually more aggressive to the end of the scale. This order increases the likelihood that the subjects will become committed to the questionnaire and continue to answer it to completion.

The Conflict Tactics Scale asks respondents to indicate how often, during the past year, they used various tactics to resolve conflicts with their spouse. The possible responses to these questions ranged from "never" to "more than once a month", on a scale of 0 to 5.

Straus (1979) obtained the internal consistency of the items with a Cronbach's (1951) alpha by an item analysis to determine the correlation of the items making up the CTS with the total score. The item-total correlation for the husband for the reasoning scale was .74, for verbal aggression it was .73, and for the physical violence scale it was .87. These measures indicate that the scales have adequate internal reliability.

### Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRE)

The Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale (Beere, King, Beere & King, 1984) measures the sex-role egalitarianism construct interpreted

as an "attitude that causes one to respond to another individual independent of that other individual's sex." This scale, then, is concerned with measuring attitudes toward nontraditional role behaviors of both sexes. A low score on the SRE indicates a traditional view of sex-role perspective. Scorers on the upper end of the scale are considered to be accepting of both males' and females' exhibiting conduct not traditionally associated with the actions of their sex group.

The SRE has demonstrated internal consistency estimates of .97 across all 95 items (King and King, 1983). The version used in this project is an abbreviated instrument of 25 items, including five items from each of the categories with the highest item-total correlations (Rosenfeld & Jarrard, in press). Stith (1986) reported internal consistency reliability of .89 for this scale.

#### Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale

In order to judge the subjects' proclivity to socially desirable responses, the 18 item Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale was included in the questionnaire. This test has a high test-retest and internal reliability ( $\alpha = .88$ ) (Crowne & Marlowe, 1964). The sub-set of items used in this study correlated .95 with the 33 point version using 54 group therapy clients (Saunders, 1980). This scale asks the subjects to indicate whether an items is true or false as it relates to them.

The conventional response has been designated by the author of this scale.

#### Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST)

This scale is probably the best known and most utilized measure for assessing alcohol abuse (Connors & Tarbox, 1984). MAST was developed by Selzer at the University of Michigan Medical School at Ann Arbor, Michigan (Selzer, 1971). This 25-item scale is designed to provide a rapid and effective screening for alcohol-related problems and alcoholism. The questionnaire includes a range of questions assessing drinking behavior, negative repercussions of drinking (e.g. physical, psychological, legal, interpersonal), and efforts to seek help for one's drinking behavior. Selzer et al. (1975) reported an alpha coefficient of .96 among their sample of over 500 alcoholics and nonalcoholic.

#### Sample

Questionnaires were distributed to 173 men, 68 were identified as batterers, 105 as substance abusers. Of this total, 115 were returned, a return rate of 66.5 percent which is an adequate return rate. Forty-four of the 68 men, or 64.7 percent, in batterers' support groups returned their questionnaires. For those in substance abuse programs, with 71 returns out of the total of 105, the return rate was 67.6 percent.

The batterers were men were beginning participation in batterers' support groups such as those listed in the "1986

National Directory of Domestic Violence Programs, a Guide to Community Shelter, Safe Home and Service Programs" published by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence of Washington, D.C. Forty-four of these men returned the questionnaires which are included in this study.

Seventy-one men entering programs for substance abuse were the subjects of the comparison with those entering programs for batterers.

These 115 men were all in treatment in the Northern Virginia area. Treatment centers in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia participated in this study (Table 1). A total of twelve agencies distributed the questionnaires to their clients. Eight agencies were in Virginia, three in Maryland and one in the District of Columbia. Five were county funded, four were private agencies, and three were military installations. Of the twelve, six were programs for batterers, and six work with men identified with problems of chemical dependency. These agencies were public and private, state and county, civilian and military, a mix which more closely approximates a random sample than had only one area or one type of agency been included in this study.

In general, the men participating in this study constitute a more representative sample than that which has been used in studies in other research in this area. For example, Steinmetz (1974), Straus (1979) and Finn (1986) queried college students for

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Table 1 - COMPOSITION OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

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n = 12

Location:

Virginia.....8  
Maryland.....3  
District of Columbia.....1

Funding:

County.....5  
Private.....4  
Military.....3

Population served:

Batterers.....6  
Chemical dependency.....6

---

their research on family violence, Gelles (1974) used as his research sample 80 subjects taken from police records, and Harmison (1986), questioned marines for her study of abusive husbands and nonabusive husbands.

## Results

### Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

The demographic characteristics of the sample are presented in Tables 2 - 8. In addition to examining the entire sample, comparisons between the two groups are also presented.

#### Age

The mean age for the batterers and the substance abusers is not significantly different, substance abusers being less than a half year older, on the average than the batterers. The batterers range in age from 20 to 51 years, while the youngest substance abuser in our sample is 19 years of age and the oldest 75. The median age for the batterers was 33 years, while that of the substance abusers was only two years younger, that is 31 years of age (Table 2).

#### Education

Men who had not completed high school and men who had post-graduate degrees were included in both populations. In both groups the median was high school graduates. See Table 3.

#### Present Marital Status

Of the batterers, 6.8 percent were single. The substance

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**Table 2: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE - AGE**

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	n	%
<b>BATTERERS</b>		
20 to 28	12	27.3
29 to 32	9	20.4
33 to 39	9	20.5
40 to 51	14	31.0
Mean age = 33.3, median = 33.00		
<b>SUBSTANCE ABUSERS</b>		
19 to 25	15	21.1
26 to 30	19	26.8
31 to 36	18	25.3
37 to 75	19	26.8
Mean age = 33.7, median = 31.00		

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 Table 3: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE - EDUCATION
 

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	n	%
BATTERERS		
(0) H.S. not completed	6	14.0
(1) H.S. completed	22	51.2
(2) 3 years of college	5	11.6
(3) Bachelors degree	6	14.0
(4) Post graduate degree	4	9.3

mean level of education = 1.53, 1/2+ years of college  
 median level of education = 1, high school completed

SUBSTANCE ABUSERS		
(0) H.S. not completed	13	18.3
(1) H.S. completed	35	49.3
(2) 3 years of college	6	8.5
(3) Bachelors degree	8	11.3
(4) Post graduate degree	9	12.7

mean level of education = 1.50, 1 1/2 years of college  
 medial level of education = 1, high school completed

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abusers sample showed a much higher percentage of single men, i.e. 39.1 percent. Since battering involves other persons, it is to be expected that men in treatment for anger control would be in relationship with someone, as this sample indicates.

Twenty-five percent of the batterers were in their first marriage compared with only 20.3 percent of the substance abusers. Nearly one third of the batterers were remarried, whereas only 17.4 percent of the substance abusers had remarried.

In this sample, the median marital status for batterers was one of remarriage, while that of the substance abusers was one of presently being in a first marriage. See Table 4.

#### Race

Racially both of the sample groups were predominantly white (non-hispanic) 65.1 percent of the batterers and 75.0 percent of the substance abusers falling in that category. Of the batterers, 25.6 percent were black as were 20.6 percent of the substance abusers. See Table 5.

#### Gross Annual Income

The median gross annual income for the two groups shows \$28,000 for the batterers and a median gross annual income of \$20,000 for substance abusers. See Table 6.

