“The Healing Journey”

References

Introduction

The following is a compilation of recent (1995 until present) literature pertaining to intimate partner violence. Canadian and international references are categorized under 23 separate headings (see Table of Contents following), with a focus on Canadian content. As well, Canadian titles include abstracts, which, whenever possible, were taken directly or edited from database or author abstracts, or from source documents themselves.

All efforts were taken to ensure accuracy and completeness of the information presented herein, and we apologize for any errors or exclusions. Please direct corrections and additions to: (resolve@umanitoba.ca). Thank you.
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**General Information**


Bala describes the nature and range of conduct that may constitute spousal abuse, and the potential effect of spousal abuse on the children. It offers a review of some of the issues facing family lawyers and judges involving spousal abuse, with a special emphasis on issues related to children. Canadian developments and case laws are analyzed, though there are similar issues in other countries. The article provides an analytical framework that recognizes the need for differentiated responses that meet the circumstances of the different situations, and considers the extent to which Canadian courts have adopted the approaches advocated.


The authors turn to the past to help understand the present on ‘wife battering’ as a contemporary political issue. They illustrate two points: (1) discourse and rules about ‘wife-beating’ emerge in historically-specific economic, political, and social relationships; and (2) discourses and rules about ‘wife-beating’ often linger beyond the specific relationships in which they originally emerged, becoming incorporated into new discourses and practices.


In the course of discussing the evolutionary social psychology of family violence, this chapter specifically addresses: self-interest, conflict, and violence; nepotistic restraint; homicide as a conflict assay; homicide risk and relatedness; substitute parenthood and violence; discriminative parental solicitude and filicide risk; and factors affecting spousal violence and homicide.


This fact sheet presents an overview of what family violence is, its prevalence in Canada, contributing factors and consequences to the family and society. In addition, it presents strategies for preventing and responding to family violence, including suggested resources and references.


This chapter discusses the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Criminal Code of Canada as they pertain to victims of domestic violence. It also presents Canadians' perspectives on child, spousal, and elder abuse, which supplements data on the prevalence and nature of these forms of family violence in Canada. The Canadian macro- and family microsystem are also described.


This book provides a comprehensive look at the causes and effects of wife assault and its relationship to criminal justice policy. It explores the psychology of the male who assaults his intimate partner and the dynamics of the victim/abuser relationship that so frequently leads to the question, 'Why does she stay?' The present edition includes an expanded history of social policy towards family violence, as well as new chapters on the abusive personality and on traumatic bonding and the battered woman syndrome. Dutton also examines important new research on the efficacy of arrest and treatment of batterers, and he points to a disturbing increase in the level of violence in dating relationships. By looking at its root causes, Dutton argues that domestic assault is not just a 'family' problem, but also a problem for all society.


This overview paper presents a general introduction to the issue of woman abuse in Canada. It provides a brief description of the issue, highlights common causes and consequences, and outlines barriers experienced by women when disclosing abuse and seeking support. The overview paper also includes sections on how to support a woman who has been abused, and on how and where an abused woman can get help.


MacLeod, L., & Kinnon, D. (1996). Taking the next step to stop woman abuse: From violence prevention to individual, family, community and societal health – A practical vision of collaboration and change. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada. (See Prevention, Screening, and Intervention)


This book presents a case study of community activism around domestic violence against women and children in a small-town Southern Ontario municipality, analyzed from a sociology of social problem perspective. Mann’s primary focus is activities associated with attempts to assert, resist, and maintain ownership over the establishment and operation of a shelter for women, and the unintended outcomes of these ownership struggles. She addresses the lived reality of abuse as a contextual or background feature of this public activity.


Packota focuses on the unique circumstances of military life that exacerbate any situation where emotional abuse is present. Issues such as military culture, geographic and linguistic isolation, and required secrecy are examined. The author also discusses the response of the Canadian Forces to this concern.

This study reflects the first concerted effort to investigate women's perceptions of and their feelings about the Private Family Visit (PFV) program in Canada. The research focused on assessing women's safety during conjugal visits with incarcerated partners. Abuse, control, and violence from partners were issues discussed with the women, but almost all of the participants also described abusive experiences from the correctional system or staff.


Domestic violence is a worldwide public health and criminal justice problem that can take the form of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. The majority of victims are women, while the perpetrators are men. The main contributors to the widespread occurrence of such violence are attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, which envision women as inferior members of society. Power differentials in heterosexual or homosexual relationships, plus a notion that what occurs within a relationship is private, permit violence to continue. Cultural and religious beliefs can reinforce power imbalances. The consequences of domestic violence include physical injury, chronic somatic complaints, increased healthcare utilization, substance abuse, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder. Despite its frequent occurrence, domestic violence often goes unrecognized by family practitioners and emergency staff. Routine screening can increase detection rates. Although no treatment has proven effective, a combination of psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy appears to be helpful. It is important for healthcare professionals to be knowledgeable in the area of domestic abuse. In addition, effective government policies and changes in societal attitudes are essential in order to decrease the prevalence of this problem.


Although North America is viewed as a place where women have equal rights and status, violence against women is still rampant, with 40 to 51% of women experiencing some type of violence in their lifetime. Robinson presents a contemporary historical overview of many aspects of its occurrence, and concludes that education at all levels is required to change attitudes that perpetuate violence, despite laws that forbid it.


In a qualitative study, 35 women who had lived with violent partners were interviewed regarding their experience making decisions about their relationships to their abusers. This paper explores their stories, integrating the common themes with reports from other studies. The insights of the women participating in this and other research support an ecological understanding of the tough choices they face, a framework that respects the role of environmental factors (demands and resources) in helping or constraining choices at the same time as it recognizes the importance of powerful mediating factors (beliefs, values, and a sense of personal efficacy).

In this chapter, Tully presents narratives from 41 Alberta women who had been assaulted by or threatened by their partners with firearms. The women describe their relationships and how they attempted to resist and understand the abuse. Tully also recounts the impact of the traumatic abuse on the women and their children, and offers descriptions of the abusive partners as related by the women themselves.


This book considers the many aspects of supporting and providing safety for women who experience abuse. The results of recent Canadian research projects are presented, as are the voices of women who share their experiences of having been abused by an intimate partner. Chapter topics include factors affecting a woman’s ability to safely leave an abusive relationship – government policies, criminal justice responses and child protection issues, for example – as well as issues raised by women abused by lesbian partners. The final chapter presents future challenges faced by abused women, and by the services and policies designed to protect them.


As the title suggests, Tutty and Goard present an overview of woman abuse by intimate partners in the Canadian context, with particular focus on various intervention strategies and their effectiveness.


The author gives a definition of anger, aggressiveness and violence, and summarizes the evolution of the main theories about conjugal violence, particularly the systemic approach. He warns social workers to be wary of their own perceptions on conjugal violence.

International References


**Rates/Prevalence**


Using a representative sample of 2,703 Canadian women living in a stepfamily or a biological family, this investigation assesses the extent of women's elevated risk for violence in stepfamilies relative to biological families as well as explanations for this relationship. Canadian women living in stepfamilies are shown to be twice as likely as their counterparts in biological families to experience violence.


Cohabiting women's heightened risk of violence is a well-established relationship, but one that is not fully understood. Using a representative sample of 7,396 Canadian women, the results of the present study show that the cohabitation-violence relationship persists. However, over a six-year period, the prevalence of violence against women in cohabiting unions declined dramatically relative to marital unions. The results of the analyses suggest that the increasing prevalence of cohabitation has reduced the selection bias, in turn causing cohabiters' and "marrieds'" relationships to become increasingly similar. Nevertheless, the results also suggest that cohabiters remain a select group, and this differential selection is responsible for the persistence of their higher likelihood of violence. Overall, the results suggest that cohabitation will need to become much more prevalent before parity in rates of violence will be achieved between cohabiters and marrieds in Canada.


Brownridge investigates whether Quebec possesses a different culture of male partner violence than the rest of Canada and finds that Quebec has a lower prevalence of male partner violence than the rest of Canada. Women with partners who exhibited patriarchal dominance had far higher odds of violence being committed against them than do women without such partners. It is suggested that the key to understanding the difference in prevalence between the two cultural groups is patriarchal domination, and that the common thread for interpretation of many cultural differences in risk markers seems to be patriarchy.


This paper examines findings that Canadians have higher a higher prevalence of partner violence than Americans. Results from the largest national survey on violence against women ever conducted show that 29% of Canadian women have experienced violence by a current or former husband. These results suggest that research and policies are needed to understand and prevent partner violence.

The present study argues for a standard conceptualization of prevalence and incidence in family violence research. A "gold standard" conceptualization is proposed. Given the need for standardization, the relative ease with which this can be accomplished, and the knowledge that research in this area will be conducted well into the future, the authors conclude with a plea for a standard use of prevalence and incidence among family violence scholars.


This article summarizes issues and priorities for prevalence surveys and intervention studies raised by researchers and practitioners at an international symposium on transnational and cross-cultural research on family violence held in Québec.


The present discourse on symmetry of violence between partners originates in the results of surveys primarily using one type of instrument, the Conflict Tactics Scales (Straus, 1979). An examination of the critiques that have been formulated and of the justifications given by the authors of the instrument suggests that symmetry is a result of a specific representation of action constructed by the instrument. Comparing the protocols and results of four large surveys in Canada, England and the United States, the authors underline the importance of taking into account severity in the measurement of violence.


In September 2000, the federal-provincial-territory Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women agreed to commission Statistics Canada to design a limited number of salient indicators on the severity and prevalence of violence against women. Where possible, the indicators in this report were to be provided at the national, provincial and territorial levels and in a manner that would indicate trends over time. Recommendations are made in the document regarding others that would be helpful in assessing violence against women.

The Level of Service Inventory-Ontario Revision (LSI-OR) is the most recent edition of a popular risk/need assessment tool designed to predict recidivism among offenders. The current investigation examined the predictive validity of the Inventory, its various subscales, and a Specific Risk/Need section designed to predict violent recidivism. Inmates scored significantly higher on all scales and were more likely to recidivate than probationers during a 31-month follow-up. The General Risk/Need score correlated highly with general recidivism and, to a lesser extent, with violent recidivism. It also produced similar predictive correlations among subgroups of sexual offenders, domestic violence offenders, and offenders with mental health problems. The Specific Risk/Need scale produced a slightly higher correlation with violent recidivism. The theoretical implications of these findings and practical value of this modified instrument are discussed.


Recidivism risk factors are examined in a sample of 320 Canadian male batterers. Recidivism was assessed by an arrest for violence or for any offence during the five years following arrest. The factors associated with violent recidivism among male batterers were similar to those for other criminal populations, such as young age, unstable lifestyle, substance abuse, and criminal history. Potential offenders did not appear to be deterred by expectations of negative consequences, either social or official. The lowest recidivism rates were found among men with the greatest involvement in treatment.


The author presents a critique of The General Social Survey (GSS) on Spousal Violence, which is part of Statistics Canada's annual publication, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2000*. She discusses the dangers of policy-makers interpreting the results on a superficial level to rationalize further reducing the already scarce resources allocated to rape crisis centres, shelters, and services for battered women. Her analysis outlines some of the problematic aspects of the GSS and how they could be used to minimize the reality of the overwhelming prevalence of male violence against women. She also advises using the GSS findings cautiously, as they do not capture the full extent of violence against women.


Using data from Statistics Canada's 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization, this article compares and contrasts the prevalence, consequences, and outcomes of spousal violence reported by a representative national sample of women and men. The study shows that five-year and one-year rates of self-reported spousal violence victimization are only slightly higher for women. The nature and consequences of assaults inflicted on women by their spouses are more severe than spousal assaults against men. Assaults reported by women are more frequent and result in more serious consequences and outcomes for victims and higher costs for society. Female victims are more likely to be injured, to use medical services, spend time in hospital, take time off paid or unpaid work, use counselling and shelter services, and to report the violence to the police. Negative emotional outcomes for female victims were also more prevalent.
Johnson, H., & Bunge-Pottie, V. (2001). Prevalence and consequences of spousal assault in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Criminology, 43*(1), 27-45. The authors compared the prevalence, consequences, and outcomes of spousal violence experienced by husbands and wives in Canada. They conclude that, although females and males experience a similar degree of spousal violence, consequences, outcomes, and costs are more severe for females.


Randall, M., & Haskell, L. (1995). Sexual violence in women's lives. *Violence Against Women, 1*(1), 6-31. This article presents a summary of the methods and quantitative prevalence findings from the community-based Women's Safety Project, which studied sexual violence in the lives of women in Toronto, Ontario, including sexual assault and harassment and physical assault in intimate relationships.

Reinfret-Rayor, M., Riou, A., Cantin, S., Drouin, C., & Dube, M. (2004). A survey on violence against female partners in Quebec, Canada. *Violence Against Women, 10*(7), 709-738. To establish the annual prevalence of violence perpetrated by male partners in Quebec couples, a telephone survey was conducted with 2,120 women. Validated instruments measured physically and sexually violent behaviours as well as controlling behaviours and verbal aggression. Victimization rates were 6.1% for physical violence and 6.8% for sexual violence. The results confirm the association of individual and social variables with violence in other studies and illustrate the importance of understanding the socio-cultural context for the family status variables.

