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Treva S. Bogaerts '97
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Women Who Batter: A Comparison To Men Who Batter

Treva S. Bogaerts

Illinois Wesleyan University

Abstract

A sample of 27 females and 27 males was drawn from the client files of a domestic violence agency in a medium-sized midwestern city. Clients were matched on ethnicity, age, and education so that comparisons could be made to determine whether distinctions exist between these batterer populations. The two groups were compared in terms of legal, family, mental, and social histories, as well as type of physical abuse used. The results have implications for adjustments in treatment procedures for female batterers.

Women Who Batter: A Comparison to Men Who Batter

Traditionally, research, the law, and public attention in the area of domestic violence has focused on the male perpetrator and the female victim. Violence by women against men is a societal problem that has until recently been joked about, minimized, or ignored.

Researchers have begun to develop a profile of male batterers in terms of demographic information and personal histories (Tolman and Bennett, 1990). This knowledge has been beneficial in the creation of batterer treatment programs (Roberts, 1987). In contrast to the body of knowledge accumulated on men who batter, research is necessary in order to add to the general knowledge base on women who batter, a relatively new population of study. Further, women batterers often undergo treatment identical to their male counterparts. Thus, if differences are found in the profiles of female and male batterers, adjustments in treatment procedures for women may be in order. The identification of population characteristics may improve the ability to predict and control battering.

Components of the male batterer profile, such as alcohol and drug abuse, witnessing or experiencing abuse in childhood, socio-economic variables, and psychological characteristics, are explored in the following paragraphs. It remains to be shown, however, that these common characteristics of the male batterer population are also found in the female batterer population.

Characteristics of Male Batterers

First of all, chemical dependency has been linked to battering. Studies suggest that there is a 50-70% rate of alcohol abuse among male batterers (Conner and Ackerley, 1994; Rynerson and Fishel, 1993; Tolman and Bennett, 1990). However, Bennett, Tolman, Rogalski, and Srinivasaraghavan (1994) found that, "it is drug abuse rather than alcohol abuse that appears most related to domestic abuse" (p.363).

A second profile characteristic is that male batterers are more likely than non-batterers to have either witnessed abuse or been physically abused as children. A significant proportion of male batterers witnessed maternal abuse in their family of origin (Hastings and Hamberger, 1988; Howell and Pugliesi, 1988; Murphy, Meyer, and O'Leary 1993; Rynerson and Fishel, 1993; Tolman and Bennett, 1990). Furthermore, other results in this area have found that witnessing domestic violence in the family of origin has more consistently predicted domestic violence than has experiencing child abuse (Hamberger and Hastings, 1988; Tolman and Bennett, 1990). However, Rynerson and Fishel (1993) reported that males who are subject to abuse as children are at an increased risk for becoming abusers. Of the 53 male batterers in that study, 82.3% had memories of being hit with an object. Murphy et al. (1993) echo these findings by stating that half of the maritally violent men studied experienced severe childhood abuse.

Thirdly, correlational research has found that male

batterers typically belong to a lower socio-economic status. Specifically, low income, unemployment, and blue-collar as opposed to white-collar occupations are all predictors of male to female spousal abuse. Bennett et al. (1994) correlated physical abuse with low income. Moreover, Hastings and Hamberger (1988) found that all non-violent control participants in their study were employed, while 14 to 20% of the batterers were unemployed. Similarly, Tauchen and Witte (1995) found that current employment, but not employment history, affects violence. Additionally, blue-collar workers are over one and a half times more likely to commit domestic violence (Howell and Pugliesi, 1988). However, it cannot be stated that these variables cause domestic violence. Rather, the stress associated with these variables may lead to domestic violence.

On a variable related to SES, non-violent control participants were significantly better educated in the study by Hastings and Hamberger (1988). Half of the control participants held college degrees while 20 to 35% of the batterers who participated did not complete high school. This may, however, reflect differences in cultural standards or reporting rates between control participants and batterers.

A fourth component of the male batterer profile consists of general psychological characteristics. To begin with, male batterers have lower verbal assertion and a greater need for power compared to non-battering males (Tolman and Bennett, 1990). Furthermore, in a study by Allen, Calsyn, Fehrenbach, and Benton

(1989), "batterers were more likely to fall into categories of loner (57%), rebel (38%), and pessimist (47%), and were, in general, more likely to be less outgoing, less intimate, and more cautious than the general population" (p.84).

In addition, Murphy et al. (1993) found, using personality and bipolar disorder scales, that maritally violent men exhibited higher levels of psychopathology. Similarly, a correlation was found by Bennett et al. (1994) between physical abuse of partner and a history of psychiatric outpatient treatment as well as antisocial behavior. Moreover, batterers are more likely to be affected by borderline or antisocial personality disorders and depression; however, it is not clear whether these variables can be considered causal factors in battering (Tolman and Bennett, 1990). Finally, in an extensive study on personality characteristics by Hastings and Hamberger (1988), batterers showed greater overall evidence of psychopathology on a wide range of standardized measures. To name a few, batterers demonstrated higher levels of anxiety, somatic complaints, depression, and negativistic, passive-aggressive tendencies.

Lastly, additional common traits of male batterers have been discovered upon examination of the variables of arrest history, marital status, and age. Bennett et al. (1994) found that a history of arrest is significantly related to the prevalence of domestic violence. Likewise, analyses by Rynerson and Fishel (1993) revealed that 82% of the male batterers under study had a long pattern of abuse in other social situations as well.

Furthermore, Tolman and Bennett (1990) presented the finding that severe abusers are more likely to have had previous involvement with the court for other types of assault. In regard to marital status, Hastings and Hamberger (1988) found batterers in their study to have a high rate of separation (34-48%) and divorce (14%). Within the non-violent control group, participants were either married (93-94%) or single (6-7%). Concerning age, Howell and Pugliesi (1988) have reported that younger males (under 40) are three times more likely to commit spousal violence than older males.

In sum, the male batterer profile covers a variety of aspects. Male batterers are often chemically dependent. As children, many men who batter have either witnessed abuse or been abused themselves. In addition, many male batterers come from a lower socio-economic status. Furthermore, certain psychological characteristics and disorders depict this population. Finally, these men often have an arrest history, are separated or divorced, and are relatively young.