#### Religious Perspective

Both groups indicate that they were more liberal than conservative in their religious views. On a scale of 1 to 6, with

Table 4: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE - MARITAL STATUS

	n	%
BATTERERS		
Single	3	6.8
First Marriage	11	25.0
Remarried	14	31.8
Living as husband and wife but not married	0	
Separated	11	25.0
Divorced	5	11.4
Widowed	0	
median = remarried		
How many times remarried:		
0	23	53.5
1	9	20.9
2	9	20.9
3	2	4.7
median = not remarried		
SUBSTANCE ABUSERS		
Single	27	39.1
First Marriage	14	20.3
Remarried	12	17.4
Living as husband and wife but not married	3	4.3
Separated	4	5.8
Divorced	8	11.6
Widowed	1	1.45
median = first marriage		
How many times remarried		
0	55	79.7
1	6	8.7
2	6	8.7
3	2	2.8
median = not remarried		

Table 5: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE - RACE

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	n	%
BATTERERS		
White, non-hispanic	28	65.1
Black	11	25.6
Hispanic	2	4.7
Native American	1	2.3
Median = white		
SUBSTANCE ABUSERS		
White, non-hispanic	51	75.0
Black	14	20.6
Hispanic	3	4.4
Median = white		

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Table 6: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE  
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME

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	n	%
BATTERERS		
Under \$15,000	5	11.6
\$15,000 to \$24,999	12	27.9
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11	25.0
\$35,000 to \$44,999	8	18.6
above \$45,000	6	14.0

Median income = \$28,600

SUBSTANCE ABUSERS		
Under \$15,000	20	30.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999	23	34.8
\$25,000 to \$34,999	7	10.6
\$35,000 to \$44,999	6	9.1
above \$45,000	9	13.6

Median income = \$20,000

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6 being the most liberal, the median for the batterers is 3, as is that for the substance abusers. See Table 7.

#### Political Views

As shown in Table 8, both groups indicate that they were more liberal than conservative in their political views. On a scale of 1 to 6, with 6 being the most liberal, the median for the batterers is 4.0. The profile of the substance abusers shows a population which is more conservative, the median being 3.0.

#### Hypothesis Testing

In order to test each hypothesis and to examine differences between substance abusers and batterers, two major statistical procedures were conducted. First, Pearson Correlation Coefficients were run to determine the relationship between variables (i.e.: CTS, SRE, History, AMV, and MAST). In addition, participants' responses to each variable were correlated with their responses on the Marlowe Crowne measure of social desirability (DESIRE). The results of the correlation analyses are presented in Table 9.

In order to examine the differences between the scores of the participants of batterers' groups and substance abuse groups, t-tests were conducted. The results of these analyses are presented on Table 10.

Hypothesis 1) The more egalitarian attitudes the participant has, the less likely he is to batter his partner.

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Table 7: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE  
RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE

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	n	%
BATTERERS		
Very conservative = 1, very liberal = 6		
1	4	9.8
2	5	12.2
3	12	29.3
4	9	22.0
5	3	7.3
6	8	19.5
Median = 3		
SUBSTANCE ABUSERS		
Very conservative = 1, very liberal = 6		
1	2	3.2
2	12	19.0
3	23	36.5
4	11	17.5
5	7	11.1
6	8	12.7
Median = 3		

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Table 8: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE  
POLITICAL VIEWS

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	n	%
BATTERERS		
Very conservative = 1, very liberal = 6		
1	6	14.3
2	6	14.3
3	7	16.7
4	11	26.2
5	4	9.4
6	8	19.0

median = 4

	n	%
SUBSTANCE ABUSERS		
Very conservative = 1, very liberal = 6		
1	11	18.0
2	14	23.0
3	13	21.3
4	14	23.0
5	4	6.6
6	5	8.2

median = 3

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Table 9: INTERCORRELATIONS OF VARIABLES

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	AMV	HISTORY	MAST	CTS	DESIRE
SRE	-.37***	-.14	-.13	-.17	-.01
AMV		.26**	.35***	.30**	-.14
HISTORY			.15	.23*	-.22**
MAST				.20*	-.47***
CTS					-.38***

---

SRE = Sex Role Egalitarian Scale  
 AMV = Approval of Marital Violence Scale  
 HISTORY = History of Violence Scale  
 MAST = Michigan Alcohol Screening Test  
 CTS = Conflict Tactics Scale  
 DESIRE = Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale

\* p < .05  
 \*\* p < .01  
 \*\*\* p < .001

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TABLE 10: MEAN FREQUENCIES, STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND T-TEST COMPARISONS BETWEEN RESPONSES OF BATTERERS (N = 44) AND SUBSTANCE ABUSERS (N = 71)

Variable	Batterer		Substance Abuser		df	t
	X	SD	X	SD		
SRE	102.26	13.19	97.64	14.80	105	1.65
AMV	24.93	13.17	30.23	15.55	106	-1.84
HISTORY	4.00	3.23	4.10	3.14	109	-0.16
MAST	12.46	18.49	26.06	22.43	102	-3.37**
CTS	5.67	5.95	5.47	8.50	88	0.12
DESIRE	26.35	3.99	24.44	3.12	107	2.79***

SRE = Sex Role Egalitarian Scale

AMV = Approval of Marital Violence Scale

HISTORY = History of Violence

MAST = Michigan Alcohol Screening Test

CTS = Conflict Tactics Scale

DESIRE = Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Scale

\* p < .05

\*\* p < .01

\*\*\* p < .001

As noted in Table 10, the results from the t-test analysis indicate that there were no significant differences between substance abusers and batterers on their level of egalitarianism,  $t(105) = 1.65; p > .05$ . In addition, the results presented in Table 9, indicated that the SRE was not correlated with social desirability,  $r = -.01, p > .05$ . Thus, social desirability was not a factor in participants' responses to this scale.

Moreover, results presented in Table 9 indicate that contrary to the proposed hypothesis, sex role egalitarianism was not significantly correlated with the Conflict Tactics Scale,  $r = -.17, p > .05$ . However, it should be noted, that the correlation did approach significance,  $p = .062$ . Thus, there does appear to be a tendency for those who have more egalitarian attitudes to be less likely to batter their partners.

Hypothesis 2) The greater the level of violence in the participant's childhood, the more likely the he is to abuse his partner.

As presented in Table 10, the results from the t-test analysis indicate that there are no significant differences between batterers and substance abusers on the level of violence in their childhood,  $t(109) = -.16, p > .05$ .

Furthermore, results presented in Table 9 indicate that consistent with the proposed hypothesis, history of violence in childhood was significantly correlated with CTS,  $r = .30, p < .01$ .

Thus, it appears those participants who have experienced more violence in their childhood, are more violent with their partners.

Moreover, the results presented on Table 9 indicated that history of violence was correlated with social desirability,  $r = -.22$ ,  $p < .01$ . Hence, social desirability was a factor in the participants' responses to this scale and will be discussed further in the discussion section.

Hypothesis 3) The more likely the participant is to abuse alcohol, the more likely he is to abuse his partner.