Robinson, D., & Taylor, J. (1995). The incidence of family violence perpetrated by federal offenders: A file review study. No. FV-03. Retrieved from the Correctional Service of Canada website: [http://www.csc-sec.gc.ca/text/pblet/fv/fv03/toce_e.shtml](http://www.csc-sec.gc.ca/text/pblet/fv/fv03/toce_e.shtml) The primary objective of this study was to provide knowledge about the level of perpetration of family violence that exists among male offenders under the jurisdiction of the Correctional Service of Canada. A secondary objective was to examine correlates of perpetration in order to identify the "risk markers" of family violence. Although it was suspected that federal offenders exhibit a high incidence of family violence, there was a lack of empirical evidence to establish the level of seriousness of the problem. The current study represents the first national study aimed at investigating the incidence of family violence among federal offenders.

This report highlights the findings of a national survey on violence against women that was conducted in 1993 by Statistics Canada and Health Canada. It presents a summary of data on the prevalence of emotional abuse, the psychological consequences, the cycle of violence, and the reporting of wife assault, among other related topics.


This article in the on-line magazine published by the Canadian Women’s Health Network provides a recap of current statistics regarding violence against women, and then offers 10 suggestions for helping to end violence against women.


In Canada, the annual prevalence of violence against women is about 8% among nonpregnant and 6% to 8% among pregnant women. Violence against women is defined as physical and psychological abuse of women by their male partners, including sexual abuse and abuse during pregnancy. Of women who are abused, 25% suffer episodes of beating, 20% of choking and 20% of sexual assault; 40% suffer injury, and 15% receive medical care as a result of partner violence. Separate from physical violence, 19% of women suffer emotional abuse and controlling behaviour, including financial abuse or control. Women exposed to partner violence are at increased risk of injury and death as well as a range of physical, emotional and social problems.


Weir discusses women's reporting of spousal assaults in Canada, including the percentage of women who report assaults and factors that make them more likely to report. She suggests that doctors should conduct routine screenings of their patients to question them about domestic violence experiences.

**International References**


Risk Factors


Research indicates that adjudicated men who batter are more likely to be socially isolated and less socially connected than men who do not exhibit assaultive behaviours. This study compared men of Caucasian, Native American, and other ethnic backgrounds from Northern British Columbia, on MMPI-2 variables reflecting social isolation. Batterers scored significantly higher than Controls on variables measuring social isolation and significantly lower on variables reflective of social connectedness to their communities. Regardless of ethnic background, Controls were found to have greater numbers of supports and to be more satisfied with the adequacy of supports. Batterers preferred to access support from family doctors, social workers or lawyers, whereas Controls preferred to access support from a priest or minister. Implications for domestic violence intervention are explored in light of these research findings.


This report describes two studies that evaluated two specialized assessment tools: the Secondary Risk Assessment for General Assault (SRA-GA) and the Secondary Risk Assessment for Partner Abusers (SRA-PA). Together, these studies suggest that the two specialized risk/need scales did not meaningfully add to predictive accuracy above and beyond general risk/need instruments. Thus, these results highlight the importance of continued evaluative efforts to ensure that whatever assessment tools are being used are empirically supported.


Although national-level research conducted in the US and Canada finds that extreme partner age discrepancy is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide in opposite-sex couples, these studies carry two caveats: they are limited to cohabiting marital or common-law couples, and they are not detailed enough to explore alternative explanations for the age discrepancy-homicide risk association. Results replicated national-level findings showing that the risk of intimate partner homicide is considerably elevated for couples with a large discrepancy between their ages-where the man is at least 16 years older than the woman, or the woman is at least 10 years older than the man. This risk pattern occurred regardless of whether the man or the woman was the homicide offender. The higher risk of intimate partner homicide for age-discrepant couples was robust and did not depend on the previous arrest record of the offender.


This study assesses the extent of women's elevated risk for violence in stepfamilies relative to biological families, as well as explanations for this relationship. Canadian women living in stepfamilies are twice as likely as those in biological families to experience violence and are at particular risk for severe violence. A number of elements are involved in this increased risk of violence for women in stepfamilies.

Based on research consistently showing that cohabitators are more likely to be violent than married couples, it is argued that the practice of equating these two marital status groups may blur the understanding of the etiology of male partner violence. A synthesized model for understanding marital status differences is presented and tested on a large-scale sample of Canadian women. The results show little support for most existing explanations and suggest that unique processes are operating in the production of violence for different marital status groups.


This review explores the potential link between stalking and domestic violence. It compares the literature on stalking to existing literature on typologies of domestically violent persons and hypothesizes that most stalkers who target ex-partners are characterologically similar to a type of batterer labelled borderline/cyclical. It appears that the most typical stalking scenario involves ex-intimate partners, and that violence is common in both the past relationship and the stalking episode.


Dutton highlights some features of intermittent explosive disorder (IED), as well as its treatment and related criminal justice issues from a social psychology perspective. Two cases of wife-directed impulsive violence are presented and discussed, followed by a critique of psychiatric/neurological explanations for intimate violence and a discussion of the subtypes of abusers.


The impact of court-ordered treatment for wife assault was assessed by monitoring 156 men who had completed such treatment for up to 11 years (mean = 5.2 years) after treatment completion. Recidivist assault and wife assault was assessed through access to Canadian Police Information Centre data that record crimes committed anywhere in Canada.


The problem of domestic violence has been well documented with respect to its social, psychological, and economic costs. Proactive arrest and sentencing policies have resulted in an increasing, and in some cases, overwhelming number of spousal batterers being processed through the criminal justice system. This article attempts to review state-of-the-art instruments in the rapidly expanding field of spousal assault risk assessment.

In this study, the Propensity for Abusiveness Scale (PAS) was given to clinical outpatients, gay males, male college students, and a group of spousal assaulters. A criterion measure for abusiveness (the Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory; Tolman 1989, or the Psychological Maltreatment Inventory; Kasián & Painter, 1992) was collected from intimate partners. In all groups, the PAS correlated significantly with partners’ reports of both physical and psychological abusiveness on subscales of the criterion measures: Dominance/Isolation and Emotional Abuse. For the college students and wife-assault groups, a new criterion measure was used: the Severity of Violence Against Women Scale. The PAS correlated significantly with partners’ reports of threats and violence measured by this scale. The PAS appears to provide a nonreactive assessment instrument that is a strong predictor of intimate abusiveness across a variety of populations.


The actuarial Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG) was developed for male offenders where it has shown excellent replicability in many new forensic samples using officially recorded outcomes. Clinicians also make decisions, however, about the risk of interpersonal violence posed by nonforensic psychiatric patients of both sexes. Could an actuarial risk assessment developed for male forensic populations be used for a broader clientele? The authors modified the VRAG to permit evaluation using data from the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study that included nonforensic male and female patients and primarily self-reported violence. The modified VRAG yielded a large effect size in the prediction of dichotomous postdischarge severe violence over 20 and 50 weeks; accuracy of VRAG predictions was unrelated to sex. The results provide evidence about the robustness of comprehensive actuarial risk assessments and the generality of the personal factors that underlie violent behaviour.


Military wives are among the women most vulnerable to abuse in our society: isolated from friends and family in a culture that ostracizes those who speak up, they face desperate financial circumstances and lack professional support in times of crisis. More than 100 survivors of abuse and their partners were interviewed for this groundbreaking study of violence against women in military communities. Despite a policy of zero tolerance, abusive behavior continues, fostered by a culture centred on constant preparation for violent conflict and covered up by an ethos that demands members protect one another at all costs. This book documents how military culture contributes to abuse, keeps it secret, and attempts to silence its victims.

An actuarial assessment to predict male-to-female marital violence was constructed from a pool of potential predictors in a sample of 589 offenders identified in police records and followed up for an average of almost 5 years. Archival information in several domains (offender characteristics, domestic violence history, non-domestic criminal history, relationship characteristics, victim characteristics, index offense) and recidivism were subjected to setwise and stepwise logistic regression. The resulting 13-item scale, the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), showed a large effect size in predicting new assaults against legal or common-law wives or ex-wives (Cohen's $d = 1.1$, relative operating characteristic area = .77) and was associated with number and severity of new assaults and time until recidivism. Cross-validation and comparisons with other instruments are also reported.


The present study examines psychopathy; the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG), a validated actuarial risk assessment tool for violent recidivism; and motives thought to be related to wife assault, in predicting violent recidivism among 88 men with a history of serious wife assault. The prospects for predicting lethal wife assault and violence against specific victims are discussed.


Using secondary analysis of a nationally representative sample of Canadian women, this study focuses on the question of which factors discriminate among relationships in which assaults have ended and those in which assaults have continued, with a particular focus on isolation and beliefs supportive of violence. The results of the study support the ongoing need for a focus on emergency and counselling services to assist women and families in crisis. Additionally, the analysis supports the need to increase the level of disapproval for wife assault throughout all levels of society, thereby raising the stakes of using violence for large numbers of violent men.


This article, analyzing national, examines the connection between men's and women's relative economic contributions in families, and the risk of husband-to-wife physical violence and emotional abuse. The researchers found that, although income and educational attainment reduce women's risk of physical violence and emotional abuse by husbands, status incompatibilities between partners that favour women increase the likelihood of emotional abuse.


This report describes the development of a risk assessment tool to be used by criminal justice professionals in spousal abuse cases. The Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) was developed and pilot tested with six police agencies in Canada and in two jurisdictions in Sweden. The results of quantitative empirical analyses on Canadian and Swedish data are presented, along with qualitative feedback received from police officers in Canada. Overall, the results were encouraging, suggesting that the B-SAFER tool includes relevant risk factors present in spousal assault cases and that the tool can be coded easily by police officers in the course of routine investigations.

In constructing the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA), the authors attended to theoretical and methodological issues highlighted in the past. These include: (1) base rates of spousal violence; (2) heterogeneity of the target group (i.e., spouse assaulters); (3) specificity of the prediction criterion; and (4) links to risk management. After reviewing these factors, this chapter discusses: the problem of spousal assault; applications of the SARA; development of the SARA; assessment procedure; coding judgements; limitations of the SARA; the SARA and risk management; and evaluation of the SARA.


The current research explored the differences in risk and need factors associated with different types of batterers in comparison to other offenders. The results of the study have important implications for both treatment and court policies and procedures that determine how different types of domestic batterers are dealt with.


The chapter describes a risk management framework that the authors have developed over several years. This framework helps women to understand the violence they have experienced and identify the risk factors to intimate partner violence. It also outlines how women make changes in their lives to reduce their level of risk.


Screening protocols that can be used to identify domestic violence are lacking, as are studies evaluating the effects of using these protocols. With the objective of screening domestic violence, the Saint-Hubert CLSC has developed a protocol in collaboration with the Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes. Evaluation of the domestic violence screening protocol established at the Saint-Hubert CLSC indicates that the number of cases in which domestic violence was detected was three times higher after the screening protocol was put in place, and 15 times higher at the Saint-Hubert CLSC than at the CLSC used as a comparison site.


This article focuses on the link between imminent separation and violence against female partners in Canada. It reviews the literature to establish the fact that separation heightens the risk of violence, acknowledges the contributions of social learning and control theories, and concludes with strategies to break the cycle of violence.

It is well known that women are at an increased risk for violence during separation, but existing research does not provide an understanding of why separated women are more at risk. The following study helps to fill this gap through an empirical examination of indicators derived from potential explanations for the relationship between separation and violence. The findings showed that women without a previous history of violence were not protected from experiencing separation violence. The article concludes with a discussion of the findings.


This dissertation examined how psychological variables associated with self-control related to abusiveness in situations of intimate conflict. The variables of interest were efficacy, need for power, and responsibility. The results show the importance of considering both situational conflict experiences, along with personality and life history variables, when examining wife assault.


This study compares risk factors for intimate partner violence-related injury across two national data sources on violence against women, the Canadian Violence Against women Survey and the National Violence Against Women Survey in the United States. The authors determined which risk factors in each data source predicted injury and compared the magnitudes of associations between risk factors and injury across the data sets.


This study examined risk factors for physical injuries resulting from partner violence using data from 1,946 women who took part in the Canadian Violence Against Women Survey. Results indicated that experiencing violence before the union, having a partner who was drinking at the time of the assault, having children who witnessed the assault, experiencing previous violence by the same partner, fearing one's life was in danger, and experiencing high level of emotional abuse were related to an increased risk of both minor and severe injuries.


Participants in Tutty’s study were 97 assaulted women at a western Canadian battered women's shelter, 50+% of whose children had been abused also. In predicting the levels of physical partner abuse based on whether the man was abused or witnessed violence as a child, only abuse as a child was significant. Neither having been abused nor having witnessed abuse as a child was associated with nonphysical abuse toward women. Both physical and psychological abuse of women partners predicted men’s abuse of their children.