Violence in Women

Despite this developing knowledge base on men who batter, a female batterer profile has not been a focus of study for researchers of this population. First and foremost, researchers have had to work to ensure that the issue of violence by women is recognized as a problem.

Statistics of abuse by women are often shocking. According to Steinmetz (1978) this is because of "the relative lack of

empirical data on the topic, the selective inattention both by the media and researchers, the greater severity of physical damage to women (making their victimization more visible), and the reluctance of men to acknowledge abuse at the hands of women" (p.504).

For example, many find it surprising that researchers have repeatedly found that violence by men and women in marital relationships is comparable. Straus (1980) found by interviewing a nationally representative sample of 2143 married couples that there is little difference in the overall violence rates of husbands and wives or in the rate of severe spousal assaults that include: kicking, biting, punching, hitting with an object, "beating up," and attacking with a weapon. In addition, Straus (1980) finds that wives attack non-violent husbands almost as equally as husbands attack non-violent wives. Similarly, Mercy and Saltzman (1989) report that according to the 1976 and 1985 national family violence surveys, husbands and wives were nearly equal in risk of being physically abused by their spouses. Furthermore, Malone, Tyree, and O'Leary (1989), in using the Conflicts Tactics Scale (CTS) as one of their measures, found that men and women report experiencing and engaging in similar amounts of physical aggression against their spouses. O'Leary, Malone, and Tyree (1994) also discovered, in using the CTS to assess physical aggression in marriage, that half of the aggression reported was mutual and aggression by one partner only was as likely to be committed by the wife as by the husband.

Steinmetz (1978) reviews several studies in which homicide rates of spouses, with husbands and wives as offenders, are nearly identical as well. Steinmetz is a chief defender of the claim that violence between men and women in the family is symmetrical as evidenced by her work on "The Battered Husband Syndrome" (Steinmetz, 1978).

Similar findings of equal participation by women and men in committing violent acts can be seen in studies of premarital relationships. Among undergraduate students, Arias and Johnson (1989) in using the CTS found no significant differences between percentages of women and men reporting their use of violence or their victimization in relationships. In addition, it was found through a questionnaire administered to college students, that overall, males and females about equally often reported initiating, committing, and sustaining violence (Makepeace, 1986).

Other studies acknowledge that females contribute to the societal problem of spousal abuse but not equal to the extent that males do, as the previous studies found. The following studies point to men as battering more than women. Bourg and Stock (1994) in studying domestic violence reports filed at a county sheriff's department found that 91.6% of the arrested batterers were men and 8.4% were women. However, the females arrested were significantly more likely than the males to be arrested on charges of aggravated battery, a felony that may involve the use of a weapon, rather than simple battery, a

misdemeanor.

Furthermore, studies of dating violence have shown men to batter more than women. In one such study, of 115 college students that reported being a recipient of dating violence, 33 of them were males while 82 of them were females (Follingstad, Wright, Lloyd, and Sebastian, 1991). In addition, Makepeace (1986) found that having experienced dating violence was reported by 20.6% of the female college students in the sample and by 12% of the male college students.

Conversely to the previous findings of women battering less than men, Hamberger and Potente (1994) discovered a 12-fold increase in domestic violence arrests among women after a domestic violence mandatory arrest law was enacted in a midwestern community whereas the men exhibited a 2-fold increase. The researchers recognized, however, that this may be due to the law "finally catching up to" women batterers. Additionally, Follingstad et al. (1991) found that of 84 participants that reported to have perpetrated dating violence, 25 of them were males and 59 of them were females.

In sum, these studies point to the fact that violence by women towards men cannot be ignored as both a focus of research or a societal problem. It needs to be recognized that women are violent too and that this is an important issue of study so that women can get the help that they need (Flynn, 1990). The following paragraphs are a review of recent studies on women who batter. These research studies focus on the qualitative

differences in violence committed by men and women rather than the apparent quantitative similarities found by researchers, as reported in the previous paragraphs.

To begin with, researchers have examined women's motives for violence. Makepeace (1986) found that females more often than males reported their motives for violence to be self-defense and an intent to physically harm their partner. This last intent, however, may result from the necessity of self-defense. Furthermore, Follingstad et al. (1991) found that females reported more frequently than males that they used violence in retaliation for feeling emotionally hurt and also in order to show anger. Female perpetrators also reported using violence in order to get control more than male perpetrators. Likewise, Straus (1980) suggests that perhaps half of the time a woman's motive for violence is getting even or self-defense in response to a previous attack by a man. However, a minimum of 36% of the violence by women in the sample was not "responsive violence."

Secondly, the effects of violence by women have also been researched. Follingstad et al. (1991) reported that female perpetrators are more likely to believe that their victims see them as having a right to be aggressive and will feel guilt as an effect of the violence. Moreover, women's physical aggression is evaluated less negatively than men's (Arias and Johnson, 1989; Harris and Cook, 1994).

A third focus of research has been on sex differences in the use of aggressive acts. Makepeace (1986) found that abused males

more often than abused females sustained lower level violence such as throwing objects, pushing, slapping, kicking, biting, and punching. Similarly, Malone et al. (1989) reported that women were significantly more likely to throw an object, slap, kick, bite, and hit with either a fist or an object, while men were more likely to use a weapon. These studies support the statement by Hamberger and Potente (1994) that the impact of a female's violence is typically less than a male's violence. Likewise, Straus (1980) found that there is a greater tendency for husbands rather than wives to escalate the level of violence.

A final subarea of recent studies on women who batter concerns the factors which account for or predict violence. Straus (1980) lists five factors that account for marital violence by women: the high rate of assault on women, implicit cultural norms which make the marriage license also a hitting license, childhood training in the use of violence within the family, child care involves role practice in violence because the majority of parents use physical punishment, and there is a high degree of frustration involved in marriage.