The results from the t-test analysis presented in Table 10 indicate that there are significant differences between batterers and substance abusers on the level of their use of alcohol,  $t(102) = -3.37$ ,  $p < .01$ ; alcoholics having a higher level of alcohol use than those identified as batterers.

Moreover, results presented in Table 9 indicate that, as proposed by the hypothesis, alcohol use was significantly correlated with CTS,  $r = .20$ ,  $p < .05$ . Thus, there is a significant correlation for those who abuse alcohol to be more likely to batter their partners.

However, the results presented on Table 9 also indicated that alcohol use was correlated with social desirability  $r = -.47$ ,  $p < .0001$ . Consequently, social desirability was a significant factor in the participants' responses to this scale as will be addressed further in the discussion section.

Hypothesis 4) The more likely a man is to approve of marital violence, the more likely he is to abuse his partner.

As noted in Table 10, the results from the t-test analysis indicate that there are no significant differences between batterers and substance abusers on the level of their approval of marital violence,  $t(106) = -1.84, p > .05$ . The results presented in Table 9 indicated that approval of marital violence was not correlated with social desirability,  $r = -.14, p > .05$ . Thus, social desirability was not a factor in the participants' response to this scale.

Additionally, results presented in Table 9 indicate that in agreement with the proposed hypothesis, approval of marital violence was significantly correlated with CTS,  $r = .30, p < .01$ .

#### Discussion

This study revealed that batterers and substance abusers showed no significant differences on their level of sex role egalitarianism. Morlan (1977), Goldberg (1982), and Finn (1986) suggest that men who support male dominance in a relationship are more likely to batter partners. Since the participants in batterers groups in this study had been specifically defined because they did batter their partners, it was expected that they would express more traditional sex role attitudes than the comparison group of substance abusers.

When the relationship between sex role egalitarianism and

male violence was examined using the entire sample, no significant relationship was seen. Hotaling and Sugarman (1986) reported that male dominant expectations are widespread. It is possible that the pervasiveness of male dominant values may reduce the differences between groups of men. This study supports this concept in that the substance abusers were not significantly different from the men who act out their anger with violence toward their partners. However, the results did reveal a tendency for those whose sex role attitudes were more egalitarian to be less likely to batter their partners ( $p = .062$ ). In addition, sex role egalitarianism and approval of marital violence were highly correlated ( $p < .001$ ), which indicated there is a relationship between these two factors. It is clear that although sex role bias may be a meaningful indicator for spousal abuse, it is not the primary one. Further research involving a larger sample of men in more disparate socio-economic and geographic areas is indicated to clarify this issue.

It must be noted throughout this discussion, however, that there appeared to be a highly significant difference between batterers and substance abusers on their tendency to respond with socially desirable answers ( $t(107) = 2.79, p < .001$ ). Batterers were much more likely to give socially desirable responses to the questions than were the substance abusers.

Understanding this significant desire to give the "right"

answer may be of assistance in explaining the contradictory material in research relating to the use of alcohol and the incidence and severity of battering. One explanation for the significantly greater tendency of batterers to give answers they believe are more acceptable may be that they had more concern that their answers might be used against them. It is possible that they believed that their honest responses to these questions may have impacted on their status in the program or their partners' continued commitments to the relationship. It may be important that future research with male batterers establishes a significant level of trust between researcher and participant before initiating a study.

Violence in childhood has been understood as having a causal relationship to adult battering behavior (Kemp, et al., 1962, Pizzey, 1974; Hotaling and Sugarman, 1986). The results of this study corroborated those findings (Table 11). In addition, the results indicated that both batterers and substance abusers had similar histories of violence in their childhood. Of special note, here, is that a significant correlation ( $p < .01$ ) exists between the level of violence in childhood and the desire to answer questions in a socially acceptable way. However, when only those men whose score was below the mean for socially desirable responses were tested for correlation, once again history of violence was positively significant. Thus, this finding appears

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TABLE 11: INTERCORRELATIONS OF VARIABLES WITH SUBJECTS SCORING  
BELOW THE MEAN OF SOCIAL DESIRABILITY

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	CTS
SRE	-.2088
AMV	.3176*
HISTORY	.2983*
MAST	.2460*

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SRE = Sex Role Egalitarian Scale, N = 54  
AMV = Approval of Marital Violence Scale, N = 55  
HISTORY = History of Violence Scale, N = 57  
MAST = Michigan Alcohol Screening Test, N = 55  
CTS = Conflict Tactics Scale, N = 39

\* p < .05

\*\* p < .01

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to be particularly clear. This factor might well be considered when developing and implementing treatment with both of the represented populations.

There were significant differences in the use of alcohol in the two populations. This is to be expected. Many batterers' programs will only accept clients whose substance abuse problem is under control. Therefore, the most active alcoholics may not be found in programs for batterers. Additionally, when the substance abuser can give a name to his/her problem, this may well become the label for all other difficulties as well.

The data also showed a significant correlation between alcohol use and battering ( $r = .20, p < .05$ ), giving evidence of the likelihood of alcoholics to abuse their partners. This correlations points to the importance of including treatment modalities for alcoholics when working with men who are focusing on anger control, as well as the relevance of addressing issues dealing with anger control when working with substance abusers.

The approval of marital violence was significantly correlated with abusing a partner, as suggested by the hypothesis. There were not significant differences between the alcoholics and the batterers on this scale. Thus, these attitudes appear to be important predictors of violent behavior and must be addressed in treatment programs.

The data base collected for this study presents a fruitful

source of information for studying characteristics of batterers and substance abusers, and for possible application for use with treatment groups of both populations. It would, for instance, be valuable to replicate this study with a larger sample size. Additionally, a measure for chemical dependency would have been of interest to the researchers. The perceptions of the partners of the sample group and a scale for emotional abuse would add a significant dimension to the results.

The populations of batterers and substance abusers clearly share many attributes. These men may all be considered as batterers; alcohol is self directed abuse while battering is other directed. These similarities point to the importance of including knowledge of alcoholics in the training of persons working with batterers groups so that alcoholism is identified and treated. Additionally, including training specifically related to batterers for those who are working with alcoholics is essential to deal with the difficulties these clients have with domestic violence.

The preliminary findings of this modest study encouragingly indicate that new treatment models for both batterers and alcoholics may be developed combining the needs of both groups.

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APPENDIX A

Review of Related Literature

## APPENDIX A

## Review of Related Literature

In the mental health field of today, domestic violence, spouse abuse and child abuse are problems which receive attention both in the literature and in practice. Workshops and symposia are frequently presented in response to this interest. This attention is well deserved.

In the 1980's the subject of domestic violence has been taken much more seriously. Professional journals frequently publish research papers concerning battered women, the grave problems they endure, and how mental health professionals may assist them in breaking loose from their abusive spouses. Workshops covering various aspects of domestic violence are frequently presented. Books written by workers in the field are published in respectable numbers. The number of cases of wife-beating reported in television documentaries, radio specials, magazine articles, and newspapers has increased dramatically during the 1970's and 80's. It is possible that this rise in the number of publications may not represent an increase in wife-beating; it may reflect a growing awareness and recognition of the already high incidence of wife beating (Straus & Gelles, 1986).