An evaluation of domestic assaultive, general assaultive, and nonassaultive groups was performed to compare cognitive, personality, aggression, and criminal sentiments. Analysis showed that the domestic assaultive offenders were similar to the general assaultive and nonviolent offenders, with a greater disparity for the control group. Furthermore, a significant difference was noted for the Hypochondriasis scale of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory. The general assaultive and control groups had similar scores, with the greatest difference found for nonviolent offenders who were least anxious. Discriminant analysis showed group membership could be identified for 89.1% of the domestic assaultive group.


An examination of lethal and nonlethal violence against wives focuses on the possibility of a cross-cultural male mindset about periodic violence, as well as variables that might account for differential use of violence by husbands in different social/cultural contexts. It was hypothesized that husbands' violence results from male attempts to constrain wives' autonomy by encouraging them to put their husbands' wants first. Computed rates of violence obtained from Canadian assault and homicide data show higher rates of uxoricide (wife killing) after estrangement, and link higher rates of both uxoricide and nonlethal assaults with younger wives, more controlling husbands, common-law unions, and the presence of minor children from a former spouse. These results suggest links between sexual proprietariness, coercive control, and assaults against women. The importance of husbands' perceptions of wives' cues is discussed, along with the need for further research focusing on the impact of perceptual processing on attention structures, memory, emotion, and decision-making.

International References


**Physical Health**


This updated consensus statement reflects emerging evidence and growing international understanding of violence, translating these into practical, timely and appropriate strategies for health professionals who care for women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV).


Exposure to violence as children or adults places women at higher risk of poor health outcomes, both physical and psychological. Abused women use more health care services and have poorer social functioning than women who have not been abused. Knowledge of the prevalence of violence against women and of which women are at risk should assist in the planning of services for abuse prevention and treatment of the health consequences of abuse.


This paper begins to measure the enormous economic apparatus that exists in relation to the pain and suffering of the women victims of violence, accounting only for those costs directly associated with women’s health. Sections are devoted to immediate effects (medical, dental, workplace), longer-term effects (physical, psychiatric, drug and alcohol abuse, second generation effects, and long-term workplace issues), and other costs to victims and society.

Teaching medical students to identify biopsychosocial issues (e.g. family violence) remains a challenge. The authors examined the extent to which using unannounced standardised patients (SPs) presenting in a clerk's clinical setting could assist with this teaching challenge. Seeing unannounced SPs had a dramatic effect on later student performance. This potentially powerful intervention could be applied to a range of clinical issues.


This handbook examines the issue of woman abuse, particularly as it relates to the interaction of physicians with the criminal justice system. It presents background information about woman abuse, followed by an introduction to the medico-legal interface, and, finally, clinical practice points and recommendations.


This report presents the findings of an examination of the health care sector's response to women who are abused by their partners. Part I provides an analysis of the research findings. Part II summarizes prevention initiatives at the provincial, territorial, and local levels.


To evaluate the ability of medical students to apply domestic violence training in an early clinical experience, a cross-sectional survey was undertaken among 2nd-year medical students from the University of British Columbia during their rural family practice practicum. Barriers that prevented medical students from undertaking assessment and counselling included lack of mentoring and role modeling and a perceived lack of privacy and time available. Application of classroom knowledge in this challenging domain requires preceptorship by appropriately trained supervisors in the clinical setting.


This article discusses the recognition of woman abuse as a serious public health problem and the need for clinicians to find ways to identify and help their abused female patients. Key elements that must be considered before advising physicians to screen routinely for woman abuse are identified, and programs that are being recommended to reduce violence against women are presented. Details on routine universal screening and diagnostic assessment of all women are also provided.


Sufficient evidence regarding the effectiveness of physician screening, counselling, and referral for intimate partner violence is lacking. However, even in the absence of sufficient evidence, many medical organizations recommend that physicians make efforts to identify and refer patients who have experienced abuse. This article presents three cases that illustrate the interaction between patients experiencing violence in intimate relationships and physicians and other members of the health care team. Suggestions for care are based on guidelines and evidence where available. Resources to assist physicians with referral to appropriate services also are provided.


This article reports on domestic violence against women as a public health issue in Canada. Swanson discusses the establishment of a Task Force on the Health Effects of Women Abuse that has brought together physicians, lawyers, the police and other professionals for the purpose of creating solutions.


Abuse has a number of effects. Although individuals think of the physical injuries that intimate partner inflicts, there are many other damages that can also be done to a woman's mental health. This article reviews the correlates and effects of intimate partner violence on physical and mental health and life circumstances.


Few health care settings have successfully implemented screening protocols that have been fully integrated and sustained within the larger organization. Researchers have tended to focus on individual-level characteristics of health care providers to explain this. The authors argue that organizational, structural, social, and cultural factors, especially related to gender, also play roles in adoption and integration of these interventions. It is important for policy analysts and program evaluators to use this larger framework to ensure sustainable integration of domestic screening programs within health care systems.


This article reports on the findings of Vancouver General Hospital’s study on ways for triage nurses to identify battered women and discusses the advantage of determining domestic violence during triage. Retrieved from Academic Search Elite database.

In a feminist grounded theory study of health promotion processes of single-parent families after leaving abusive partners/fathers, the authors discovered intrusion to be the basic social problem as families strive to promote health in the aftermath of abuse. They also present the challenges of health promotion in terms of the issues and dilemmas faced by study families. Finally, they consider implications for health promotion knowledge and practice.

**International References**


**Mental Health**


The article examines the marital status differences in Canadian women's coping mechanism with partner violence. Since the Canadian Census began to distinguish between common-law and marital unions, the rate of couples living in common-law unions in Canada has more than doubled, and as such, this analysis has implications both for understanding the experience of violence in each group and for policy.


Dutton, D. G., & Haring, M. (1999). Perpetrator personality effects on post-separation victim reactions in abusive relationships. *Journal of Family Violence, 14*(2), 193-204. Previous research has examined the influence of the abusive personality on relationship dynamics. Men with high scores of abusive personality generate more frequent and extreme forms of physical and emotional abuse in intimate relationships. Other lines of research have examined the role of these relationship features in influencing post-separation adjustment in women. The current Canadian study combines two data sets; one bearing on the first of these issues, the other on the second issue, in order to connect characteristics of the perpetrator's personality to post separation aspects of victim reaction. Substantial associations are found between abusive personality and relationship dynamics, and between the latter and persistent attachment, trauma symptoms, and lowered self-esteem in battered women.


Fry, P. S., & Barker, L. A. (2001). Female survivors of violence and abuse: Their regrets of action and inaction in coping. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 16*(4), 320-342. Two hundred and eighty-six female survivors of violence and abuse were surveyed about their major regrets of action and inaction following the experience of violence. As hypothesized, the number of regrets of inaction far exceeded those of action. The article also discusses implications of the findings with respect to the changing role of professionals working with women's experience of violence.


Keane, C. (1995). Victimization and fear: Assessing the role of offender and offence. *Canadian Journal of Criminology, 37*(3), 431-355. This article attempts to address some of the complexities of the victimization-fear relationship among women by examining how different types of offenders and different types of offences produce two different types of fear. Conducting secondary analysis on data from the Canadian Violence Against Women Survey, the findings reveal that victimizations involving certain offenders and offences are better predictors of fear than others.

This study involved interviews with homeless women about their experience of abuse and violence, both past and present. The women discussed their experiences of hostels and mental health systems, and the ways that these systems failed to adequately address issues of abuse and violence.


This report examines the relationship between the experiences of violence and the development of eating disorders in women and girls. It presents prevalence rates, identifies and describes the links, and provides guidelines for the treatment of violence and eating disorders. The report is based on a review of the literature and consultations with community workers, health practitioners and mental health professionals.


The relation between women's histories of experiencing violence and current psychological health were examined in this study. Locus of control, feelings of personal power, depressive symptomatology, self-esteem, and judgments of control over a contingently responsive computer display were investigated in groups of 21 abused women and 18 comparison women. The importance of future research into both the differential effects of verbal and physical abuse on women and the role of the transition house in empowering abused women was discussed.


A literature review examines the physical and psychological consequences of violence in relationships of family, intimacy, dependency, or trust. Section 1 provides an overview of the impact of violence on mental health. Section 2 details discrete forms of violence and abuse. Section 3 outlines options for further work in this area, including the impact of violence on the health and mental health systems.


International References


**Substance Use/Abuse**


The authors present a selective review of existing research and theory on the role of personality factors in domestic violence and child abuse, with a particular focus on the associations among personality, substance abuse, and mistreatment of significant others.


This article describes changes in substance use among women who have experienced violence and are accessing help from both rural and urban transition houses. Their challenges include stress due to money, housing and legal matters and a fragmented social services system. Women need more integrated services and practical supports, particularly in rural settings.


The purpose of this study was to investigate the importance of alcohol abuse as a predictive factor in cases of wife assault relative to other sociodemographic and attitudinal factors using a nationally representative survey on violence against women conducted in Canada in 1993. The results show that heavy drinking predicts violence against wives in zero-order analysis and remains significant when the effects of class, age, and type of relationship are factored out. However, once proxy measures of attitudes about the rightness of male degradation and control of women are factored out, alcohol abuse is rendered nonsignificant. These findings have important implications for interventions and treatment of male batterers.


This report focuses on the coexistence of women’s experience of violence and their own substance use and abuse. Twenty-five addiction and anti-violence agencies in Southern Ontario were surveyed about estimates of coexistence, screening and training need. Approximately two-thirds of women seeking help may experience both problems.


This study identified transition houses as playing a positive role in supporting multidimensional change in women’s lives; the women who participated reported significant improvements in both stress and substance use following their shelter experience. This study suggests it is, therefore, important to increase awareness of the interconnections between substance use, mental health, experiences of violence and the need for income/social service supports. There is also a need to create an integrated service infrastructure that supports women to sustain changes and rebuild their lives in the period following a stay in transition house.

This chapter explores the possible roles that a variety of psychological disorders might play in the well-documented relation between violence exposure and substance disorders in victims of familial violence. Three specific disorders are focused upon: depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and sexual dysfunction. The authors explore specific mechanisms that may explain the higher rates of both certain psychiatric disorders and of substance-related disorders among victims of domestic violence, and review evidence regarding comorbidity and potential function relations. Finally, a methodological critique of studies is provided and suggestions are proposed for future research.


Wall and McKee trace the evolution of the theoretical framework of social learning theory (SLT), and critically appraise the manner in which SLT has been applied to substance use (primarily alcohol use), intimate violence, and their overlap. The chapter concludes with a commentary concerning the state of existing literatures and suggestions for future research.


This chapter summarizes the connections between relationship violence and substance abuse found in the literature and discusses how to translate this evidence to clinical practice. The clinical issues discussed include: (1) identification and recognition of the problem and referral of patients; (2) barriers to treatment, including help-seeking behaviour, access, quality, and diversity; and (3) the state of the existing evidence on interventions. Other topics discussed include treatment programs, tailoring client problem behaviour and motivation to treatment goals, and prevention programs.


The authors examine the extent to which alcohol and drug use, abuse and dependence coexist with violence among intimates. They conclude that the prevalence of the overlap between substance abuse and relationship violence is generally high, and that this is most evident in high-risk samples (i.e., those that are positive on either relationship violence or substance abuse). The authors note that the specific estimate of the prevalence of this overlap depends on many factors, including definitional criteria (i.e., diagnostic, legal), sampling procedures (i.e., self-referred, court-ordered), data-gathering method (i.e., interview, questionnaire), and information source (i.e., parent, partner, child, professional). Other conclusions and directions for future work are considered.
International References


Clark-Schroeder, S. (2005). Stay/leave decision-making and the process of change in


Reproductive Health and Sexuality


This article raises awareness of abuse and provides prenatal educators with suggestions on how to incorporate effective strategies to address abuse during pregnancy.


This handbook identifies the skills, knowledge and tools required for health and social service professionals to respond to patients abused during pregnancy. It offers insight into topics such as the cycle of violence and the impact and dynamics of abuse, and provides strategies for effective intervention, referral, and treatment.


The study in this paper hypothesized that female victims of domestic violence may be less likely to select breastfeeding than those not abused. No association was found between present or previous abuse and infant-feeding choice. Nevertheless, the findings of this study can be considered important, for two reasons. First, this was an initial inquiry examining the relationship between having been abused and ability to choose the feeding method of a newborn, and second, women in the sample who reported present or current abuse were able to breastfeed their infants in the same proportion as those who did not report abuse. This finding suggests that a woman's concern for her child overcomes possible fears of control by the batterer.


This overview paper provides general information to assist health care professionals respond to and treat patients who have been abused during pregnancy. It describes the dynamics of this type of abuse and identifies the health consequences.


This research makes a compelling argument of the indirect mechanism through which the climate of fear and control surrounding abusive relationships could limit women's ability to control their fertility. The association between intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy also suggests serious social effects spawned by a cycle of unintended childbearing in abusive households.
International References


**Prevention, Screening, and Intervention**


Austin presents a study based on interviews with battered women whose partners had completed a batterers' intervention program (BIP) administered through a women’s shelter in a Canadian urban setting. The discussion includes an exploration of the women's experience with the BIP, including changes, if any, in their partners, and concludes that the programs were mostly beneficial, enhancing women’s feelings of safety and personal well-being, feeling validated by counsellors, and increasing their knowledge of abusive behaviours.