In addition to these factors, past family experiences may predict violence among women. Malone et al. (1989) found that parents' aggressiveness was strongly associated with females' aggressiveness with parents, siblings, and outsiders. Thus, for females, patterns of aggression were generalized from past experience and also appear to generalize to partner aggression. In other words, "women's aggression toward their future spouse is

correlated with observation of parental aggression and hitting siblings" (Malone et al., 1989, p.692).

As previously mentioned, it is common that male batterers have also witnessed abuse in their family of origin. Conversely, O'Leary et al. (1994) examined similar factors and found no effect of physical aggression in the family of origin among women. However, reports of childhood and adolescent aggression towards parents and peers among women did have an effect on their later use of physical aggression in marriage. In addition, women with aggressive, defensive, and impulsive personality characteristics tend to engage in physical aggression, as do men with these characteristics.

Hypotheses

This research was designed to add to the overall knowledge base on women who batter. In this research project, I compared the demographic and personal history characteristics of women who batter to men who batter. Because the review of the literature revealed mixed findings on the similarities and differences shared by female and male batterers, my hope was that this study would help in clarifying these issues. My hypotheses were as follows:

- 1) Women would less frequently engage in violent acts directed toward a spouse or significant other, than men. This prediction was based on research by Bourg and Stock (1994), Follingstad et al. (1991), and Makepeace (1986). Each of these studies found men to be the perpetrators of violence more often than women. In

addition, I have found from my clinical experience at A.V.E.R.T., that more men are required to go through the program and that the women in the program have often used violence in self-defense or retaliation against a man.

2) Women batterers would be more likely to use lower-level violence than men. My reasons for this prediction come from studies by Makepeace (1986), Malone et al. (1989), Hamberger and Potente (1994), and Straus (1980) that have found abused males sustain lower-level violence than abused females.

3) Female batterers would report lower family distress than male batterers. This prediction was based on the mixed finding by researchers that parental aggression is associated with battering among women (Malone et al. 1989; O'Leary et al. 1994).

4) Women batterers would report lower legal involvement than men batterers. Although I found no empirical research on this issue, I have based my prediction on what I know from criminology and cultural norms.

5) Women batterers would report healthier mental histories than men batterers. I conducted an exploratory analysis to test this hypothesis.

Method

Participants

Twenty-seven female and twenty-seven male batterers in the process of completing or having completed treatment for domestic violence participated in this study. The batterers all receive treatment from a small domestic violence agency in a

medium-sized midwestern city. Female and male batterers were matched in terms of ethnicity, age, and education. Of the participants, 77.8% were White and 22.2% were Black. Among the female participants, the mean age was 30.98 years (SD = 6.83) and the mean level of education was 12.28 years (SD = 1.51). Among the male participants, the mean age was 31.36 years (SD = 6.62) and the mean level of education was 12.42 years (SD = 1.68). There were no significant differences between groups on key matching variables. Table 1 provides additional demographic information on the participants.

Table 1

Demographic Information for Female and Male Batterers

Demographic Variable	Female		Male	
	<u>P</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>n</u>
Spouse as Victim	34.6%	9	25.0%	6
Significant Other as Victim	38.5%	10	41.7%	10
Ex-Partner as Victim	11.5%	3	20.8%	5
Family Member as Victim	3.8%	1	4.2%	1
Roommate as Victim	3.8%	1	0.0%	0
Other as Victim	7.7%	2	8.3%	2
Female Victim	14.8%	4	96.3%	26
Male Victim	85.2%	23	3.7%	1
Married	29.6%	8	25.9%	7
Never Married	25.9%	7	44.4%	12
Separated	14.8%	4	3.7%	1
Divorced	29.6%	8	22.2%	6
Cohabiting	0.0%	0	3.7%	1
Voluntary Client	11.1%	3	7.4%	2
Court Mandated Client	88.9%	24	92.6%	25

Procedure

The archival data for this study were taken from the client files at the domestic violence treatment agency. Clients' identities remained anonymous. Clients sign a contract when they first enter the program in which they are made aware that their file information may be used for statistical studies.

A code book (see Appendix A) was devised to summarize data from all the forms used during the intake and assessment process. Possible answers to each question were assigned different numbers. The coding system facilitated entering the data into a computer. Analyses of the data were conducted using SPSS.

Measures

There are four two-sided forms used in the assessment of clients. The first is a domestic violence group pre-test (see Appendix B). It consists of 30 statements to which clients respond yes or no in agreement or disagreement. The items assess the values and beliefs of the client. The next two sheets are entitled, "Screening Information" and are divided into the categories of "legal history," "family history," "mental status," "substance use" and "social history" (see Appendixes C and D). Demographic information as well as a description of the violent incident is also asked. The last sheet used, lists examples of physical abuse people have reported in the past and asks clients to describe the abusive acts that they have committed by indicating whether or not they occurred, how often they occurred, and any details of the act. The remainder of the sheet questions

the participants on the use of other forms of abuse such as emotional or economic abuse (see Appendix E).

Twelve scales or summary measures were constructed to condense the number of variables present in the data set. The twelve scales were organized into five categories: legal history (3 subscales), violence in childhood (2 subscales), family and social distress (3 subscales), personal psychiatric history (2 subscales), and personal chemical use history (2 subscales). Six additional scales were used to condense domestic violence variables. They summarize physical abuse acts used in the past, emotional abuse acts used in the past, self reports of violence during a recent domestic violence incident, police reports of violence during the same recent incident, as well as self reports of injuries to the victim, and police reports of injuries to the victim. See Appendix F for the listing of subcategories and variables that comprise each summary scale.

Results

T-tests for correlated groups were used to compare the matched groups of female and male batterers on each of the twelve characteristics and six domestic violence subscales. Because this was exploratory research, given the relative lack of research on female batterers, an alpha level of .05 was determined to be acceptable for all statistical tests.

Table 2 summarizes the results found for each scale. It is important to note that several significant differences in characteristics exist between the two populations. In terms of

legal history, men were significantly more likely to have been arrested in the past for nonviolent crimes. Furthermore, men were significantly more likely to use alcohol and drugs. In terms of family and social distress, women were significantly more likely to have reported psychiatric problems in their families. Similarly, a trend was found that women were more likely to have reported chemical use problems in their families. However, the two groups reported the same amounts of violence in childhood and personal psychiatric problems.