A police study done in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1971 (Martin, 1971) demonstrated that of the reported aggravated assaults, one-third were due to domestic disturbance. In at least 90 percent of these cases, the police had been called at least

once previously, and had been called five or more times in more than half of the cases. Additionally, 40 percent of the homicides were reported as "spouse killing spouses". In 50 percent of these cases, within the two year period prior to the murder, the police had been called five or more times.

These findings clearly demonstrate that when violence is unrestrained it escalates, possibly leading to serious injury and murder. Martin (1981) also mentions that when feminists in the United States began to search the records of social and welfare agencies, mental health and family agencies, family courts, hospitals, and the police, for statistics on battered women, they discovered that few records were kept. They found, too, that many of these agencies were unaware that their clients were battered. The women were listed as accident victims or as were treated for depression, when their actual circumstance was that of a victim of battering.

In the 1970's the women's movement began to seriously consider what they judged to be the continual use of violence by men toward women throughout the lives of women from early childhood on. Domestic violence, incest, rape, and sexual harassment in the workplace, was looked at thoughtfully and brought to public attention. In the same time frame, the founding of the women's center and finally the founding of the first "shelter" or "safe house" for battered wives occurred in England.

Pizzey, an English pioneer in the field of spouse abuse, wrote "Scream Quietly or the Neighbors Will Hear" in 1974.

In 1975-76, Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz conducted a major survey of 2,143 nationally representative American couples. This study disclosed that at least one violent incident occurred in 16 percent of American families during the year of the study (1975-76). (If the period of study is since the marriage began, it is 28 percent.) Although about two-thirds of the violent incidents were minor assault such as slapping and throwing things, the other third of the occurrences were serious assault such as punching, biting, kicking, hitting with an object, beating up, or assault with a knife or gun (Straus & Gelles, 1986).

In the 1985 restudy of this survey (Straus & Gelles, 1986), the data revealed that essentially there was no change in the rate of violence between 1975 and 1985. The overall rate of violence by husbands declined from 121 per thousand to 113; this is a 6 percent husband-to-wife violence rate, which is not statistically significant. Severe violence declined from 38 per thousand to 30 per thousand couples in 1985. Straus and Gelles state: "A decrease of 8 per thousand may not seem large, and it is not statistically significant. However, it is worth interpreting because, relative to the 1975 rate, it represents a 26.6 percent decrease in the rate of wife beating, and the difference comes close to being significant. In addition, a decrease of 8 per

thousand in the rate of wife beating is worth noting because, if correct it represents a large number of couples....The 1985 estimate of 1.6 million beaten wives is hardly an indicator of domestic tranquility (p. 10)."

Steinmetz (1977) studied an estimated 47 million intact marriages, and concluded that approximately 7 percent of the wives (3.3 million) were physically battered. Straus, et al. (1980) reports the shocking statistics that "Over all, every other house in America is the scene of family violence at least once a year." This national average does include child abuse, however it demonstrates the high prevalence of violence in the homes of American families. The violence which we have experienced with increasing distress in riots in cities, in frequent participation in wars, with the assassination of political leaders, and the upsurge murder and assault on city streets and rural areas are well-known to our society.

At conferences, lectures and workshops dealing with battered wives, there are always women who speak out, perhaps for the first time, about their personal victimization. It is possible that some other participants in these gatherings were also victims, albeit silent.

#### Spouse Abuse and Sex Roles

As women are describing and attempting to understand the factors leading men to control and intimidate women, men must also

ask themselves corresponding questions. As Martin (1981) points out, the differences between men and women are frequently considered as opposites rather than a matter of degree. "Women and men share common human characteristics to one degree or another. Opposites are antagonists; they are in conflict with each other. The perception that people who are different are opposites leads to hostility and discrimination against women by men and by whites against people of color to sexism and racism. Superior/inferior roles, whether sexual or social, are learned. They are roles in "power" plays that dehumanize women...."

Storr (1970) asserted that it is only when profound aggressiveness exists between two persons that love can occur. He also commented that since a sexual encounter is a vital basis of a man's self-esteem, a rejection by a wife or lover can result in extreme rage in a man who feels insecure about his masculinity. A woman is held responsible then, by this line of thinking for the rage a man feel or for his impotence. This responsibility, in turn, justifies the beating which ensues.

Groth (1979) describes rapists using categories which are consistent with characteristics of batterers: assertion of power to express dominance, or reassure his doubts about his masculinity, the expression of anger as a retaliation against women, and the sexual excitement engendered by seeing his victim suffer.

### Spouse Abuse and Divorce

Levinger (1966) found that 40 percent of working class couples and 22 percent of middle class couples cited "physical abuse" when discussing reasons for their divorce. O'Brien (1971) stated that of the couples he interviewed, 17 percent spontaneously mentioned abusive behavior in their marriage.

### Factors Contributing to Spouse Abuse

Many factors contribute to spouse abuse, clarifying reasons given as to how it is that a man turns to violence. Witnessing or experiencing violence in the family of origin, ineptitude in communicating emotions, stress, chemical dependency, frustration, resentment, joblessness, incitement by the victim, or poor control of anger are frequently cited justifications.

Schechter (1982) criticized these grounds for providing "simultaneously helpful, confusing and contradictory insights". The reasons may help us to understand some factors which contribute to male violence, however they do not tell us why so much violence by men is focused "toward a specific target, women, or within a specific context, their home". Many men find constructive outlets for frustration or stress. The literature of battering tells us that men generally hit their wives in areas of their bodies which cannot be seen, and although they may beat them many times these women are not killed. In this light, it is difficult to consider that poor impulse control is one of the factors of battering. It

would seem that the men know full well what they are doing, that there is an unrecognized but operating norm...that it is okay to hit one's wife, but not to stab her (Straus, et al. 1980).

Errington (1977) wrote, "Men beat their wives because they are permitted to do so and nobody stops them. Women are beaten because they are trained and forced and maintained into dependence and nobody helps them.

The public's reaction to men who batter has been to condone, ignore, or conceal their behavior (Roy,1982). An example of the strength of that response is the murder of Kitty Genovese in 1964. Many of her neighbors in Queens, New York heard her cries for help, but no one came to her assistance. One of the reasons proposed for this lack of response is that the neighbors thought that it was a woman being beaten by her husband (Straus, et al. 1980).

Straus et al. (1980) use the term "normal violence" to describe some societal attitudes toward violence. The following joke is one which was heard in traveling across northern England in 1974. The BBC version is as follows: One woman asked another why she feels her husband doesn't love her any more. The answer: "He hasn't bashed me in a fortnight."

Another factor is the illusion that family violence is a lower class problem. In the 1960s and early 1970s the research carried out on wife abuse and child abuse was supported predominately on clinical cases of family violence which came from medical and police

records. It is pointed out, that as in most situations involving illegal conduct, the poor, powerless, and defenseless are more likely to get caught and identified for their illegal acts, and therefore, the cases recorded are theirs.

Researchers during the sixties and seventies claimed that social factors were not associated with family violence because it was possible to find instances of domestic violence in all social classes or they claimed that only poor people were violent. The fact that family violence occurs in all social classes slights the possibility that some social classes are, indeed, overrepresented. The claim that only the poor are violent, "overlooks the fact that our society is more likely to identify poor people deviant, no matter what the actual distribution of illegal acts is" (Straus, et al., 1980).