In this paper, the political and ideological debate are set aside and the issue of counselling in situations of intimate partner violence is examined from a scientific perspective.


This piece is a commentary on an article by Clark and Du Mont (2003), "Intimate partner violence and health: A critique of Canadian prevalence studies.” It offers insight into women's experience, and this is what makes the work powerful. (See Clark & Du Mont, *Research Issues*).


This overview outlines the major challenges and achievements in the struggle to end woman abuse in Canada from 1989 to 1997. It lists additional resources to broaden the reader’s understanding of the issue of woman abuse and to facilitate the development of community initiatives.


While initiatives have been designed to encourage abused women to come forward, there has been little research examining changes over time in help-seeking rates among this group. To fill this void, the authors compared data from two large Canadian population-based, cross-sectional telephone surveys: the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey (1993-VAWS) and the 1999 General Social Survey (1999-GSS). Among women who reported physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous partner, they examined differences in rates of disclosure of abuse, help-seeking by type of service, and barriers to service use.

While public awareness and service enhancement initiatives have been designed to encourage abused women to come forward, there has been little research examining changes over time in the help-seeking rates among this group. To fill this void, the authors compared data from two large Canadian population-based, cross-sectional telephone surveys: the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey (1993-VAWS) and the 1999 General Social Survey (1999-GSS). Among women who reported physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous partner, they examined differences in rates of disclosure of abuse, help-seeking by type of service, and barriers to service use. Although they found a demonstrable increase in the numbers of abused women seeking help, overall, rates of service utilization were still low as late as 1999, highlighting the importance of continued government commitment to funding IPV initiatives.


Enarson, E. (1998). Surviving domestic violence and disasters. Retrieved from Simon Fraser University, the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence against Women and Children Website: http://www.harbour.sfu.ca/freda/reports/dviol.htm. Just as disasters are not salient issues for most women's services, battered women's needs during disasters and recovery from them are not on the agendas of most emergency managers. An integrated community response to women, violence, and disasters demands a new partnership between these two professional communities. This article discusses two sets of guidelines that have been developed outlining disaster planning issues in shelters, and action guidelines for shelters, coalitions, and emergency practitioners during disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.


Twenty-one women who had experienced domestic abuse participated in "Tell Us Your Story" workshops. This intervention afforded the opportunity to talk with a group about activity, behaviour, people, events, life roles, and life attainments that had provided support and self-affirmation, and contributed to self-esteem in the past. Eighteen additional women served as the control group. The findings indicate the positive effect that the reminiscence experience had in the lives of young survivors.


Gill provides definitions of domestic violence and the Canadian approach to this topic. Both individual and societal level explanations of domestic violence are discussed. The links between these explanations and intervention strategies are presented.


The authors describe the help-seeking experiences of abused women in the London area based on detailed personal interviews with 105 women who had experienced abuse by their partners.


This guide, which can be used by experienced and inexperienced facilitators, provides information for designing and implementing a support group from a feminist perspective.


The study examines the issues that surround a woman's ability to remain out of an abusive relationship, and discusses the nature and degree of influence nurses have on women during and after the leaving process.


This exploratory research evaluated two 12-week groups for couples who had previously completed 24-week separate gender family violence groups. Women reported significant improvements on psychological abuse frequency, and couples made significant improvements on all FAM-DR subscales. As such, after-treatment couples’ groups may be an effective option for couples where physical abuse has ceased and the couple wishes to remain together.

Canadian data was used to examine the help-seeking strategies of women dealing with the consequences of violent victimization, in the belief that consideration of the help-seeking strategies of victims may provide insight into other decision-making processes. The research findings suggest that women victimized by a spousal offender are more likely than others to use a substantial help-seeking strategy that includes disclosure to the police, doctors and social service agencies.

This study examines the effectiveness of social services interventions in families in which there is both child abuse and domestic violence. Families experiencing both are more complex in their pathologies than might be expected from examining families in which there is only one type of violence. Families in which both types of violence occur suffer from the interactions of abused children and abused adults, as well as from the individual problems of the two.

This report reflects critically on a coordinated system of woman abuse services in London. The issues discussed are relevant to all communities seeking coordinated responses to woman abuse: language, ideology, communication, and diversity.

This monograph traces the convergence in counselling approaches across disciplines, worldviews, and places of work. It examines trends in counselling for battered women and their children, and highlights some issues challenging counsellors concerned with meeting their needs.

MacLeod, L., & Kinnon, D. (1996). *Taking the next step to stop woman abuse: From violence prevention to individual, family, community and societal health – A practical vision of collaboration and change*. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada.
This report is designed as a tool for policy makers, community workers, and individuals to develop effective strategies to prevent woman abuse. The authors describe the evolution of responses to woman abuse, from a strong prevention focus in the 1970s to an emphasis on health promotion in the 1990s. They emphasize that violence must be recognized as a health issue, suggesting ways in which a health promotion perspective can guide action to prevent woman abuse.


The article presents a randomized clinical study examining the best method for intimate partner violence screening in health care settings. The trial was conducted at emergency departments, women's health clinics, and family practices in Ontario. The study found that women prefer the self-completed methods over the face-to-face approach.


This article addresses the dynamics and consequences of emotionality in social movement activity through a case study of a community development effort to establish a shelter for women in a small Ontario community in the early 1990s. From the perspective of involved actors, the shelter-building initiative took on “a life of its own,” producing outcomes that contravened their goals and values as community workers and as feminists. These included two eventualities that shelter activists were particularly anxious to avoid – an “us-against-them” vilification of a male “opposition” and the stigmatization of abused women as a “problem population.” Theoretical work on the interplay of social structures, cultural repertoires, and the emotionality of the self provides insight into how and why such seemingly “irrational” processes evolve.


The authors present a list compiled by an Ottawa men's group that categorizes behaviours relevant to spousal abuse into eight categories: emotional abuse; environmental abuse; social abuse; financial abuse; religious abuse; physical abuse; sexual abuse; ritual abuse. They also discuss what physicians can do for patients in abusive relationships.


Mason discusses the medical practices in addressing woman abuse in Canada. Areas covered include the role of medical personnel in providing clinical intervention on family violence, evaluation of hospital responses to abused victims, and factors that influenced the integration of abuse practices into routine care among health facilities.


This 2004 directory lists Canadian programs and services grouped by province and territory. A brief description of the type of facility or service (e.g. transition housing, second stage housing, other), as well as contact and fee information are provided for each facility. Where possible, the description indicates whether the facility can accommodate women with special needs and/or children and whether services are available in English and/or French.

Nielson, K. M., & Dewhurst, A. M. (2006). Harm reduction and abused women’s safety. In M. R. Hampton, & N. Gerrard (Eds.), Intimate partner violence: Reflections on experience, theory, and policy (pp. 67-79). Toronto: Cormorant Books. The purpose of this chapter is to describe a risk-management framework that the authors, a psychologist and a clinical social worker, developed based on their work with victims and perpetrators.

O’Connor, T., Davis, A., Meakes, E., Pickering, R., & Schuman, M. (2004). Narrative therapy using a reflecting team: An ethnographic study of therapists' experiences: Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal, 26(1), 23-39. Retrieved from PsychINFO database. This ethnographic research explores the views and perceptions of eight narrative therapists who belonged to a narrative team in an outpatient clinic. These therapists were observed and interviewed. Five themes emerge from the data. The themes include a sense of success in reducing the clients' problems, as well as some limitations of narrative therapy. Two recommendations for research and practice involve the use of narrative therapy without a team and the use of narrative therapy in addressing issues of family violence.


Statistics Canada. (1999). Shelters for abused women. The Daily, Friday, June 11, 1999. Retrieved September 12, 2002, from http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/990611/d990611b.htm. This Statistics Canada report presents the results of a snapshot survey conducted with women and children living in shelters that offered refuge from family violence. Key findings include that the majority of abused women sought shelter from a spouse or partner, less than one-third of the cases were reported to police, few young women sought refuge in shelters, and shelters offer an extensive variety of services.

This chapter presents an overview of theoretical approaches to preventing domestic violence at a primary level and describes alternatives to violence that can be activated in each community in a manner that stimulates interest, informs choices, and promotes action to decrease violence and abuse in the lives of children, youth, and families. Approaches to prevention with children and adults are discussed in relation to school-based curricula, neighbourhood-based health and social services, and family-based child and health care.


[n.a.] To uncover abuse, start by asking. (1995). *American Journal of Nursing, 95*(1), 9-10. (See *Physical Health*)


This study describes the journey of 368 abused women as they entered and left emergency shelters in ten Canadian locations, nine of which were YWCA shelters. The research captures the nature of the partner abuse, what strategies the women used to remedy the abuse and whether these were helpful, what they hoped to gain from shelter residence, and what services they received and whether these were useful. It also documents their plans for moving back into the community.


The efficacy of post-shelter follow-up programs for abused women was examined through data gathered on 60 participants (Ps) in two such programs in Canada. Results reveal a significant increase in appraisal support among Ps. Neither significant increase in appraisal support among Ps nor significant change in tangible and belonging support or perceived stress was reported. Twelve Ps reported significant increases in self-esteem. A majority of Ps perceived the program as crucial in their avoiding abusive relationships. Key issues addressed include self esteem/support, relationship with ex-partner, coping with children, career/education, and finances.


The authors present a rationale for support groups as the intervention of choice for battered women and evaluate program efficacy via secondary analysis of outcome data from a previous study of 76 women in 12 different support groups in Ontario. Variables analyzed include group size and attendance, participant completion v. dropout, number of group leaders, and client characteristics, including residence v. nonresidence with the assultive partner, retracted v. first-time clients, and age. Implications for developing and planning effective support groups for assaulted women are discussed.


The authors evaluate the impact of shelter experiences on women in transition and describe women’s challenging paths subsequent to their experiences in transition shelters. This study attests to the pivotal long-term impacts of shelters of the women they serve and maybe even save.


Although shelters for abused women are common across North America, few have been evaluated. This qualitative study consisted of in-depth interviews with 63 shelter residents. Thirty-five of these women were interviewed in follow-ups 4 to 6 months later. In each interview, they were asked what they found helpful during their shelter stay. Residents were positive about the supportive nature of the staff, safety, relationships with other residents, and the childcare. Residents expressed some concerns about the availability of counselling from busy staff and the appropriateness of some shelter residents. Generally, the women endorse shelters as resources that save lives.


This article shares with the reader some of the recent history of family violence intervention strategies that have been pursued in various parts of Canada, and the lessons learned from these interventions. Particularly, Ursel discusses what has been learned from victims and survivors, and how important it is to work simultaneously on prevention and intervention.


The objective of Wathen and MacMillan's study was to provide a systemic review from the perspective of primary health care of the available evidence on interventions aimed at preventing abuse or re-abuse of women in Canada. The study shows that much has been learned in recent years about the epidemiology of violence against women, yet information about evidence-based approaches in the primary care setting for preventing intimate partner violence is seriously lacking. According to the authors, the evaluation of interventions to improve the health and well-being of abused women remains a key research priority.

Two approaches from the public health field that can serve as models for further development of domestic violence prevention strategies are described. The first approach involves public health campaigns that identify and address the underlying causes of a problem, which can serve as a foundation for prevention strategies. The second model can be used to identify opportunities for domestic violence prevention along a continuum of possible harm. Early evaluations of existing prevention programs show promise, but results are still preliminary and programs remain small, locally based, and scattered throughout the US and Canada.

Wuest, J., & Merritt-Gray, M. (1999). Not going back: Sustaining the separation in the process of leaving abusive relationships. *Violence Against Women, 5*(2), 110-133. In a feminist grounded theory study of rural survivors, the authors discovered reclaiming self as a four-stage, social psychological process for women leaving and not returning to abusive conjugal relationships. Not going back, the third stage, is a process of sustaining the separation over time by claiming and maintaining territory and relentless justifying. Much of the current research has focused on the intra- and interpersonal processes of surviving in the relationship, preparing to leave, and managing the initial crises of leaving. This article contributes to existing literature by explaining the complex social processes involved in not going back and may provide guidance for professional and lay helper interventions during this critical period.

**International References**


Hastings, D. P., & Kantor, G. K. (2004). Screening for family violence with perioperative


Klostermann, K., Fals-Stewart, W., Gorman, C., Kennedy, C., & Stappenbeck, C.


**Spirituality and Religion**


The article explores the relationship between workers in shelters for abused women, clergy, and churchwomen. It presents feminist action centered on three main projects: revealing the extent of male violence against women, challenging traditional responses to wife abuse, and establishing pro-feminist services for survivors of abuse. The findings are presented under two general thematic categories: cooperation and challenges. The authors conclude that the differences between the worldviews of conservative Protestants and transition house workers are not so great that they are irreconcilable.