Significant differences between males and females were also found on the domestic violence scales. Contrary to hypotheses, trends suggest that women self report greater amounts of both physical and emotional abuse acts committed in the past. In addition, women self report significantly greater amounts of violence in a recent domestic violence incident. No significant differences were found, though, between men and women on police reports of violence in a recent incident. The same pattern holds when injuries to the victim are considered. Women self report a significantly greater number of injuries to their victims than men. However, no significant differences are found on police reports of injuries to victims. Finally, both men ($t(24) = 6.15$) and women ($t(24) = 2.12$) significantly under-reported violence in a recent incident when self and police reports were compared.

Table 2

Statistical Results of T-Tests for Correlated Groups

Variable	Men		Women		*p < .05 +p < .10 t p	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>		
Legal History:						
Nonviolent Arrests	.89	1.12	.30	.47	2.53*	.018
Violent Arrests	.26	.53	.26	.59	.00	1.00
Jail/Prison	.22	.42	.07	.27	1.44	.16
Violence as Child:						
Witnessed Abuse	1.26	1.48	.67	1.18	1.60	.12
Abused	1.22	1.01	1.52	1.40	.91	.37
Family Distress:						
Relationship Conflict	4.67	2.86	4.96	2.39	-.41	.68
Psych Problem in Family	.04	.20	.40	.65	-2.57*	.017
Chem Problem in Family	.52	.77	1.00	1.12	1.73+	.097
Psychiatric:						
Symptoms	2.79	2.34	2.96	3.32	-.18	.86
Treatment	.81	.895	1.31	1.72	-1.48	.152
Chem Use:						
Alcohol	3.41	2.66	2.00	1.33	-2.66*	.013
Drugs	.31	.62	.04	.196	-2.27*	.032
Physical Abuse Used	3.65	2.31	6.19	6.63	-1.84+	.077
Emotional Abuse Used	3.37	2.91	5.15	4.01	1.82+	.08
Self Report Violence	2.04	1.02	2.74	1.10	-2.50*	.02
Police Report Violence	3.92	1.69	3.38	1.41	1.27	.22
Self Report Injuries	.11	.32	.44	.64	-2.55*	.02
Police Report Injuries	.67	.70	.88	.68	-1.16	.26

Discussion

My five hypotheses predicted that, in general, women who batter will report fewer problems than men who batter. I first predicted that women would engage less frequently in violent acts directed toward a spouse or significant other. This was not supported by looking at self reports made by women.

Secondly, my prediction stated that women batterers are more likely to use lower level violence. This also was not supported as the women reported to have caused significantly more injuries than the men.

My third hypothesis stated that women batterers would have lower family distress. The results did not support this prediction. Female batterers reported higher means on all the family distress and violence in childhood scales, although they were significant for only the scale summarizing psychiatric problems in the family. The only exception is that male batterers had a higher mean for witnessing parental violence although the difference was not significant.

My fourth hypothesis predicted that women batterers would report lower legal involvement. This was supported for nonviolent crimes, as men reported significantly more arrests in this area.

My final hypothesis was that women batterers would have healthier mental histories. However, men and women did not significantly differ in this area. It is interesting to note, though, that the male batterers reported significantly greater

alcohol and drug use.

There are several important implications to be drawn from this research. First of all, the stereotype held by society that men are much more violent than women was not supported by this study, at least among a sample of clients being assessed and treated at a domestic violence agency. According to police reports, men and women who batter do not differ significantly on the number of violent acts used or the number of injuries caused in a recent domestic violence incident. These findings support earlier research by Hamberger and Potente (1994) that reported a greater increase in domestic violence arrests among women after a domestic violence mandatory arrest law was enacted in a community.

Second, the research may have implications for differential treatment needs. Specifically, male batterers may need more drug and alcohol abuse counseling prior to or in addition to domestic violence counseling. In contrast, an approach to counseling that also focuses on family issues may be beneficial to female batterers, given the level of family and relationship problems that were reported. Next, it is important to note that men may commit domestic violence as a part of a criminal lifestyle and thus more interaction with the legal system may be helpful.

Third, those working with the batterer population should know that self reports of violent incidents may not be as complete or accurate as police reports of violent incidents. Further, female batterers may be more honest and open in self

reports of violence, given their greater means on these summary scales.

There are, however, certain limitations of the study. First of all, the small sample size limits the generalizability of the findings. The generalizability is further limited by the lack of ethnic diversity among participants. Second, there are differences in the amounts and types of detailed information present on completed forms because of the different interviewers conducting each assessment. These differences are inevitable because there is no formal training given to interviewers with regard to completing the clinical assessment. While these differences should have been randomly distributed across men and women, this does contribute to an overall decrease in the reliability of the data. A third possible problem of the study concerns the fact that two versions of the forms exist depending on how early into the program's existence clients entered. Fourth, there was some subjectivity and personal judgment involved in coding.

Future studies may work on addressing these problem areas in order to strengthen the overall study. If possible, researchers should seek to find more data on the female population of batterers to enhance the generalizability of study findings. In addition, larger samples are needed to yield greater statistical power and enable the use of more conservative alpha levels to control experiment wise error. Care should also be taken to ensure uniformity and objectivity of the data sheets. This

entails not only using one set of forms but also thoroughly training interviewers so that amount and types of information recorded is identical. Another target for improvement involves ensuring objectivity in coding through the careful design of code books and training of coders. Moreover, future researchers in this area may consider adding non-archival data to a study. This would contribute another dimension to the research. This could be accomplished by, for instance, comparing test results for the two groups of batterers on a psychological measure or comparing recidivism rates. Moreover, research with a focus on motivational or situational factors in domestic violence incidents for men and women is a piece that was missing from this study that may be interesting to pursue. In conclusion, additional research on women batterers is needed in order to better understand and help this population.

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BASIC INFORMATION

ID# _____

Date ____/____/____

Screened By 1=Director (Cheryl)
2=Employee (Dale, Bess)
3=Intern (Dale, etc.)