Another reason for overlooking social factors as the basis for domestic violence was the firm belief on the part of many who were concerned about it, that only mentally disturbed persons could possibly be violent toward those they love.

Although men like John Fedders, a high ranking member of the Securities and Exchange Commission who was found guilty of wife beating, do make the headlines, it is still thought that he is a notable exception to the general stereotypical wife beater. Of course, the population of men who batter does include those persons who fit stereotypical descriptions. However, the profiles

of batterers are far more complex.

Family violence observed in the family of origin has also been considered as a predictor of adult abusers (Steinmetz & Straus, 1973; Dewbury, 1975; Lystad, 1975; Gayford, 1975a). Steinmetz (1978) reported in Bottom (1979) suggests that abusers were labeled as problem children because of events or situations which occurred in their infancy or early childhood. Both Steinmetz (1978) and Lystad (1975) suggest that family isolation is a factor leading to domestic violence. These enmeshed families present an extreme form of intensity and proximity in family interactions, but other factors may be involved.

#### Myths About Spouse Abuse

Many myths exert a powerful influence on the early identification and diagnosis of battered women. Some originate in the social myth of the idealized family life. Steinmetz and Straus (1974) state: "The utility of the myth results from the fact that the family a tremendously important social institution. Therefore, elaborate precautions are taken to strengthen and support the family (p. 6)."

Goode (1971) states that like all social elements, the family rests "to some degree on force or its threat...." He proposes a theory of family violence which can be called a "resource theory" or "social control". Goode asserts that among the resources which are used to maintain the social order are force or violence or the

threat of their use.

Other myths exerting a powerful influence on the early identification and diagnosis of battered women are: 1) battering is a rare phenomenon; 2) women are battered because of their presumed psychopathology; 3) women are responsible for their victimization by male partners; and 4) violence is an expectable if not acceptable part of female experience (Bograd, 1982). The clinical construct that women are beaten because they are crazy or because they asked for the abuse, has focused attention on women as the problem in abusive relationships instead of considering the psychological makeup of men who were the perpetrators of the abuse.

Roberts (1984) has incorporated other common myths and realities about spouse abuse in Table 12. The familiarity of these pervasive ideas are an indication of the importance of research in the area of spouse abuse.

#### Locating the Sample Population

Locating the agencies who were willing to participate in this research project proved to be a challenge. Seventy-eight agencies were contacted, 350 phone calls were made. Forty packets describing the project were mailed out. A total of 570 questionnaires were sent to administrators who expressed a willingness to distribute them to their clients.

A good comprehensive directory of agencies dealing with batterers, and substance abusers both directly and as referral and

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**TABLE 12: COMMON MYTHS ABOUT SPOUSE ABUSE**

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- MYTH:** External factors that place stress on a marriage such as financial difficulties, moving, having a baby, or on-the-job problems are what cause a person to batter his or her spouse.
- REALITY:** Nearly every adult faces those stressful situations at some time, but most people deal with their problems without resorting to abusing a family member. If the predisposition toward violence exists, external pressures such as those listed above may certainly precipitate or exacerbate abuse.
- MYTH:** A woman who is occasionally slapped by her husband is in no danger of real harm because, while he may continue to slap her, he will do nothing worse.
- REALITY:** A pattern of battering that goes unchecked usually becomes both more frequent and more severe. A spouse who begins by slapping is likely to progress to more prolonged battering episodes, and often will eventually begin using a weapon instead of just hands.
- MYTH:** Many abusers cannot be held responsible for violence against their spouse because they are drunk and out of control at the time.
- REALITY:** While alcohol or drugs are involved in a significant number of battering relationships (some studies indicate 50 percent of them) alcohol may unconsciously be used as an excuse by the batterer, i.e. the abuser may actually drink before beating his/her spouse so that he/she will not have to take responsibility for these actions, which in turn will lessen the guilt later for having abused the one he/she loves.
- MYTH:** The victims bring the battering on themselves by provoking their spouses.

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TABLE 12: COMMON MYTHS ABOUT SPOUSE ABUSE - continued

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REALITY: Battering spouses and their partners become caught up in a destructive cycle of acting and reacting. A violent episode is often an exaggerated reaction to a minor aggravation posed by the spouse or something viewed as an "imperfection" in their performance or behavior: laundry left unfolded, children who cry despite efforts to quiet them. The spouse may in fact do things that irritate the abuser - virtually every spouse does that occasionally - but this is never an excuse for violent behavior.

MYTH: A spouse who is battered can end the violence against the abuser by moving out of the house, separating from the abusing spouse.

REALITY: The violence often becomes worse when the victim tries to escape an abusive spouse. The abuser may go to great extremes to track down the spouse and continue to harass and beat them. Legal restraints designed to protect the victim are often ineffective, and some victims finally have to resort to moving and, in extreme cases, changing their identities to escape the violence - even after a divorce is final.

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information sources was developed. A list of the titles of the administrators and directors, with the names of the persons currently holding those positions, was generated.

The organization of the agencies was of interest. The larger agencies, whose organizational structure was more elaborate, were generally unable to participate in research. Although staff members showed interest in supporting this research project, the procedure for securing permission to participate in a project such as this one, in which no funds were to be given to the agency, were so time consuming that in some agencies no one was willing to take the time to see it to acceptance. Since all the persons contacted were very busy persons, this was to be expected.

In some of the larger agencies contacted, the personnel with whom the project was first discussed did not know about the procedures the agency had as requirements to do any research.

The smaller agencies were frequently more able to decide what action they wished to take more quickly, having fewer layers of bureaucracy to work through and usually having a single purpose for the entire agency.

Hospitals and military agencies stated a preference for doing research with persons known to those agencies through their work situation. However, this project was able to include clients from both hospitals and military clinics.

It was of interest that persons who were responsible for

possible research but who had never done any of their own were seldom interested in working with the project. Although the questionnaire distribution was not elaborate, persons who were not familiar with research indicated that assisting the work would be too time consuming for their staff and for the clients as well. It should be mentioned that agencies participating in the project told the researcher that it was very simple to distribute the questionnaires.

Also of interest was the situation where persons who had done research were very pleased to assist a graduate student in getting a degree. The enthusiasm, interest and support were very helpful. For some, however, it was not possible to give the questionnaires to their clients and these supportive persons were not able to tell the researcher that they needed to drop out of the study. The crush of time and the lack of appropriate clients were the reasons for not being able to assist, as far as could be discerned by the researcher. Indeed, where the researcher had been told that there were about three to four new clients a week, there was embarrassment when this proved not to be the case.

Personal interviews were requested by five of the agencies. Obviously, interest was high enough to spend the time in interviewing the researcher and learning more about the project. None of these five agencies said they could begin distribution of questionnaires immediately; one was unable to find the time for

meeting of a human subjects review board of the agency in a four month time frame.

Another agency was not sure that the type of information covered by the questionnaire was of interest to them, nor was able to decide if the written material would be appropriate for them to support. Although the researcher visited the agency, and had fifteen phone conversations with this agency over a three month period this agency was not able to let the researcher know of their decision in time to be included in this study. The administrators were very interested in the topic and gave many excellent referrals both as to other agencies whose clients might be included in the study and for further research material.