Traditional religion is often assumed to contribute to partner abuse, although empirical tests of this assumption have been hampered by coarse measurement of religion, socially desirable responding, and neglect of contextual moderators, such as whether an abuse victim's behaviour upholds or violates religious values. In an attempt to address these issues, the authors asked 90 undergraduates to complete measures of religious orientation, and then read about a woman who was abused by her boyfriend after she refused to marry him. Intrinsic religious orientation predicted liking for the victim and justification of her behaviour when she upheld religious values, whereas it predicted liking for the abuser and sympathetic attributions for his behaviour when the victim violated religious values. Thus, the authors concluded, whether religion discourages or encourages tolerance for abuse may depend on who is being abused.


Representing the International Task Force on Abuse, American Clark Kroeger, a biblical scholar, and Canadian Nason-Clark, a sociologist at the University of New Brunswick, listened to the voices of women from around the world and especially to those within the church. In this book, they help us hear the cries of women abused and find concrete ways to respond so that no home will be a place of abuse.

This study utilized a naturalistic methodology to develop a "grounded theory" of the process of recovery and rebuilding among five abused women in their 30s and 40s situated in the conservative evangelical subculture. Among all the women, spirituality and church participation were an integral part of their identity, and generated culture-specific issues that needed to be addressed in therapy.


This research strives to increase understanding of faith-based responses to violence and to build partnerships between secular and sacred communities in response to woman abuse. It focuses on strengthening support services within the church. As well, it challenges service providers and pastors to offer more practical and spiritual resources to abused women of faith. Interviewed religious leaders all condemned abuse, but felt ill-equipped to handle cases of abuse.


Nason-Clark and her research team conducted studies across Atlantic Canada, and their research comes to life with stories of pain and stories of hope. This book challenges clergy, and others concerned about spirituality and religion, to take a serious look at what happens in faith communities, and to consider the role of the spirituality in offering help to families impacted by violence.


This paper considers how evangelical churches in Canada have responded – or failed to respond – to the needs of battered wives and their families. Moreover, it attempts to address the question of why secular and sacred agencies have been reluctant to work together on the issue of violence against women and other forms of family violence.


In this, a highly practical book written especially for religious women who have suffered abuse, sociologist Nason-Clark and biblical scholar Clark Kroeger address the long and arduous journey facing women who have experienced violence at the hands of someone they love and trusted. They deal in particular with the unique pain of Christian women who thought it could never happen to them.

**International References**


**Policy and Social Issues**


This report provides an overview of the nature and incidence of spousal abuse in Canada today and explores inconsistencies between written and adopted policies. It traces the adoption of the spousal abuse policies in Canada since 1981, and reviews the experiences of police, Crown prosecutors, and victims. Consideration is given to how the spousal abuse policies reflected and responded to the diversity of spousal abuse victims.


This article discusses how government, justice system and advocacy groups can work together to improve implementation of the violence against women in relationships policy and community protocols that address sexual assault and other forms of violence against women.


This article discusses the human rights practices concerning women in Canada for 1995. It presents cases of domestic violence against women in Canada, government policy concerning women, representation of women in the labour force, and legal rights enjoyed by women in the country.

This article presents an overview of the Saskatchewan Victims of Domestic Violence Act. This legislation is the first of its kind and provides a wider range of options to respond to domestic violence than are available in the Criminal Code and through other existing civil remedies. The evaluation was undertaken by the Research and Statistics Section of the Department of Justice Canada at the request of Saskatchewan Justice, and focused on the implementation of the Act. The evaluators provide recommendations intended to improve procedures and increase the likelihood that longer term outcomes will meet the objectives of the legislation.


This article describes a social disorganization/collective efficacy model that may help to explain why people who live in areas characterized by poverty and joblessness report higher rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) and several other offenses than those living in more affluent communities. Using data from the Quality of Neighborhood Life Survey, the model was tested among residents of a public housing community. Among the findings was that community concerns about street crimes and informal means of social control designed to prevent these problems are not effect means of alleviating IPV in public housing.


This study estimates the annual calculable cost of violence against women in Canada. Three forms of violence (sexual assault/rape, woman abuse in intimate relationships and incest/child sexual assault) in four selected policy areas (social services/education, criminal justices, labour/employment and health/medical) are examined.


This resource guide explores poverty and violence against women, and considers the diverse experiences of women with disabilities and of those in Aboriginal, immigrant and refugee communities. Strategies to address violence and poverty and to adapt abuse prevention programs for low-income women are presented.

This introduction discusses the contextual nature of violence in the Canadian prairies and policy and its impact on victims of violence and anti-violence workers. The process of good policy development is introduced.

This collection of nine essays on intimate partner violence is intended for the general public, front-line professionals, government and non-governmental agencies, and for various health and mental health care practitioners. The introductory chapter discusses the geographical context of the book – the Prairie Provinces – and following chapters discuss themes focusing on what policy is, the formation and application of policy, the impact of policy on victims and anti-violence workers, and how good policies should be developed.

This chapter offers the perspective of anti-violence workers on existing policies designed to eliminate intimate partner violence. Wharf and McKenzie’s (1998) “inclusive policy making” model is the conceptual framework for the chapter. The model suggests a participatory approach to policy making that includes practitioners and service users to generate policies that meet the needs of recipient groups.

This report focuses on an examination of policies affecting women in BC who are in and who are leaving abusive relationships. The findings indicate that policies embracing a gendered perspective and grounded in consultations with community groups tend to incorporate a more informed perspective about violence against women, and are more "successful" in helping women. However, those policies that negate women's critical roles as nurturers and their unequal positions in society tend not to serve women leaving violent relationships.

After providing a brief historical review of federal policies on violence against women in relationships, the author reviews and critiques the development of policies in British Columbia, particularly the 1994 and 1996 BC Ministry of Attorney General’s Violence Against Women in Relationship (VAWIR) policies and the criminal justice system.

Drawing on research conducted in BC, the authors argue that the dismantling of the social welfare state alongside policy changes that are affecting how the state responds to violence against women is significantly undermining women's equality, their safety and the feminist anti-violence movement. Strategies for resistance are discussed and the authors conclude that ending violence against women requires both local and transnational feminist activism and analyses that examine the interconnections between social and economic policies.
This report is based on interviews with 64 women who have been in abusive adult intimate relationships and who are, or have been, in receipt of social assistance through Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program. The report finds that the current system of support is inadequate and makes 34 recommendations for improvement.


**International References**


Victims, 20(5), 549-559.


Abuse, 6(4), 286-312.


Tolman, R., & Wang, H. Domestic violence and women’s employment: Fixed effects models of three waves of women’s employment study data. American Journal of Community Psychology, 36(1/2), 147-158.


Civil and Criminal Justice Systems


This Canadian revision of a trainer’s manual for the US presents information from the police perspective. The handbook includes features of domestic violence crimes, understanding the impact of domestic violence on children and adolescents, promising practices, distinguishing features of domestic violence crimes, recognizing the presence of children at the scene, and issues related to dual arrest.


Barata and Schneider examine the controversy over the advantages and disadvantages of mandatory arrest from the perspectives of women victims/survivors. They discuss improvement of the enforcement of domestic violence laws, provide evidence on the degree to which victims/survivors support the notion of mandatory arrest, and present factors that influence victims/survivors' support for the mandatory arrest policy. They argue that domestic violence should be treated as a crime and not as a family problem.

Persistent anecdotal reports from victims and even some participants in the law-enforcement system suggest that an emphasis on the male as perpetrator has had a negative effect on the impartial administration of justice, resulting in men being treated more harshly than women who are accused of IPV. This study attempts to determine whether the anecdotes are scientifically supportable.


This article focuses on legal equality and domestic homicides. The author argues that without a clear definition from legal reformers of what equality in substantive terms ought to encompass, the pursuit of equality in law becomes increasingly less tenable. Furthermore, as a strategy to improve lives of women, disagreement exists among feminists over the transformative potential of demanding equality through law reform. The author examines that securing the recognition of gender differences may involve abandoning the project of law reform and focusing on a different set of questions and debates.

Informed by law’s historical complicity in condoning violence against women, Comack advances a cautious reading of the 1990 Lavallee Supreme Court ruling, in which expert testimony was allowed about the ‘battered woman’s syndrome (BWS).’ She outlines how BWS was deemed necessary because conventional male-centred, self-defence law denied women an equal right to defend themselves.

Abstract…chapter 3 – Requested from Bison, Aug. 25, 06

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The purpose of this study, supported by the Law Foundation of British Columbia, was to undertake a preliminary examination of the use of health records in criminal and civil cases involving violence against women in relationships, and to determine whether notes relating to women found in health records are used in litigation to reach positive legal outcomes for the abused women, or whether they are used to discredit women and their claims. The results of both legal and qualitative studies are presented. A key finding of the latter provided empirical reinforcement for the concern expressed in legal sources about the equality implications of the use of health records in the legal system.
This article describes the findings of research into judicial decision making in Ontario courts in cases of intimate violence against women. Judges are condemning the violence, issuing relatively harsh sentences, and arguing that the intimate context of the violence is an aggravating factor. Judges often rely on stereotypes and traditional notions of marriage, family, and femininity. As records of decisions, the documents suggest a high level of understanding that wife abuse is a crime. As judicial discourse, they reveal how the justice system regulates intimate relationships and how traditional ideologies persist despite the harsh sentences.

This report examines the role of intimacy in criminal law by comparing criminal justice outcomes in cases of intimate partner homicide to outcomes in cases of non-intimate partner homicide. Two research questions are addressed: (1) Do those accused of killing intimate partners receive different treatment in the criminal justice system compared to those accused of killing victims with whom they shared more distant relationships? (2) Has the role of intimacy in criminal law changed over time? These are important research questions, as the way that courts in Canada and other developed countries respond to intimate partner violence has been the subject of much debate in the past several decades, and numerous legislative and policy changes have occurred as a result.

This study examined whether the degree of intimacy between victims and defendants affects legal responses to violence, and how this association has changed over time. The sample comprised more than 1,000 homicide cases occurring between 1974 and 1996 in Toronto. Data were gathered from summary police reports, criminal case indictment files, and other sources. Intimacy was important at three criminal justice stages: charging, mode of conviction, and sentencing. However, moving beyond the traditional conceptualization of intimacy, results indicated that defendants who kill intimates do not always receive the same treatment, nor are all of those who kill non-intimates treated similarly. Finally, criminal justice leniency toward intimate violence was less evident in later than earlier year.

Dawson examines whether 'separation' killings attract harsher sanctions than 'intact' killings. Using 144 cases of intimate femicide that occurred in Toronto, her results demonstrate that offenders who kill estranged partners are treated more severely than those who kill current partners. Discussing possible interpretations of this differential legal treatment, Dawson highlights assumptions that may underlie such a punishment rationale, suggesting avenues for future research.

The role of victim cooperation in the prosecution of domestic violence cases in a specialized court in Toronto was studied. The factors that predict whether a case will proceed to prosecution
were examined first. It was found that even in a court designed to minimize reliance on victim cooperation through the use of other types of evidence, when the prosecution perceived a victim to be cooperative, the odds that a case would be prosecuted are seven times higher than if a victim was not perceived to be cooperative. In the second part of the analysis, where an attempt was made to determine the correlates of victim cooperation, it was found that the two most important determinants of victim cooperation are the availability of videotaped testimony and meetings between victims and victim/witness assistance workers. The implications of these findings for future research and policy are discussed.


The Report provides an overview of the nature and incidence of spousal abuse in Canada today, which it notes is predominantly an issue of male violence against women. The Report traces the adoption of the spousal abuse policies in Canada since 1981. It reviews the experiences with the policies by police, Crown prosecutors and victims. With respect to the charging policy, the Working Group concluded that it has contributed significantly to the strengthening of the criminal justice system response to spousal abuse, and regarding the prosecution policy, the Working Group notes that its implementation has met with mixed results; it was recommended that both policies be retained. Finally, the Working Group also acknowledged that many gaps remain in our understanding of the causes of spousal abuse, the impact of the justice system response to this form of violence, and the effectiveness of the various programs and services for victims and offenders. The Working Group recommends that jurisdictions support research to address these information gaps in order to provide a foundation for building a more effective response to domestic violence. A list of the recommendations is included in the report.


This article presents a case study of K Court in Toronto, drawing upon documentary evidence, direct observations and interviews with key informants. It argues that the specialized domestic violence court process includes changing the practices of some of the key stakeholders, and suggests that learning lessons from abroad can offer jurisdictions insights that can steer implementation of appropriate practices in the field.


Based on the 1993 Canadian Violence Against Women Survey, this paper examines how a crime victim's relationship with her offender affects the likelihood that police will learn about the crime. The authors’ findings demonstrate that criminal justice knowledge of violence against women is systematically biased. They also suggest a change over time in the effects of some types of victim-offender relationships on police reporting.


In this two-year study, 62 women and 95 children were interviewed about their experiences in the legal system and their efforts to find legal and counselling services after separation from an abusive partner. This report presents the findings in regard to their experiences with the justice system and their access to community services, such as legal and counselling resources. To provide the reader with a broader context, each section of the report contrasts myths and facts juxtaposed with study facts and recommendation.