**Dale switched from intern to employee in May of 1996

Gender 1=Male 2=Female

Race 1=Caucasian 2=African American
3=Hispanic 4=Other_____

Birthdate ____/____/____

Employed 0=No 1=Yes, Full
2=Yes, Part 3=Yes, Amt. Unknown
4=GATX Temporary 5=Disability
6=Other_____

Job Title _____
99=Don't Know/Missing

Job Length ____ (years) + ____ (months)
0000=No Job

Marital Status 1=Married 2=Separated
3=Divorced 4=Widowed
5=Single 6=Cohab.

Length Marital Status ____ (years) + ____ (months)
7777=never married

Is Name of Victim Same as Name of Significant Other?
0=No 1=Yes

Cohabiting with Significant Other (based on addresses)?
0=No 1=Yes

Children Listed _____

Relationship to Kids 1=Natural (or if not indicated)
2=Step 3=Mixture
4=Other 9=Don't Know

AVERT Counseling 1=Voluntary 2=Court Mandated
3=S.A.'s Suggestion 4=Other

Yearly Family Income \$_____

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION-SELF-REPORT

Date of Incident

__/__/__
000000=no specific date

Sex of Victim

1=Female

2=Male

Race of Victim

1=Caucasian

2=African Am.

3=Hispanic

4=Other_____

Relationship to Victim

1=Spouse

2=Ex-Spouse(or soon)

3=Current Sig Other

4=Ex-Sig Other

5=Roommate

6=Related Thru Kid

7=Family Member

8=Other_____

Where

1=Inside-Private

2=Outside-Semi-Private (yard, etc.)

3=Public (bar, etc.)

4=More Than One of the Above

9=Can't Tell/Don't Know/Missing

Report of Drinking

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

Report of Drugs

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

Violent Acts-Reported

**For the following

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

___ Verbal Argument (Shout, Scream, Rampage)

___ Threaten Harm

___ Threaten Harm to Others

___ Destroy Things_____

___ Push, Shove, Restrain, Pin

___ Punch, Hit, Slap

___ Use Object to Hit/Throw_____

___ Violate Order of Protection

___ Choke

___ Forced Sex

___ Other_____

Injuries

**For the following

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

___ Bruises, Marks, Redness

___ Cuts/Scratches

___ Bite Marks

___ Broken Bones, Fractures

___ Other_____

Precipitating Argument****For the following** 0=None/No Report 1=Yes

☐ Money/Possessions
☐ Cheating/Jealousy
☐ Going Out (Seeing Friends, etc.)
☐ Drinking/Drug Use
☐ Fail Responsibilities (Didn't Clean, etc.)
☐ Work
☐ Sex
☐ Kids
☐ Other Family
☐ No Argument
☐ Other/Topic Unknown_____

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION-POLICE REPORT**Date of Incident**____/____/____
000000=no specific date**Sex of Victim**

1=Female

2=Male

Race of Victim

1=Caucasian

2=African Am.

3=Hispanic

4=Other_____

Relationship to Victim

1=Spouse

2=Ex-Spouse(or soon)

3=Current Sig Other

4=Ex-Sig Other

5=Roommate

6=Related Thru Kid

7=Family Member

8=Other_____

Where

1=Inside-Private

2=Outside-Semi-Private (yard, etc.)

3=Public (bar, etc.)

4=More Than One of the Above

9=Can't Tell/Don't Know/Missing

Report of Drinking

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

Report of Drugs

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

Violent Acts-Reported****For the following**

0=None/No Report

1=Self

2=Other

3=Both

☐ Verbal Argument (Shout, Scream, Rampage)☐ Threaten Harm☐ Threaten Harm to Others☐ Destroyed Things_____☐ Push, Shove, Restrain, Pin☐ Punch, Hit, Slap☐ Use Object to Hit/Throw_____☐ Violate Order of Protection☐ Choke

Injuries

1=Self

3=Both

Other _____

1=Yes

Other/Topic Unknown

1=Yes

Other

Time in Jail 0=No 1=Yes
 ____ (years) + ____ (months)
 0000=N/A

Time in Prison 0=No 1=Yes
 ____ (years) + ____ (months)
 0000=N/A

Legal Status Now

--Probation 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____ (months)
 00=Unknown

--Cond. Discharge 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____
 00=Unknown

--Court Supervision 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____
 00=Unknown

--House Arrest 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____
 00=Unknown

--Charges Pending 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____
 00=Unknown

--Not Involved 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____
 00=Unknown

--Other 0=No 1=Yes
Sentence Length ____
 00=Unknown

Current O of Protection 0=No 1=Yes

FAMILY HISTORY

Mother Living 0=No 1=Yes

Current Quality of
R'ship With Mom 0=No Relationship
 1=Good
 2=OK/Don't Say Good or Bad
 3=Troubled
 7=N/A (mother deceased)
 9=Don't Know/Missing

Father Living 0=No 1=Yes

0=No Relationship
1=Good
2=OK/Don't Say Good or Bad
3=Troubled
7=N/A (father deceased)
9=Don't Know/Missing

0=No 1=Yes

0=No Relationship
1=Good
2=OK/Don't Say Good or Bad
3=Troubled
7=N/A (parents deceased)
9=Don't Know/Missing

****For the following** 0=None/No Report 1=Father
 2=Mother 3=Both

0=No 1=Yes

1=Maternal Figure 2=Paternal Figure
3=Both 4=Other
7=N/A

**** For the following 0=No 1=Yes**

1=Good 2=Mixed Probs. or OK
3=Troubled 9=Don't Know/Missing

Graduated H.S.	0=No 1=No, but GED 2=No, Working on GED 3=Yes	
Athlete in School	0=No	1=Yes
Ever in Military	0=No	1=Yes
Length in Military	____ (years) 77=N/A	
Intimidate People	0=No	1=Yes
Jealous	0=No	1=Yes
Keep Eye on Loved Ones	0=No	1=Yes
Social Circle	1=No Friends or Acquaintances 2=Acquaintances Only 3=Few Close Friends Only 4=Few Close Friends + Acquaintances 5=Large Social Circle	
Rescue Friends	0=No	1=Yes
MENTAL STATUS		
Received Counseling	0=No/Never 2=Previously	1=Currently 3=Current + Add'l
Mental Illness TX	0=No	1=Yes
**Do not include TX for chemical dependency		
Psychiatric Hospitalization	0=No/Never 2=Previously 9=Don't Know/Not on Form	1=Currently 3=Current + Add'l
Psychotropic Meds.	0=No	1=Yes
--Antipsychotics	0=No	1=Yes
--Antianxiety	0=No	1=Yes
--Antidepressants	0=No	1=Yes
Family History of Mental Illness	0=No	1=Yes
**For the following	0=No	1=Yes
___ Mother		
___ Father		
___ Siblings		
___ Grandparents		
___ Children		
___ Spouse		
___ Other Family _____		

SOCIAL HISTORY

Marr.