One of the other agencies was the one where the therapist had higher hopes for the client load than actually occurred. Although told that a meeting with all the staff at this agency was imperative, upon arriving at the site, only the therapist with whom the contact had been made was available. The meeting was cordial and valuable information about the scope of the agency's work was shared.

Another administrator requested that the researcher present the proposal for the project in an in-service training period for the staff of the agency. This was very supportive inasmuch as the staff were interested in the subject and asked questions which showed knowledge of the field. In this instance, questionnaires were left

with the agency, however none were distributed to the clients.

The fifth administrator was also interested in the project, was supportive and the clients of this agency provided a substantial population to the study. This administrator was familiar with the work done at Virginia Tech.

In all instances the interviews were valuable to the researcher. A more comprehensive understanding of the settings in which the clients were participating was developed.

It would not appear that a first face-to-face meeting was an overriding advantage for the work of this project. However, having developed a relationship with the above agencies in this manner, a future research possibility exists.

As a result of the above work, some agencies did send a description of the protocols for research appropriate to their agency, which will facilitate future research. Some of the agencies contacted do not ever do research, or may not ever have research done by those outside of their organizations. This knowledge will assist future researchers as a population for research is sought. Additionally, the 78 agencies are now aware of the work done in the field of marriage and family therapy at Virginia Tech and the calibre of the research done there. This representation of the work of the University will be advantageous to students who are seeking practicum sites, research sites and employment situations in the future.

APPENDIX B

Instrument

Please answer the following questions about yourself. When answering a multiple choice question, please write in the number which is shown in the parenthesis next to the answer.

- 
1. What is your sex? (Please place an "X" on the appropriate line.)
 

Male	_____
Female	_____
  
  2. What is your age? (Please write out the appropriate age). \_\_\_\_\_
  
  3. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed? \_\_\_\_\_
 

H.S. not completed	(0)
High school	(1)
3 years of college	(2)
Bachelors degree	(3)
Post graduate degree	(4)
  
  4. What is your present marital status? \_\_\_\_\_
 

Single, never married	(0)
First marriage	(1)
Remarried	(2)
Living as husband and wife, but not married	(3)
Separated	(4)
Divorced	(5)
Widowed	(6)
  
  5. If remarried, how many times have you been remarried? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  6. How many children live with you? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  7. How old is your oldest child? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  8. How old is your youngest child? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  9. What is your race: \_\_\_\_\_
 

White, non-hispanic	(0)
Black	(1)
Hispanic	(2)
Oriental	(3)
Native American	(4)
Other	(5)

10. Which best describes your annual gross income? \_\_\_\_\_

- Under \$15,000 (0)
- \$15,000 - \$24,999 (1)
- \$25,000 - \$34,999 (2)
- \$35,000 - \$44,999 (3)
- above \$45,000 (4)

When answering the next four questions, please place an "X" on the line above the appropriate response.

11. How would you describe your religious views?

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)  
 very conservative \_\_\_\_\_ very liberal

12. How you would you describe your political views?

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)  
 very conservative \_\_\_\_\_ very liberal

When answering the questions in this next section put a check mark in the appropriate column.

	Yes	No
13. Do you enjoy a drink now and then?	_____	_____
14. Do you feel you are a normal drinker? (By normal we mean you drink less than or as much as most other people.)	_____	_____
15. Does your wife, partner, parent or other near relative ever worry or complain about your drinking?	_____	_____
16. Can you stop drinking without a struggle after one or two drinks?	_____	_____
17. Do you feel guilty about your drinking?	_____	_____
18. Do friends or relatives think you are a normal drinker?	_____	_____
19. Are you able to stop drinking when you want to?	_____	_____
20. Have you ever attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)?	_____	_____
21. Have you gotten into physical fights when drinking?	_____	_____

22. Have you ever awakened the morning after some drinking the night before and found that you could not remember a part of the evening? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Has your drinking ever created problems between you and your wife, partner, a parent or other relative? \_\_\_\_\_
24. Has your wife, partner, (or other family members) ever gone to anyone for help about your drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
25. Have you ever lost friends because of your drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
26. Have you ever gotten into trouble at work or school because of drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
27. Have you ever lost a job because of drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
28. Have you ever neglected your obligations, your family or your work for two or more days in a row because you were drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
29. Do you drink before noon fairly often? \_\_\_\_\_
30. Have you ever been told you have liver trouble? \_\_\_\_\_
31. Have you ever been told you have cirrhosis? \_\_\_\_\_
32. After heavy drinking have you ever had Delirium Tremens (D.T.s) or severe shaking, or heard voices or seen things that really weren't there? \_\_\_\_\_
33. Have you ever gone to anyone for help about your drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
34. Have you ever been in a hospital because of drinking? \_\_\_\_\_
35. Have you ever been a patient in a psychiatric hospital or on a psychiatric ward of a general hospital where drinking was part of the problem that resulted in hospitalization? \_\_\_\_\_

36. Have you ever been seen at a psychiatric or mental health clinic or gone to any doctor, social worker or clergyman for help with any emotional problem, where drinking was part of the problem? \_\_\_\_\_
37. Have you ever been arrested for drunk driving, driving while under the influence of alcoholic beverages? (If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
38. Have you ever been arrested, or taken into custody, even for a few hours, because of other drunken behavior? (If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS 39-45 IF YOU HAVE A SPOUSE OR ARE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A PARTNER.

Think of all the pleasures and problems that go into your daily life with your spouse or partner. When you think of these things, how accurately do the following words describe your feelings? Please CIRCLE your response.

	Very	Somewhat	Only a Little	Not At all
39. Bothered or upset..	1	2	3	4
40. Worried.....	1	2	3	4
41. Relaxed.....	1	2	3	4
42. Frustrated.....	1	2	3	4
43. Unhappy.....	1	2	3	4
44. Contented.....	1	2	3	4
45. Tense.....	1	2	3	4

In this next section, please place an "X" on the line from 1 - 6, indicating whether you agree or disagree with the statement.

46. I feel that I'm a person of worth, at least on an equal basis with others.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree
47. I feel I have a number of good qualities.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

48. All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

49. I am able to do things as well as most other people.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

50. I feel I do not have much to be proud of.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

51. I take a positive attitude toward myself.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

52. On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

53. I wish I could have more respect for myself.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

54. I certainly feel useless at times.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

55. At times I think I am no good at all.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 strongly disagree \_\_\_\_\_ strongly agree

In this section a situation is offered for each question. Please rate the behavior by placing an "X" on the line from 1 - 6 to indicate how justified or acceptable you view the behavior.

56. Husband SLAPPING his wife's face if she INSULTS him.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

57. Husband SEVERELY BRUISING his wife if she INSULTS him.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

58. Husband SEVERELY BRUISING his wife if she was unfaithful.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

59. Husband SEVERELY BRUISING his wife if she FIRST HIT HIM.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

60. Wife SLAPPING her husband's face if he INSULTS her  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

61. Wife SEVERELY BRUISING her husband if he INSULTS her.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

62. Wife SEVERELY BRUISING her husband if he was UNFAITHFUL.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

63. Wife SEVERELY BRUISING her husband if he FIRST HITS HER.  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 justified \_\_\_\_\_ unjustified  
 acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable

Below are a series of statements about men and women. Read each statement carefully and decide the extent to which you agree or disagree with each one. What is important is not what society says, but what YOUR PERSONAL OPINIONS are. Please do not skip any statements. CIRCLE ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE POSSIBLE CHOICES.