This study is based on a pilot survey of front-line service delivery organizations in BC conducted by the FREDA Centre with the intention of highlighting whether police forces in the province are implementing the Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) policy. Overall, participants indicated that the situation for women was improving, but that the VAWIR policy was not being implemented in a consistent manner. Many women, they noted, were reluctant to seek police assistance because they did not feel supported or believed by the police. Recommendations made by participants include the need for more education, coordination, awareness, and resources for organizations that are involved in providing direct services to women survivors of abuse.


This article raises concern about the new justice system reforms in British Columbia and is meant to begin a dialogue on these new changes that may have a profound effect on the safety of women generally and, in particular, on women in or leaving abusive situations. It is a call for women's groups and women who are most directly affected by these measures to make their voices heard and demand that these reforms work to ensure the safety of women, not to jeopardize it further.

One of the most prominent interventions developed to protect victims in domestic abuse cases is the temporary restraining order or "TRO," the purpose of which is to restrain an alleged defendant from further harassment or abuse against a plaintiff. This report analyzes 397 restraining order petitions, and subsequent arrest and conviction data for TRO defendants from 1996 to 1998. Findings confirm that TRO petitioners report many types of abuse and, while half of TRO defendants do not re-offend, a small percent of defendants are responsible for multiple police reports, arrests, and criminal violations. Outcome data are discussed for program and policy implications.


Landau describes the development of the Toronto Protocols for mediation in cases involving domestic violence. These protocols were developed by the Toronto Forum on Women Abuse and Mediation, which convened representatives from the mediation and domestic violence provider communities.


This section of the statistical profile examines the differences between those who contact the police for help and those who do not. The analysis examines differences in the severity of the violence, how often the violence occurred, length of the relationship between the victim and their partner, whether the couple was married or loving common-law, whether children witnessed the spousal violence, who else victims turned to for support, and community ties.

For the first time, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics examines patterns of police-reported offending among accused spousal violence offenders over the ten-year period from 1995 to 2004. The results of this project make an important contribution towards addressing the recommendations arising from the report of the Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group (2003) and improves our understanding concerning patterns of spousal violence and the response of the criminal justice system. Understanding the context in which spousal violence occurs and re-occurs will support jurisdictional efforts in evaluating current policies and practices, and will help policy makers at the federal and provincial/territorial levels and criminal justice practitioners, including police, courts, victim and health service personnel, to plan and develop prevention and intervention strategies to address spousal violence.

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding a woman's legal rights when leaving an abusive relationship. It discusses court proceedings, legal separation, dividing assets, and child custody.

This brochure answers questions for abused women about dealing with the police and the justice system in New Brunswick.

This project examines victim safety in a restorative justice approach to domestic assault called the Change Panel Process. The results suggest that this process is a helpful and safe tool for victims of violence when strict safety protocols are in place and there is ongoing contact with the victim throughout the process. Offenders who were involved in the process had varying degrees of success in following through with their plans to change their abusive and violent behaviours.

Rigakos presents a pessimistic perspective on the police occupational culture towards battered women based on his findings of police reluctance to enforce protection orders in Delta, BC. He notes that despite incentives to arrest in cases of breached orders, police often ignore women’s pleas to enforce orders.

A feminist perspective guides this examination of the enforcement practices of police officers when responding to breaches of civil restraining orders and Canadian Criminal Code peace bonds. Based on research conducted in Delta, BC, Rigakos’ results show that an arrest ensues in only 21% of cases where there is a breach of a civil restraining order and in 35% of cases where a breached peace bond is presented.


This article examines the effect of patriarchy on police subcultural and individual attitudes toward the enforcement of protective court orders for battered women. Rigakos’ research results suggest that protective orders are rarely treated seriously by the police and the courts.


Based on her own research, Schuller demonstrates that battered woman’s syndrome (BWS) is a successful defence tactic for battered women. She says that without some form of expert testimony, juries are less apt to acquit, sceptical about whether or not the defendant is a ‘real’ battered woman, and that experts can omit the pathologizing aspects of clinical testimony without jeopardizing a defendant’s acquittal chances.


The present research explored the influence of four factors on mock jurors' decisions in a homicide trial involving a battered woman who killed her abusive husband: (a) jurors' pre-existing beliefs about wife abuse, (b) the presence of expert testimony on the battered woman syndrome, (c) jurors' beliefs in a just world, and (d) gender. Results indicated that, compared to their respective counterparts, those individuals who were more informed about the dynamics of abuse and those exposed to the expert testimony were more believing of the battered woman's account of what occurred.


The 1997 Commission of Inquiry into the deaths of Rhonda and Roy Lavioie, which sought to find in the murder-suicide of a young married couple lessons that would save others from their fate, made 91 recommendations for changes and improvements in the way public and private organizations in Manitoba deal with cases of domestic violence. The investigatory avenues pursued by Schulman preface the recommendations, and include reviews of the following, from both a general and a case-specific perspective: Winnipeg Police Service, the family violence court, women’s advocacy program, community and youth corrections, civil restraining orders, social services agencies, social allowances, the legal profession, and public awareness.

Shaffer provides an overview of the Lavallee case as a way of showing why feminists advocate the use of battered woman syndrome in self-defence cases, as well as the problems of using battered woman syndrome to explain women's behaviour. She also analyzes post-Lavallee cases, in which women charged with a criminal offence have raised the 'battered woman syndrome' as part of their defence or as a factor to be considered in sentencing. She concludes that, while any definitive statements on the impact of Lavallee would be premature, there are indications that battered woman syndrome is being developed in ways that feminists will find troubling.


This research explores the stories of five women who entered a rural court system as victims of domestic violence in search of justice and presents the women’s narratives regarding their experiences. Themes and recommendations were developed from a workshop of participants who had read on another’s stories. The author presents recommendations for change to the system.


This article examines the status of battered woman syndrome (BWS) testimony in Canadian courts and assesses the impact of the leading decision, Regina (R.) v. Lavallee. Acknowledging the test of reasonableness in criminal trials was constructed on a male model, the Supreme Court in Lavallee corrected the gendered interpretation of women in abusive relationships by admitting the BWS evidence. Feminist legal scholars questioned whether Lavallee had succeeded in dispelling the stereotypes around battered women. These concerns were partially addressed in R. v. Malott, but some tough issues remain: applying the reasonableness test to women of color and the narrow base of BWS evidence. Some directions are discussed: discarding BWS testimony, framing a redefined and expanded BWS testimony, introducing a new defense based on self-preservation, and adopting an alternative interpretative frame such as “coercive control.” The strengthening of BWS testimony would call for the judges’ referencing of latest empirical research on battered women.


Ursel, while neither endorsing nor criticizing mandatory charging, shows that more women than ever are using the family violence court in Winnipeg. She notes that the best indication of ‘mandatory arrest’ success in Manitoba is that more women are likely to report assaults and use the court than in other jurisdictions lacking a multi-agency, holistic approach.

Ursel explores the impact of the specialized Manitoba Family Violence Court (FVC) on the corrections system during its first year of operation, while voicing her concern that if the court does not provoke changes within that system reforms at the police and court levels will be compromised. Her analysis indicates that the introduction of the FVC did create a crisis within probation services and resulted in a major restructuring of that system. Additionally, the incidence of incarceration tripled after FVC was implemented.


Ursel, J. (2002). “His sentence is my freedom”: Processing domestic violence cases in the Winnipeg family violence court. In L. M. Tutty, & C. Goard (Eds.), Reclaiming self: Issues and resources for women abused by intimate partners (pp. 43-63). Halifax: Fernwood Publishing & RESOLVE. This chapter maps traditional criminal justice responses onto the transitional process many women experience in escaping intimate abuse, giving poignant evidence of the need for special family courts attuned to critical protection issues.

Valverde, M., MacLeod, L., & Johnson, K., (Eds.). (1995). Wife assault and the Canadian criminal justice system. Toronto: Centre of Criminology. This book synthesizes and promotes debate on the legal and social situation of battered women. This specific problem is used to shed new light on key recurring problems within the justice system. Articles include: a report on the legal situation of immigrant and refugee battered women; a first-hand account of the role of probation officers; interviews with frontline police officers and front-line crown attorneys regarding the problems of current pro-arrest and no-drop policies; an article on a Newfoundland community-based initiative in family group conferencing; and an account of a Saskatchewan civil remedies initiative.

Van De Veen, S. L. (2004). Some Canadian problem solving court processes. Canadian Bar Review, 83(1-3), 91-158. Over the past several years, a series of specialized or problem solving courts or court processes have evolved within the criminal justice system in Canada, including the realm of domestic violence. The objectives of these courts are to reduce recidivism by dealing with the underlying issues that cause the criminal behaviour, thereby assisting both offenders and victims alike. In Canada, the 1996 sentencing provisions added to the Criminal Code of Canada, along with subsequent interpretations of that legislation by the Supreme Court of Canada, have added significant emphasis to restorative justice objectives in sentencing, and thus community based dispositions. Problem solving courts have evolved in response to this fundamental shift in emphasis within the criminal justice system.

White, K. (2000). Experts and ordinary men: Locating R. v. Lavallee, battered woman syndrome, and the “new” psychiatric expertise on women within Canadian legal history. Canadian Journal of Women & the Law, 12(2), 406-438. This article examines the nature of medical experience and the role of the expert witness in the trials of Canadian women charged with killing their abusive male partners from an historical perspective. White discusses practices of engaging medical expert opinion evidence in the courtroom and the historical development of psychiatric expertise, as well as the inability of the law to appreciate the experiences of women living with abuse.

This study tested the hypothesis that female faces can trigger consensual stereotypical responses about battered women in observers. Study results show that perceived traits of battered women considered least likely to kill their abuser most consistently reflected a layperson's stereotypes of battered women. The results are discussed in terms of the probability that facial stereotyping of battered women is a factor in social and legal decision-making.

**International References**


Weisman, R. L. (Ed.). (2004). Introduction to the special section on integrating
community mental health and the criminal justice systems for adults with severe mental illness: Bridges and barriers. *Psychiatric Quarterly, 75*(2), 105-106.


**Divorce, Separation, and Child Custody Issues**


The purposes of this paper is to review the legislations and policies that have been implemented in Canada, and compare these with those in other jurisdictions. Following a review of the extent of spousal violence and its effects on children, the current legislative responses to this issue in Canada are presented, as well as the responses in several other jurisdictions. Issues regarding social supports and programs are also discussed. Finally, 24 specific recommendations for reforms in Canada are made.


Braun discusses the problems of child custody in situations where family violence is a factor, and shows why the divorce laws do not always meet the needs of abuse victims and their children.


This article provides answers to common concerns of women who have left abusive relationships concerning joint custody of children and mediation. It discusses sole and joint custody, mandatory joint custody and parenting plans, the pros and cons of mediation for abused women, public awareness, and social policy issues concerning custody and access for abused women and their children.


This report examines the changes to the language and the substance of the present Divorce Act with respect to how custody, access and child support are handled. It discusses the way the amendment addresses and/or fails to address issues of partner and family violence.

DOVE, an instrument designed to assess and manage the risk of domestic violence, was administered to a sequential, random sample of 147 male and female partners prior to their participation in divorce mediation. Conjugal violence and abuse, male partner control, and mental health problems were prominent among predictors of post-separation violence and abuse. Safety plan interventions and referrals aimed at promoting women's safety during and following their participation in divorce mediation are identified in the concluding segment of the paper.

Jaffe, P., & Crooks, C. V. (2004). Partner violence and child custody cases: Across-national comparison of legal reforms and issues. *Violence Against Women, 10*(8), 917-934. This article includes a review of policies and procedures for addressing partner violence in child custody across four countries shows different pathways to the same issues. In the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the reform of child custody legislation faces a debate between fathers' rights groups and domestic violence advocates within an environment promoting mediation and joint custody as the gold standard. There is a clear need for research to better inform these debates, including cross-national research, and for the development of court and community interventions to support children facing separation and divorce in the context of parental violence.

Jaffe, P.G., Crooks, C.V., & Bala, N. (2005). *Making appropriate parenting arrangements in family violence cases: Applying the literature to identifying promising practices.* London, ON: Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. This document is based on a literature review of the areas of family violence, child custody and access disputes, and high conflict divorces. The document finds that the impact of family violence on any particular child varies greatly depending on a number of risk and protective factors, and that parental separation can heighten or reduce the impact of family violence on children. The authors discuss the need to move from a one-size-fits all focus on co-parenting to a differential response focus in cases of family violence.

Jaffe, P. G., & Geffner, R. (1998). Child custody disputes and domestic violence: Critical issues for mental health, social service, and legal professionals. In G. W. Holden, R. Geffner, & E. N. Jouriles (Eds.), *Children exposed to marital violence: Theory, research, and applied issues* (pp. 371-408). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Retrieved from PsychINFO database. The authors address the fundamental issues regarding domestic violence and child custody. They explore recent reports indicating that abusing a child's mother is in itself a form of profound psychological and emotional abuse that requires thoughtful consideration and significant weight in court decisions. After providing an overview of the impact of exposure to domestic violence, the authors focus on custody and visitation disputes over children of domestic violence and divorce. The authors argue that courts that have well-informed support staff and a range of community services can create a climate for judges and other professionals to make the most informed decisions for children in crisis.