Length of Marr. 1 ____ (years) + ____ (months)
7777=No Marriage 1
0000=0-5 Months (round up)

Length of Marr. 2 ____ (years) + ____ (months)
7777=No Marriage 2
0000=0-5 Months (round up)

Length of Marr. 3 ____ (years) + ____ (months)
7777=No Marriage 3
0000=0-5 Months (round up)

Length of Marr. 4 ____ (years) + ____ (months)
7777=No Marriage 4
0000=0-5 Months (round up)

Violence in Prev. Marr.

```

**For the following      1=None/No Report      1=Self
                        2=Other                  3=Both

```

Verbal Argument (Shout, Scream, Rampage)

Threaten Harm

Threaten Harm to Others

Destroyed Things

Push, Shove, Restrain, Pin

Punch, Hit, Slap

Use Object to Hit/Throw

Violate Order of Protection

Choke

Forced Sex

Other

Ever Obsessed 0=No 1=Yes

Quality of R'ship	0=No Relationship
With Kids	1=Good
	2=OK/Don't Say Good or Bad
	3=Troubled
	7=N/A
	9=Don't Know/Missing

Kids Witnessed Arguments/Violence	0=No	1=Yes
1		
2		
3		
4		
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Highest Grade 12=GED Earned

****where 13=college freshman**

- ☐ Depression
- ☐ Sleeping Disturbance
- ☐ Hearing Voices
- ☐ Anxiety
- ☐ Appetite Change
- ☐ Pressured Speech
- ☐ Euphoria
- ☐ Concentration Prob.
- ☐ Flight of Ideas
- ☐ Suicidal Ideation
- ☐ Suicidal Plans
- ☐ Suicidal Attempts
- ☐ Homicidal Ideation
- ☐ Homicidal Plans
- ☐ Homicidal Acts
- ☐ Affective Disorder
- ☐ Thought Disorder

Affect 1=Appropriate 2=Over-reacting
 3=Not reacting/Flat

****For the following** 0=No 1=Yes

Temper

0=No Temper
1=Mild/Moderate-Takes a Lot to Get Upset
2=Holds In, Then Explodes (Holds Grudge)
3=Explodes Easily
9=Don't Know/Missing/Not on Form

0=No/Deny
1=Minimal or Social
2=Mild/Moderate 1-7/week
3=Moderate >7/week or >4/night
4=Admits Alcohol Abuse (Blackouts, Neg.
Consequences)

****Use highest number that client estimates**

Alcohol Use-Past 0=No/Deny
 1=Minimal or Social
 2=Mild/Moderate 1-7/week
 3=Moderate >7/week or >4/night
 4=Admits Alcohol Abuse (Blackouts, Neg.
 Consequences)

**Answer this question only if client mentions past use

**Use highest number that client estimates

Other Current Drugs 0=No 1=Yes

Lifetime Use of Drugs

**For the following 0=No/Never 1=Currently
 2=Previously 2=Current+Add'l

___ Cannabis (Pot)
___ Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine)
___ Amphetamines/Crank
___ Cocaine/Crack
___ Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, Angel Dust)
___ Other _____

Tx for Chem. Dependency 0=No/Never 1=Currently
 2=Previously 3=Current + Add'l

Family Hx of Chem.Dep. 0=No 1=Yes

**For the following 0=No 1=Yes

___ Mother
___ Father
___ Siblings
___ Grandparents
___ Children
___ Spouse
___ Other Family

PHYSICAL ABUSE

**For the following 0=No/Never 1=Couple (1-2)
 2=Few (3-5) 3=Several (6+)
 4=Multiple/Too Many To Count (20+)

___ Slapping
___ Punching
___ Choking
___ Pulling Hair
___ Pushed
___ Restrained
___ Kicked
___ Use a Weapon _____
___ Threw Something _____
___ Pressured/Forced Sex
___ Violent Sex
___ Attacked Genitals/Breasts
___ Other _____

**Use the client's highest estimate

Intimidation		
--Non-verbal	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes frightening by looks, gestures, or actions		
--Destruction	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes smashing things, destroying property, or hurting pets		
--Display Weapons	0=No	1=Yes
--Is She/He Afraid of You?	0=No	1=Yes
Emotional Abuse		
--Humiliation	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes putting down and calling names		
--Manipulation	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes making feel guilty, think crazy, or playing mind games		
Isolation		
--Control Actions	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes controlling where person goes or what sees or reads		
--Invasion of Privacy	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes listening to phone conversations or opening mail		
--Checking Up	0=No	1=Yes
**Includes questioning whereabouts or following around		
Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming	0=No	1=Yes
Using Children		
--Make Feel Guilty About Children	0=No	1=Yes
--Use Visitation to Harass	0=No	1=Yes
--Threaten to Take Children Away	0=No	1=Yes
--Make Kids Relay Messages	0=No	1=Yes
Male Privilege/ Domination or Power	0=No	1=Yes
Economic Abuse	0=No	1=Yes
Coercion and Threats	0=No	1=Yes

Violence Against Others		
--Friends/Acquaintances	0=No	1=Yes
--Strangers	0=No	1=Yes
--Parents/Grandparents	0=No	1=Yes
--Siblings	0=No	1=Yes
--Children	0=No	1=Yes
--Other_____	0=No	1=Yes

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GROUP PRE-TEST

1.	0=No	1=Yes
2.	0=No	1=Yes
3.	0=No	1=Yes
4.	0=No	1=Yes
5.	0=No	1=Yes
6.	0=No	1=Yes
7.	0=No	1=Yes
8.	0=No	1=Yes
9.	0=No	1=Yes
10.	0=No	1=Yes
11.	0=No	1=Yes
12.	0=No	1=Yes
13.	0=No	1=Yes
14.	0=No	1=Yes
15.	0=No	1=Yes
16.	0=No	1=Yes
17.	0=No	1=Yes
18.	0=No	1=Yes
19.	0=No	1=Yes
20.	0=No	1=Yes

For the questions that cannot be answered using the options given, the following may be used

7=N/A

8=Don't Know

9=Missing or Don't Know/Missing

Appendix B

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GROUP PRE-TEST

Check Y if you agree; Check N if you disagree.