SA - Strongly agree

A - Agree

N - Neutral or undecided or no opinion

D - Disagree

SD - Strongly disagree

64. Home economics courses should be as acceptable for male students as for female students. SA A N D SD
65. Women have as much ability as men to make major decisions in a large business or organization. SA A N D SD
66. High school counselors should encourage qualified interested women to enter technical fields such as physics or engineering. SA A N D SD

- |   |    |   |   |   |    |
|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| 67. Cleaning up the dishes should be the joint responsibility of husbands and wives.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 68. A husband should leave the care of young babies to his wife.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 69. It is worse for a woman to get drunk than for a man.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 70. The family home will run more smoothly if the father rather than the mother is responsible for establishing rules for the children. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 71. It should be the mother's responsibility, not the father's, to plan the young child's birthday party.                               | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 72. When a child awakens at night, it should be the mother's responsibility to take care of the child's needs.                          | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 73. Men and women should be given equal opportunities for professional training.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 74. When it comes to planning a social gathering, women are better judges of which people to invite.                                    | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 75. The entry of women into traditionally male jobs should be discouraged.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 76. Expensive vocational and professional training should be given primarily to men.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 77. The husband should be the head of the family.   | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 78. It is wrong for a man to enter a traditionally female career.   | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 79. The important decisions about career-related issues should be left to the husband.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 80. A woman should be careful not to appear more intelligent than the man she is dating.  | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 81. Women are more likely than men to gossip about their acquaintances.   | SA | A | N | D | SD |

82. A husband should not meddle with the domestic affairs of the household. SA A N D SD
83. It is more appropriate for a mother rather than a father to change their baby's diapers. SA A N D SD
84. When two people are dating, it is generally best if their social life is based around the man's friends. SA A N D SD
85. Women are just as capable as men to operate a business. SA A N D SD
86. When a married couple is invited to a party, the wife, not the husband, should be responsible to RSVP. SA A N D SD
87. Both men and women should be treated equally when applying for student loans. SA A N D SD
88. Equal opportunity for all jobs regardless of sex is an ideal we should all uphold. SA A N D SD

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS 89-105 IF YOU ARE MARRIED OR IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A PARTNER.

Here is a list of things you might have done when you had a conflict or disagreement with your spouse or partner. We would like you to try and remember what went on during the LAST year. Please CIRCLE a number for each of the things listed below to show how often you did it that year:

- 0 = Never  
 1 = Once that year  
 2 = Two or three times  
 3 = Often, but less than once a month  
 4 = About once a month  
 5 = More than once a month

89. I tried to discuss the issue relatively calmly. 0 1 2 3 4 5
90. Did discuss the issue relatively calmly. 0 1 2 3 4 5
91. Got information to back up my side of things. 0 1 2 3 4 5
92. Brought in someone else to help settle things (or tried to). 0 1 2 3 4 5

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93. Argued heatedly but short of yelling.                           | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 94. Yelled and/or insulted.   | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 95. Sulked and/or refused to talk about it.                         | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 96. Stomped out of the room.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 97. Threw something (but not at my partner).                        | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 98. Threatened to hit or throw something at spouse or partner.      | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 99. Threw something at my spouse or partner.                        | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 100. Pushed, grabbed, or shoved partner.                            | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 101. Hit (or tried to hit) spouse or partner but not with anything. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 102. Hit (or tried to hit) spouse or partner with something hard.   | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 103. Beat spouse or partner up.                                     | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 104. Threatened spouse or partner with a knife or gun.              | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 105. Used a knife or gun on spouse or partner.                      | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Please answer the following questions about yourself. When answering multiple choice questions, please enter the number which is shown in parenthesis next to the answer.

106. Did you hear the people who raised you argue or fight? \_\_\_\_\_

Never (0)  
 Occasionally (1)  
 Often (2)  
 Very often (3)

107. Did you see your mother hit your father? \_\_\_\_\_

Never (0)  
 Occasionally (1)  
 Often (2)  
 Very often (3)

108. Did you see your father hit your mother? \_\_\_\_\_

Never (0)  
Occasionally (1)  
Often (2)  
Very often (3)

109. When you were growing up, were you afraid at home? \_\_\_\_\_

Never (0)  
Occasionally (1)  
Often (2)  
Very often (3)

110. How violent was the neighborhood that you grew up in? \_\_\_\_\_

Not all violent (0)  
Slightly violent (1)  
Moderately violent (2)  
Very violent (3)

Listed below are a number of statements concerning personal attitudes and traits. Read each item and decide whether the statement is true or false as it pertains to you personally. CIRCLE EITHER "T" OR "F" to indicate true or false.

- |      |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|
| 111. | I never hesitate to go out of my way to help someone in trouble.  | T | F |
| 112. | I like to gossip at times.  | T | F |
| 113. | I sometimes feel resentful when I don't get my own way.   | T | F |
| 114. | I'm always willing to admit it when I make a mistake.   | T | F |
| 115. | There have been times when I felt like rebelling against people in authority even though I knew that they were right. | T | F |
| 116. | There have been occasions when I took advantage of someone.   | T | F |
| 117. | I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget.   | T | F |
| 118. | When I don't know something I don't at all mind admitting it.   | T | F |
| 119. | I am always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable.   | T | F |

120. If I could get into a movie without paying and be sure I was not seen, I would probably do it. T F
121. I have never deliberately said something that hurt someone's feelings. T F
122. It is sometimes hard for me to go on with my work if I am not encouraged. T F
123. Before voting I thoroughly investigate the qualifications of all candidates. T F
124. There have been times when I was quite jealous of the good fortune of others. T F
125. At times I have really insisted on having my own way. T F
126. I would never think of letting someone else be punished for my wrongdoings. T F
127. On occasion I have doubts about my ability to succeed in life. T F
128. I am sometimes irritated by people who ask favors of me. T F

PLACE AN "X" ON THE APPROPRIATE LINE(S) FOR QUESTIONS 129-132.

129. The program I am participating in concerns a problem I have with (1) substance abuse \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) anger control \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
130. How long have you been attending this treatment program?  
This is my first session \_\_\_\_\_  
Two to five sessions \_\_\_\_\_  
Six to ten sessions \_\_\_\_\_  
More than ten sessions \_\_\_\_\_
131. Why are you attending this treatment program?  
I was court ordered. \_\_\_\_\_  
My partner threatened to leave me if I didn't get help. \_\_\_\_\_  
I wanted help for myself. \_\_\_\_\_
132. This treatment program involves:  
(1) group treatment \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) individual treatment \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) in-patient treatment \_\_\_\_\_  
(4) Other \_\_\_\_\_
- THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING ALL THE QUESTIONS

APPENDIX C

Letter to Administrators

3410 Cypress Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
Date

Address

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your interest in our project. As we discussed over the telephone, I am a graduate student at Virginia Tech, concluding my work toward a MS in the field of Family and Child Development. I am working with my advisor, Dr. Sandra Stith, Assistant Professor, on a research project studying the characteristics of batterers and of substance abusers in treatment programs. We are interested in determining if some of these characteristics may be valuable in predicting battering behavior or substance abuse. We will also be analyzing the data for those characteristics which batterers and substance abusers hold in common.