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Child protection workers, in their haste to help children living in abusive circumstances, may not appreciate how devastating their insensitivity to the plight of mothers can be. This chapter offers suggestions for better practices and professional training in identifying what is in the best interest of the child, as what is good child protection is good mother protection.


O’Reilly offers basic direction regarding child custody and access to women leaving abusive relationships.


Poisson describes the justice system's approach to custody and access issues involving high conflict families and the role of a trained assessor in custody cases involving domestic violence.


This chapter examines 42 Canadian custody and access decisions between 1997 and 2000 in cases in which allegations of wife abuse were made. The review reveals that courts generally appear to be aware of the dangers of awarding custody to abusive spouses, with the result that such awards are rare. While this is clearly a positive development for abused women and their children, the cases also suggest reasons to be concerned about the treatment of wife abuse in the family law system.


This study of formal systems' responses to abuse by intimate partners identified child custody and access as a central issue. Findings illustrate that gender analysis and accounting for violence in custody and access practice are necessary to the safety of women and children.
International References


Parenting Issues

Baker, L., & Cunningham, A. (2004). Helping children thrive/Supporting woman abuse survivors as mothers: A resource to support parenting. London, ON: Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System of the London Family Violence Court. This resource is written for service providers assisting women who have survived abuse. It addresses the needs of abused women as mothers, how abusive men parent, how abusive men affect family dynamics, effects of power and control tactics on mothers, the potential impact of woman abuse on children of different ages, and strategies used by young people to cope with violence in their homes. Any of the 27 handouts can be distributed as an adjunct to individual or group interventions on woman abuse or on parenting.

Baker, L., & Cunningham, L. (2005). *Learning to listen, learning to help: Understanding woman abuse and its effects on children.* Retrieved from the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System of the London Family Court Clinic website: http://www.lfcc.on.ca/learning.html. (See *Prevention, Screening, and Intervention*) Baker and Cunningham provide a concise introduction to this important topic. Find information on how children are affected by violence at home, how children cope, and how to respond to child disclosure. In one place, find relevant and up-to-date information with directions to easily accessible resources for further study.


This study used focus-group methodology to identify mothers' perceptions of their children's needs while they were in shelters. Data were analyzed to identify six dominant categories of need and 12 supporting thematic categories. The dominant categories included: the counselling needs of the children; day-to-day living needs, such as maintaining family integrity and normality; recreational needs; the needs of children with respect to parenting; and finally, aspects of shelter support for mothers and the impact of the shelter environment on children. The implications of the findings for program development are discussed.

Berman examined how two groups of 10-17 year olds who grew up amid violence "make sense" of their experience. Common themes were identified and validated. Despite differences in the children's stories, many parallels were evident. Both groups of youngsters endured pain, suffering, and feelings of betrayal. Both used creative strategies to survive. The way the children endured growing up amid violence was mediated by social, political, and cultural constructions of violence. Because these meanings were unique, violence was experienced in several ways. Although the children showed remarkable strength and insight, they face many challenges. Despite a common perception that children are unable to talk about deeply troubling experiences, this research demonstrated that children not only want to discuss their experience, but also welcome the opportunity to do so.


The purpose of this paper is twofold. The first is to summarize current knowledge on the relationship between childhood violence and actual parental practices and attitudes. The second is to present the results of a national survey conducted with a representative sample of 2,469 families with a child aged between 0 and 17 years old. The results of the survey are analyzed using the social learning theory and hypothesis concerning potential path of transmission are raised.


Copping examined the patterns, frequency, and object of behaviours according to age, sex, and experience of abuse in 75 residents (aged 3-10 yrs) of five women's shelters in Canada, who were witnesses of family violence. Seven professional child support workers observed the physical, physiological and verbalized behaviours, and feelings of children for 8-12 hrs/day for 11 wks. Results show that the frequency of behaviours varied according to the age of the Ss. Most of the Ss were in the high risk group. Males exhibited twice as many behaviours as females and acted out their emotions, while females were more passive and internalized their emotions. The shelter support worker was identified most frequently as the object of exhibited behaviours. Implications for clinical support to children experiencing abusive conditions are suggested.


The aim of this study is to determine whether justification of violence towards children is associated with the use of parental violence in a population at high risk for child abuse. Contrary to what could be expected, the results revealed that women who suffer the most severe violence from their partners are the ones who use the least severe violence against their children. In all, these results reflect the complexity of the relationship between domestic violence and child abuse.

The authors examined a potential origin of a shame-prone style by analyzing reports of shaming experiences by parents as reported by 140 men in treatment for wife assault. Seventy-six female partners also provided information. Significant relationships were found for recollections of shaming actions by parents on adult anger, abusiveness (as reported by the men's wives), trauma symptoms, and a constellation of personality variables related to abusiveness. Only shame recollections were significantly related to self-reports of physical abuse. These associations remained even after corrections were made for response sets such as social desirability. These shaming actions were largely composed of recollections of parental punishment comprising public scolding, random punishment, and generic criticism. The role of shame experiences in disturbances of self-identity and rage is discussed.


The this study explores and outlines trends regarding parenting roles and experiences of abuse among women offenders, based on the data available in the Domain Comments sections of women's Offender Intake Assessments (OIA).


This guide is for women who have left abusive relationships and are now single parents of children who have witnessed abuse. Part 1 provides a parenting guide, with general information on violence and parenting for mothers who have been abused. Part 2 lists resources available throughout the Lower Mainland of BC.


The purpose of this study was to explore the experience of motherhood from the perspective of women who have been battered. The methodology used was interpretive description, a qualitative research approach in which the women's accounts could be conceptualized as constructed narratives. The findings extend our understanding of the complexities of mothering in the context of abuse and provide direction for improving health care support for mothers who have been abused.


This study tested the existence of a specific pattern of maternal perception of partners' participation: that is, mothers in neglectful families perceive their partners as: 1) less satisfying as a marital partner, 2) more violent, 3) less supporting, and 4) having a less positive relationship with the target child than mothers in low-educated, low socioeconomic but non-maltreating families. The study also aimed to estimate the link between this pattern of maternal perception of partners' participation and the level of parental stress of the mothers. The data partially support the first hypothesis: compared to men in non-maltreating families, men in neglectful families are perceived by the mothers as being less adequate marital partners, less supportive and more violent.

This exploratory study examined the trans-generational relationships between 14 families who had backgrounds of family violence on three narrative tasks. The study’s findings offer many avenues for future research into the cycle of family violence in a narrative context.


Although concern for their children’s well-being is pivotal in mothers’ decisions to leave abusive partners, rarely is lone-parent family life after leaving framed as beneficial for family members’ emotional health. In this feminist grounded theory study of family health promotion in the aftermath of intimate partner violence, the authors learned that families strengthen their emotional health by purposefully replacing previously destructive patterns of interaction with predictable, supportive ways of getting along in a process called *regenerating family*. These findings add to our knowledge of family development and how families promote their health.

**International References**


**Rural Women**


This inventory presents an overview of products and services that public, legal, intervention, education and information organizations and agencies consider relevant for persons living with family violence. The primary focus of the inventory is on the strategies developed to ensure the various forms of relevant materials are accessible to rural women, seniors and others experiencing family violence. This inventory attempts to address an existing gap by reviewing the actual methods and mechanisms for delivering or successfully disseminating information, in this case to people experiencing abuse in rural areas.


The authors report on the actions of farmwomen’s groups against domestic violence in Canada. They note that some of the approaches groups are taking focus on educating and mobilizing the local community, while others focus on the women enduring domestic violence.


The authors present the key findings of the Domestic Violence and the Experience of Rural Women in East Central Saskatchewan (2000) research study. An important finding was that abuse was often detected by chance rather than by service protocols that ensure effective screening and care. This and other service-related findings of the study have resulted in significant policy changes, including new service protocols.


This paper presents the findings of research conducted in New Brunswick with rural service providers who work with abused women. It points to the uniqueness of rural communities and suggests that service providers have much to teach about working with abused women in a rural setting. The paper concludes that the perspectives and insights of rural service providers will contribute significantly to a better understanding of the process of implementing effective social policies.

Jiwani, Y. (1998). *Rural women and violence: A study of two communities in British Columbia*. Retrieved from the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence against Women and Children website: http://www.harbour.sfu.ca/freda/articles/rural01.htm. This report examines violence against women in relationships in two rural communities in BC. In particular, this study found that women who experience abuse in rural areas are doubly isolated by virtue of their geographic location, distance from services and support networks, and the isolation they experience that results from the dominating and controlling behaviour of their partners. The study found that women who want to leave abusive relationships face limited options, including leaving homes, friends, land and community.

Martz, D. J. F., & Bryson Saraurer, D. B. (2001). Policy from the ground up: Rural services for survivors of women abuse. *Centres of Excellence for Women’s Health Research Bulletin, 2*(1). Retrieved from http://www.cewh-cesf.ca/bulletin/v2n1/bulletin_vol2no1_en.pdf. The authors present the key findings of the Domestic Violence and the Experience of Rural Women in East Central Saskatchewan (2000) research study. An important finding was that abuse was often detected by chance, rather than by service protocols that ensure effective screening and care. This and other service-related findings of the study have resulted in significant policy changes, including new service protocols.

Martz, D. J. F., & Bryson Saraurer, D. B. (2000). *Domestic violence and the experience of rural women in East Central Saskatchewan*. Muenster, SK: Center for Rural Studies and Enrichment. This report, based on participatory action research, addresses the fact that rural women in East Central Saskatchewan experience family violence in significant numbers. The study explores rural women’s experiences of family violence and their need for services and support.

McCallum, M., & Lauzon, A. (2005). If there’s no mark, there’s no crime: Help seeking experiences of rural women living with psychological abuse. *Rural Women in Canada, 24*(4), 130-141. Retrieved from http://www.yorku.ca/cwscf/index-abstracts.html. This paper discusses the invisible nature of psychological wife abuse in a rural context. The authors discuss the response of rural communities and systems to psychological wife abuse, the uniqueness of the experiences of nine rural women living with psychological abuse, and implications of this research for service provision and research in rural areas.

**International References**


**Lesbian Women**

This article outlines the Groupe d’invention en violence conjugate chez les lesbiennes's (GIVCL) program, discusses the growth and limitations of the program, and suggests approaches that can lead to the development of services that are better adapted to the needs of the lesbian community.


This paper provides information about abuse in lesbian relationships, clarifies common myths surrounding the issue, and suggests how professionals can respond. Additional readings, as well as suggested sources of help, are provided.


This second of a two-part article discusses various cultural barriers for the battered lesbian seeking help and rectifies several myths regarding lesbian battering. Barriers exist for all battered women who seek help; however, the issue of homophobia adds to the barriers faced by victims who are lesbian in a number of ways.


Faulkner’s essay demonstrates the inadequacies of theories conventionally employed to explain women-to-woman violence, such as liberal, radical or cultural feminism. She concludes that any theory purporting to explain lesbian intimate violence must focus on heterosexist social institutions and practices, as well as on power relations within lesbian communities.


This document covers issues such as the nature of abuse in same sex relationships, the common myths about abuse in lesbian relationships, comparisons with abuse in opposite sex relationships, and individual, second party and community intervention suggestions.


This study provides a critical overview of the current research on the context, dynamics, and impact of relationship violence within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities. It identifies several barriers that still exist within support services when responding to this form of violence. The paper concludes by offering recommendations and considerations for the criminal justice and social service community and provides examples of innovative responses and programs that have been developed within LGBTQ communities.

This paper presents preliminary results from a multi-site, qualitative study on violence in lesbian relationships. Analysis reveals the difficulties in assessing the power dynamics of abusive same-sex relationships and in developing appropriate responses when relying on heterosexually gendered models developed to address men's violence against women. The preliminary results present implications for how individuals theorize and research this form of violence, and for improving the practices and policies of social services that work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities.


This book addresses some of the myths about women and violence, and the characteristics of violence in lesbian relationships. The reason this phenomena has remained hidden is addressed, and the need for a different conceptualization of violence and abuse in lesbian relationships is explored.


The author opens the door to an understanding regarding certain critical issues in same-sex intimate abuse by providing the results of research interviews conducted with lesbian women in six Canadian cities.


This paper reports on research involving eight focus group discussions with 70 feminist counsellors who respond in their work to abuse in lesbian relationships. The focus groups illustrated how thoroughly people rely on heteronormative discourses and feminist categories and constructs to think about violence, and how these can impede efforts to understand and respond effectively to same-sex partner abuse. Overall, the paper encourages more opportunities for group discussion among counsellours, so that they can share important insights into same-sex partner abuse and encourage a critical analysis of therapeutic practices and the normative assumptions behind them.

*International References*


**Aboriginal Women**


This report examines the role of discrimination in acts of violence carried out against Indigenous women, including a discussion of intimate partner violence. Discrimination takes the form of both overt cultural prejudice and implicit or systemic biases in the policies and actions of government officials and agencies, or of society as a whole.