Y N

1. If a child hits your child, your child should hit back.
2. Slapping with an open hand is OK
3. Nobody should tell a man/woman how to handle his/her own family unless asked
4. Pushing and shoving is OK
5. Few battered women actually die from their injuries
6. Its always a crime for a husband to hit his wife
7. Pushing and shoving another is OK
8. Threatening someone with words alone is OK
9. Hitting someone without a weapon is OK
10. Men who batter are seriously psychologically disturbed and often do not know what they are doing
11. We should first seek to understand others before trying to be understood
12. Mixed messages to others lets them know my different wants
13. Distrust makes rust in a relationship
14. Positive personal change must be voluntary
15. I alone am responsible for the choices I make
16. Listening is a key to building relationships
17. Fight and spite talk are necessary for a successful relationship

[illegible]

SCREENING INFORMATION

Date: _____ Screened by: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Race: _____ Caucasian _____ African American _____ Hispanic _____ Other

Phone: _____ work: _____

Birthdate: _____ SS#: _____

Employed by: _____ Length: _____

Marital Status: _____ Length: _____

Significant Other's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____ work#: _____

Children: _____

Name of Victim: _____

Race: _____ Caucasian _____ African American _____ Hispanic _____ other

Is AVERT counseling _____ voluntary _____ court mandated _____ State's Attorney Suggestion
_____ Other, _____

Description of Violent Incidents: _____

LEGAL HISTORY

Have you been arrested for Domestic Violence ___no ___yes, explain_____

Past Legal Problems_____

Currently on Probation? ___no ___yes, Probation Officer _____

Current Legal Status _____

Order of Protection ___no ___yes Copy in File? ___no ___yes

FAMILY HISTORY

Mother Living ___no ___yes

Father Living ___no ___yes

If parents still living, are they still together? ___no ___yes

Did you witness physical violence between your parents ___no ___yes

explain:_____

Were your parents physically abusive with you? ___no ___yes

explain:_____

What were their methods of discipline?_____

Please describe siblings' lives:_____

SOCIAL HISTORY

Have you ever been married before? _____

Has there been violence in your previous relationships? ____no ____yes
explain: _____

Have you ever considered yourself to be obsessed with someone? ____no ____yes
explain: _____

How have your relationships with your children been?
explain: _____

Have they ever witnessed your arguments/violent behaviors? ____no ____yes
explain: _____

Academic History: _____

Were you an athlete in school? ____no ____yes

Were you ever in the military? ____no ____yes _____

Do you sometimes intimidate people with your body size in order to "take care of
situations? ____no ____yes explain: _____

Are you a jealous person? ____no ____yes

Do you feel as though you need to keep a close eye on your loved ones? ____no ____yes

Describe your social circle (ie, few close friends, large group of "buddies" etc.)

Do you tend to be the person who "rescues" friends? ____no ____yes explain: _____

MENTAL STATUS

Received Counseling ☐ no ☐ yes. Where and When _____

Treatment for Mental Illness ☐ no ☐ yes. Where and When _____

Hospitalizations _____ Where/When _____

Psychotropic Medications _____ What/When? _____

Family History of Mental Illness? ☐ no ☐ yes. Who _____

Personal History:

☐ Depression ☐ Sleeping Disturbance ☐ Hearing Voices
☐ Anxiety ☐ Appetite Change ☐ Pressured Speech
☐ Euphoria ☐ Concentration Problem ☐ Flight of Ideas
☐ Suicidal Ideation ☐ Plans ☐ Previous Attempts
☐ Homocidal Ideation ☐ Plans ☐ Previous Acts
☐ Affective Disorder ☐ Thought Disorder

AFFECT: _____

Description of Self: _____

Temper: _____

SUBSTANCE USE

Alcohol? _____ How much/How often _____

Other Drugs? _____ What Kinds _____
How Often _____

Treatment for Chemical Dependency ☐ no ☐ yes. Where and When _____

Family History of Chemical Dependency ☐ no ☐ yes. Who _____

Appendix E

Below are examples of abuse people have reported. Please describe the abusive acts you have committed.

1. PHYSICAL ABUSE

Type	Yes	No	How Often	Comments about physical abuse
Slapping	_____	_____	_____	
Punching	_____	_____	_____	
Choking	_____	_____	_____	
Pulling Hair	_____	_____	_____	
Pushed	_____	_____	_____	
Restrained	_____	_____	_____	
Kicked	_____	_____	_____	
Use a weapon	_____	_____	_____	
Threw something at her	_____	_____	_____	
Pressured or forced sex	_____	_____	_____	
Violent sex	_____	_____	_____	
Attacked breasts or genitals	_____	_____	_____	
Other	_____	_____	_____	

2. **Intimidation:** (Frightened her by certain looks, gestures, actions, smashing things, destroying her property or pets, displaying weapons, Is she afraid of you?)

3. **Emotional Abuse:** (Putting her down, calling names, humiliating her, making her feel guilty.)

4. **Isolation** (Keep her from going places she chooses, work, school, seeing family, friends, women's groups, etc. Listen to her phone conversations, open mail. Follow her around. Question about whereabouts. Jealousy.)

5. **Minimizing, Denying and Blaming:** (Making light of abuse, saying it didn't happen, saying it's her fault.)

6. **Using Children:** (Making her feel guilty about children, using visitation to harass her, threatening to take away the children.)