You may be assured that the data collected by us will be completely confidential. The scales we are using in our research have been checked for reliability and validity in the professional literature. The Virginia Tech committee on Human Subjects has reviewed our questionnaire and approved it for our project. At the conclusion of our research you will receive a copy of the analysis of our work.

I am attaching a copy of the questionnaire which we have developed and a brief proposal of the project. I would be happy answer any further questions you may have about this research. I can be reached at my home telephone 560-2019.

I hope we can work together on this project which I believe may assist the population of men with which you work.

Sincerely,

Rita Crossman,  
Project Coordinator

APPENDIX D

Scales Used in the Instrument

## SCALES USED IN THE INSTRUMENT

Scale	Instrument item number
1. Approval of Marital Violence Saunders, 1980	56 - 63
2. Conflict Tactics Scale Straus (Form N), 1979	89 - 105
3. History of Violence Neidig & Friedman, 1984	106 - 110
4. *Marital Stress Scale Pearlin and Schooler, 1975	39 - 45
5. Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test Selzer, 1971	11 - 38
6. *Self-Esteem Scale Rosenberg, 1965	46 - 55
7. Sex Role Egalitarianism Scale Beere, King, Beere & King, 1984	64 - 88
8. Marlowe Crowne Social Desirability Measure Crowne, 1964	111 - 128

\* Not used in this analysis

APPENDIX E

A Brief Proposal of the Project

## A BRIEF PROPOSAL OF THE PROJECT

## SPONSOR:

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

## SUBJECT AREA OF PROPOSAL:

Characteristics of persons identified as batterers and persons identified as substance abusers, as they enter a treatment program.

## PLACE(S) INVOLVED IN AND DURATION OF STUDY:

A one time questionnaire is to be given to persons entering treatment programs for batterers and treatment programs for substance abusers. The questionnaire may take between 15 to 30 minutes to complete. The questionnaire could be handed to the clients by the therapist and completed in the session or completed at home. A self-addressed, stamped envelope will be given to each client so that they can easily return the questionnaire to us.

## PURPOSE OF PROJECT AND RESULTS SOUGHT:

The purpose of the study is to identify characteristics in the battering population and to compare the batterers to the substance abusing population in these characteristics. The results sought are to determine if these characteristics may be predictors of violent behavior or of drug abuse.

## POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF RESULTS:

Identifying predictors of violent behavior will be of assistance in working with batterers to assist them as they work on changing their behavior. Additionally, our results may indicate that populations identified as batterers and as substance abusers might benefit from the same treatment programs.

## EXPECTED DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT:

A preliminary report will be incorporated in a Masters' Thesis in the department of Family and Child Development at Virginia Tech. The Thesis will be bound and placed in the Virginia Tech Library. A more detailed and comprehensive article will be published by Dr. Sandi M. Stith.

## METHODOLOGY:

A questionnaire has been developed covering the following scales: demographics, approval of marital violence, sex role egalitarianism, conflict tactics, social desirability, and an alcohol screening test. The questionnaire will be distributed to clients to fill out. The questionnaires will be returned to the researchers or to the therapists in a manner which will insure complete confidentiality. The scales will be statistically analyzed for identification of characteristics of the two populations.

## DATA ACQUISITION BY:

Questionnaire

## PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Rita Crossman

APPENDIX F

Memo to Administrators



## VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT—  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA GRADUATE CENTER (703) 698-6035

November 23, 1987

### Memo

To: Questionnaire Administrator

Fr: Rita Crossman, Project Coordinator

Re: Administration of Virginia Tech Questionnaire

Thank you for your help in administering this questionnaire to your clients in group or individual treatment for violence or substance abuse. After you distribute the questionnaires, please use the form at the end of this memo to let us know how many questionnaires you distributed to clients. In addition, if you would like a summary of the results, please put your name and address on this memo so that we will be certain you receive the results.

If you have any comments regarding the administration of the questionnaires, your clients' responses, or other helpful suggestions, you may also include these. Please do not hesitate to call if you have additional questions or need additional questionnaires. Thanks again for your help.

---

Number of Questionnaires Distributed \_\_\_\_\_

Date Questionnaires were Distributed \_\_\_\_\_

Your Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name and Address (Optional):

Additional Comments (Please use the back of this memo):

APPENDIX G

Letter to Group Members



## VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT—  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA GRADUATE CENTER (703) 698-6033

December, 1987

Dear Group Member:

Your experience as a member of a group treatment program is very important. We would like to ask you to complete this survey in which you will be asked to identify your response to a variety of issues including the amount of stress you are experiencing in your relationship, how you handle conflict, what your childhood experiences in your family were, etc. This survey is a part of an ongoing research project being conducted in the Department of Family and Child Development at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Campus in Falls Church, Virginia.

In order that the results will truly represent the opinions and experiences of people who participate in group treatment programs, it is important that every questionnaire be completed and returned. These questionnaires will be distributed during the group. You should mail the questionnaires to Virginia Tech in the enclosed envelope without writing your name on the questionnaire.

You can be assured of complete confidentiality. Your name does not need to be placed on the questionnaire.

The information gathered in this study will be used to improve treatment procedures for individuals who participate in group experiences.

We would be most happy to answer any questions you might have. You may call us for more information at ( ). Thank you for your assistance.

With Appreciation,

Rita Crossman  
Project Coordinator

Sandra M. Stith, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor

APPENDIX H

General Information and Informed Consent

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT

### Individual and Family Characteristics of Persons Participating in Group Treatment Programs

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the individual and family characteristics of persons participating in group treatment programs. We are particularly interested in how much stress you may be experiencing at home and at work and how you relate to your spouse, your attitudes toward masculine and feminine roles and the way you deal with conflict at home. The information gathered in this study may be useful in improving treatment procedures for individuals who participate in group experiences.

#### Procedures

We are asking for your voluntary cooperation in the study. Even though you agree to participate, you are free to stop answering the questions and/or choose not to answer any questions at any time. Refusal to participate or discontinuing participation will have no negative consequences and will not affect your admission into the group treatment program.

This survey will be distributed during a group treatment session. The questions will be self-explanatory. However, any questions you might have will be answered by the person administering this questionnaire. The total time spent answering these questions will be approximately one-half hour.

#### Investigators

This study is being conducted by the Department of Family and Child Development, Virginia Tech, Northern Virginia Graduate Center, Falls Church, Virginia. The study is being carried out by Rita Crossman, Master's Candidate, and Sandra Stith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor. Both of these persons can be contacted at (703) 698-6035.

#### Confidentiality

All data collected is guaranteed to be strictly confidential. PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE. There will be no way to identify respondents or to know who participated.

Your completion of this questionnaire indicates that you have read this information and that you voluntarily consent to participate in the study described above.

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