7. **Male Privilege:** (Treating her like a servant, acting like the "master of the castle", making all the "big" decisions, tell her what her job/role is.)

8. **Economic Abuse:** (Prevent her from working outside the home, making her ask for money, not letting her know the family income, taking her money.)

9. **Coercion and Threats:** (Threats to take away children, to harm her or her family or friends, to report to welfare, to destroy property, forcing her to drop charges, making her do something illegal, threatening to commit suicide.)

10. **Violence Against Others:** (Include children.)

Interviewer comments:

Appendix F

Summary Scale Descriptions

I. Legal History

A. Number of Arrests for Nonviolent Crimes

1. Resisting Arrest
2. Disorderly Conduct
3. Criminal Trespassing
4. Criminal Damage to Property
5. Forgery
6. Home Invasion
7. Theft
8. Burglary
9. Selling Drugs
10. Phone Harassment
11. Other Legal Problems

B. Number of Arrests for Violent Crimes

1. Battery
2. Unlawful Use of a Weapon
3. Assault (Threat)
4. Sexual Assault
5. Child Abuse

C. Sentence Time

1. Jail
2. Prison

II. Violence

A. Witness Parental Violence

1. Verbal Argument (Shout, Scream, Rampage)
2. Threatened Harm
3. Threatened Harm to Others
4. Destroyed Things
5. Pushed, Shoved, Restrained, Pinned
6. Punched, Hit, Slapped
7. Use of Object to Hit/Throw
8. Violate Order of Protection
9. Choked
10. Forced Sex
11. Other

B. Abused as Child

1. Who Abused
2. Hit with Hand
3. Hit with Object

III. Family and Social Distress

A. Relationship Conflicts

1. Relationship to Mother
2. Relationship to Father
3. Relationship to Children
4. Relationship Between Parents
5. Relationship Between Siblings
6. Social Circle

B. Psychiatric Problems in Family

1. Mother has Mental Problems
2. Father has Mental Problems
3. Siblings have Mental Problems

4. Children have Mental Problems
 5. Spouse has Mental Problems
 6. Other Family has Mental Problems
 7. Grandparents have Mental Problems
 - C. Alcohol and Drug Use Problems in Family
 1. Mother has Chemical Use Problems
 2. Father has Chemical Use Problems
 3. Siblings have Chemical Use Problems
 4. Grandparents have Chemical Use Problems
 5. Children have Chemical Use Problems
 6. Spouse has Chemical Use Problems
 7. Other Family has Chemical Use Problems
- IV. Personal Psychiatric History
- A. Self Report of Psychiatric Symptoms
 1. Depression
 2. Sleep Disturbance
 3. Hearing Voices
 4. Anxiety
 5. Appetite Change
 6. Pressured Speech
 7. Euphoria
 8. Concentration Problems
 9. Flight of Ideas
 10. Suicidal Ideation
 11. Suicidal Plans
 12. Suicidal Attempts
 13. Affective Disorder
 14. Thought Disorder
 - B. Self Report of Psychiatric Treatment
 1. Received Counseling
 2. Received Mental Illness Treatment
 3. Psychiatric Hospitalization
 4. Psychotropic Medications
 5. Antipsychotic Use
 6. Antianxiety Use
 7. Antidepressant Use
- V. Personal Chemical Use History
- A. Alcohol Use
 1. DUI arrests
 2. Self Report of Drinking During Incident
 3. Self Report of Drugs During Incident
 4. Current Use of Alcohol
 5. Past Use of Alcohol
 - B. Lifetime Drug Use
 1. Cannabis (Pot)
 2. Narcotics (Heroin, Morphine)
 3. Amphetamines/Crank
 4. Cocaine/Crack
 5. Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, Angel Dust)
 6. Other Drugs
 7. Chemical Dependency Treatment
- VI. Physical Abuse Acts Used
- A. Slapping
 - B. Punching

- C. Choking
- D. Pulling Hair
- E. Pushing
- F. Restraining
- G. Kicking
- H. Use of a Weapon
- I. Throwing an Object
- J. Pressured/Forced Sex
- K. Violent Sex
- L. Attacking Genitals/Breasts
- M. Other

VII. Emotional Abuse Acts Used

- A. Intimidation
 - 1. Non-verbal
 - 2. Destruction
 - 3. Display Weapons
 - 4. Is Partner Afraid?
- B. Emotional Abuse
 - 1. Humiliation
 - 2. Manipulation
- C. Isolation
 - 1. Control Actions
 - 2. Invasion of Privacy
 - 3. Checking Up
- D. Using Children
 - 1. Make Feel Guilty About Children
 - 2. Use Visitation to Harass
 - 3. Threaten to Take Children Away
 - 4. Make Kids Relay Messages
- E. Male Privilege
- F. Economic Abuse
- G. Coercion and Threats

VIII. Self Reports of Violence During a Recent Incident

- A. Verbal Argument (Scream, Shout, Rampage)
- B. Threatened Harm
- C. Threatened Harm to Others
- D. Destroyed Things
- E. Pushed, Shoved, Restrained, Pinned
- F. Punched, Hit, Slapped
- G. Use of Object to Hit/Throw
- H. Violate Order of Protection
- I. Choked
- J. Forced Sex
- K. Other

IX. Police Reports of Violence During a Recent Incident

- A. Verbal Argument (Shout, Scream, Rampage)
- B. Threatened Harm
- C. Threatened Harm to Others
- D. Destroyed Things
- E. Pushed, Shoved, Restrained, Pinned
- F. Punched, Hit, Slapped
- G. Use of Object to Hit/Throw
- H. Violate Order of Protection
- I. Choked

- J. Forced Sex
- K. Other
- X. Self Reports of Injuries to Victim During a Recent Incident
 - A. Bruises, Marks, Redness
 - B. Cuts/Scratches
 - C. Bite Marks
 - D. Broken Bones, Fractures
 - E. Other
- XI. Police Report of Injuries to Victim During a Recent Incident
 - A. Bruises, Marks, Redness
 - B. Cuts/Scratches
 - C. Bite Marks
 - D. Broken Bones, Fractures
 - E. Other