This study helps to map the complex web of factors that creates and sustains abuse in Aboriginal communities at the level of individuals, extended families, community systems, and the socio-environmental context within which they exist. Common theories, models and explanations for family violence and abuse are reviewed, as are key community determinants of family violence. Constraining factors from outside Aboriginal communities that influence their capacity to work effectively and systematically to address family violence and abuse are explored.


The purpose of this study was to describe the essential elements of an Aboriginal-based family violence intervention program. Participants identified the need for sound administrative structure and function, qualified and healthy staff, and consistent program funding. Additionally, the said that program components should be based on traditional teachings, create awareness of personal and family dynamics and change, and educate about family violence.

Brownridge, D. A. (2003). Male partner violence against Aboriginal women in Canada:
This study reports that Aboriginal women have significantly higher rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) than do non-Aboriginal women. Violence against Aboriginal women is more likely at all levels of severity, with the greatest disparity in most severe forms of violence. Aboriginal women have more risk markers for IPV, and the impact of risk markers is generally larger for them. However, these differences in risk markers do not account for Aboriginal women's significantly higher prevalence of violence, and are indirectly supported by the colonization theory.

Harper presents best practices, barriers and challenges, and general observations about Aboriginal women's shelters, and also includes profiles of shelters across the country.

This book originates in an open invitation from the Original Women's Network of Manitoba to design and conduct a study that would ascertain the opinions of Aboriginal women violated by partners on the question of whether Aboriginal men charged with domestic violence-related offences should be diverted from the criminal justice system. Data from the report, *Intimate Violence, Aboriginal Women and Justice System Response: A Winnipeg Study* is presented, along with an expanded look at the justice system, and the impact of colonialism on gender, childhood, and intimate violence.

This chapter summarizes a study on Aboriginal women’s experiences with family violence, their treatment within the justice system and their views of alternative measures of justice. The authors found that band politics protecting the abuser along with the normalization of violence make service provision in rural communities difficult. They also found a contradiction between retributive justice as it exists in mainstream models, and the restitutive justice that is the goal of Aboriginal-based systems.

McGillivray and Comaskey’s study sought to resolve the difficulty of dealing with Aboriginal offenders who abuse intimates. Central to the study was the experience of Aboriginal women, their views of the justice system, and their experience and ideas about offender disposition. A number of policy recommendations emerged from the data concerning the impact of childhood witnessing of abuse, isolation, emotional abuse and racism, the nature of intimate violence, and changing the system and designing alternatives.

The authors argue that Aboriginal women survivors of intimate violence are invisible in contemporary Canadian academic discourses, and remind readers of the importance of contextualizing violence against women within respective socio-cultural climates.


Nipshank claims that the destruction of the matriarchal system has led to the normalization of violence against women and the creation of additional obstacles for women who want child custody and access rights.


In 2001, the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Program in Winnipeg established a program for Aboriginal women with issues around violence and anger. This report documents information gathered through extensive intake forms and describes the types of violence committed and experienced by these women, as well as some of the effects of this violence.


**ABSTRACT – cannot locate article**


This handbook offers information for Aboriginal women on dealing with partner abuse. It discusses how to recognize the signs of abuse, provides an overview of the legal rights of Aboriginal women on reserves, and discusses how they can get assistance.


This chapter presents research conducted in the northern communities of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council, Alberta. Community members identified a lack of information about family violence and a need for more services to address the problem of family violence, particularly in northern rural areas. It underlines the necessity of including counselling and community involvement in programming for offenders, and of providing traditional healing in an atmosphere of cultural sensitivity.


Urbanoski studies the experiences of Aboriginal women who have been abused by their intimate partners and now reside in shelters.

Ursel discusses the status of Manitoba’s justice policy on domestic violence, arrest practices, and class and ethnic biases in policing, and addresses the question of whether the zero tolerance policy provides protection.


**International References**


**Immigrant and Ethnic Women**

Agnew, V. (1998a). *In search of a safe place: Abused women and culturally sensitive services*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. The author explores the complex issue of wife abuse in Canada among women in different ethnocultural groups. Agnew assesses the major problems that social services face in attempts to be more culturally sensitive, and provides case studies, reports, and interviews to better illustrate this struggle.

Agnew looks at tensions experienced by community-based organizations in providing services to South Asian victims of wife abuse in Toronto.


This study attempts to identify the barriers that prevent Arab women from benefiting from service agencies that work on women safety in London. It provides several deductions that resulted from the analysis of personal interviews and group discussions regarding the barriers. Those interviewed had a tendency to limit their social interactions with people from their own cultural and religious backgrounds. These areas serve as a primary source of their outlook in matters relating to family resettlement and integration in Canadian society.


This article applies a structural approach to social work with immigrants and refugees. Specifically, the use of structural principles and procedures is illustrated in work with an Hispanic Women’s Group.


The document reports on the Federal Court of Canada’s handing down of two rulings that signal it will not tolerate returning women and children to countries where they face domestic violence.


This essay presents an account of police attitudes and activities in Toronto. Despite tensions between the Metropolitan Police Force and the Caribbean community, the authors hold that battered women should not acquiesce their own right to safety on behalf of an abuser. They note that by privileging the public nature of black men’s racial subjugation, black women’s private claims of domestic victimization are silenced, as reporting violent partners is seen as committing “race treason.”


Semi-structured interviews with 13 South Asian women about their experiences, interpretation, and reaction to violence were conducted, with analysis revealing seven major themes: gender inequality, marriage as a family affair, making the relationship work, maintaining social face, reactions to violent relationship, services, and changes in women's lives. Hunjan notes that some of these issues are exacerbated when combined with factors associated with immigration (e.g. language difficulties, lack of culturally appropriate assistance programs).

The silence of immigrant and visible minority women about their experiences of intimate partner violence is explored in this paper. The social exclusion of these women from the larger society and its opportunities, the barriers to their full integration into the broader social context, and the consequences of their social exclusion is also presented.


This report focuses on racialized immigrant women who have experienced intimate violence and their access to and encounters with the health care system. The report reviews some of the current literature in the area and identifies key variables that contribute to immigrant women’s vulnerability to violence and lack of access to health care. The response of health care professionals to women who have experienced violence is also examined.


This booklet, available in a number of languages, is intended for women who are new to Canada and may be experiencing family violence. The booklet contains information about Canadian law, women's rights, and where to go for help. Various types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional) are described. A poster is available as a companion piece.


Kamateros discusses the Montreal Project, a part of the Ethnic Media Outreach Project (EMOP). The main goal of the EMOP, established in 1997, was to raise awareness of domestic violence prevention awareness in communities where linguistic and cultural barriers make access to information on both family violence and existing services difficult.


The authors examine cultural aspects of family violence in general and wife abuse in particular, with a view to providing a more expanded and integrated approach to family violence theory, research, and practice. Topics discussed include definitions of family violence and culture, scope of the problem, empirical research on family violence within host cultures, theoretical perspectives, and family violence service utilization and delivery. A list of family violence measures is appended.


The author presents a broad overview of the cross-cultural literature on the abuse of women by husbands or partners, with emphasis on cross-cultural patterns and variations in the extent of violence against women in intimate relations, the effects of such violence, factors that place women at risk for abuse, and the routes available to women to address such abuse.

This paper opens with a synopsis of intersectionality. Through this lens, the authors then examine dominant North American scholarship on violence related to ethnoracial minority women in intimate relations. They look critically at the assumptions about ethnicity and "race" that permeate this scholarship. The paper concludes by considering how an intersectional approach might offer direction in exploring ethnoracial minority women's experiences of violence in intimate relations.


The authors discuss barriers to the criminal justice system and justice-related services for abused immigrant women residing in a predominantly rural province. Their review of research findings begins with a discussion of the cultural norms and forms of structural oppression identified by the women that act as disincentives to accessing the justice system. Thereafter, the concerns raised by the participants regarding the lack of legal information available to immigrant women on woman abuse are explored, as well as the bearing this has on their knowledge of their legal rights.


While acknowledging that many factors contribute to violence against immigrant women, the authors caution that this is not a homogenous group, and that the range of experiences of abuse faced by these women, including their acts of resistance, must be considered in order to counteract intimate violence. They provide an overview of the issue of violence against immigrant and refugee women, and describe and assess a capacity-building program for immigrant women in Winnipeg.

Sharma, A. (2001). Healing the wounds of domestic abuse: Improving the effectiveness of feminist therapeutic interventions with immigrant and racially visible women who have been abused. *Violence Against Women, 7*(12), 1405-1428.

Although researchers have shown that feminist therapy can be an effective approach for counselling abused women, Sharma criticizes the approach for failing to acknowledge the diversity among immigrant and racially visible women who have been abused. She also offers strategies for a more inclusive form of feminist therapy as alternatives to existing modes of practice and assessment.


This article explores the problems of Indian immigrant women who face cultural constraints in accessing the benefits of Canadian policies for domestically abused women. The conclusion suggests how bi-national research is needed to improve the situation of abused Indian immigrant women in Canada and in India.


Comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate strategies are needed to reach out to immigrant and visible minority women in Canada who are abused by their husbands or partners. This study identifies a complex set of issues, attitudes, barriers and gaps in service that make immigrant and visible minority women uniquely vulnerable when faced by domestic violence.

Tsang presents the results of a project to help abused immigrant and refugee women increase their knowledge of Canadian family law and their rights under the law, and enhance the effectiveness of advocates and lawyers who work with them on custody and access.

**International References**


**Women with Disabilities**


This investigation examined the risk for partner violence against women with disabilities relative to women without disabilities. Results showed that perpetrator-related characteristics alone accounted for the elevated risk of partner violence against women with disabilities.


This telephone survey was conducted with 8,771 women who had a current/former partner, of whom 1,483 reported activity limitations. Various forms of intimate partner violence, including emotional, severe physical, and sexual abuse, were reported more often by women with activity limitations than those without such limitations.

The purpose of this study was to estimate the frequency and type of disabilities preventing work among women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) compared with those never experiencing IPV. The authors conclude that primary care-based efforts to screen for IPV and effectively intervene to reduce the impact of IPV on women’s lives must be a public health priority to reduce the short-term and long-term health effects, including disabilities.

Forte, T., Cohen, M. M., Du Mont, J., Hyman, I., & Romans, S. (2005). Psychological and physical sequelae of intimate partner violence among women with limitations in their activities of daily living. *Archives of Women's Mental Health, 8*(4), 248-256. The researchers analyzed data from the Canadian 1999 General Social Survey and examined data from women reporting intimate partner violence in the previous five years. They found that as a result of the violence, women with activity limitations were significantly more likely to feel ashamed/guilty, depression/anxiety, fearful, lowered self-esteem, increased caution/awareness, and problems relating to men. More women with activity limitations reported physical injury from violence and having to take time off from everyday activities. These women had higher medication use for sleeping problems, anxiety, and depression.

Langlais, L., & Larochelle, M. (1996). *Intervening with deaf women who are victims of spousal violence.* Charlesbourg, QU: Comité d’aide aux femmes sourdes du Québec. This document addresses spousal violence among women in the deaf community. The authors point out that the language and intervention methods normally used in dealing with spousal violence are not adapted to the culture and methods of communication of deaf women. As well, they conclude that shelters for victims of violence are virtually inaccessible to deaf women because the lack of necessary equipment (decoders, indicator lights, TTYs/TTDs).

MacDougall, J. C. (2000). *Family violence and the deaf.* Ottawa: Department of Justice. Anecdotal information indicates that family violence is emerging as a serious problem in the deaf community in Canada. This project provides a review of the basic needs in the area through information gathered from stakeholders in the field of deafness, as well as from a number of Public Legal Education and Information centres in various regions in Canada. The focus is on those people who use sign language as their primary mode of communication.

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (2006). *Violence against women with disabilities.* Ottawa: Family Violence Prevention Unit, Public Health Agency of Canada. This overview paper clarifies the definitions of disability and violence, describes the extent of the problem and risk factors of abuse of women with disabilities, outlines barriers to calling police, and provides a brief review of the legal and political response to this issue. As well, a list of resources is provided.

Rajan, D. (2004). *Overview paper – Violence against women with disabilities.* National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. Tunney’s Pasture, ON: Government of Canada. National and international studies confirm that women with disabilities are abused at a much higher rate than women without disabilities. This paper provides an overview of the risk factors and barriers to reporting that are especially relevant to women with disabilities, and offers a list of suggested resources.

This paper provides an overview of current knowledge relating to violence against women with disabilities. It considers the many forms which such violence can take, identifies the risk factors associated with it, and summarizes the estimates of its occurrence. While recognizing the barriers that women may face in seeking help, the paper also offers suggestions for action and identifies organizations that can help. Finally it suggests additional information resources that can be consulted.

**International References**


**Elder Abuse**


This paper includes research addressing domestic abuse in later life or older battered women. Fifty-four articles published from 1988 to 2002 were reviewed. This body of literature sheds important, if partial, light on the occurrence of elder intimate partner violence. Key issues, as reflected in study findings, include: (1) prevalence and incidence; (2) types of abuse, including sexual abuse; (3) culture; (4) relationships; (5) causation; (6) abuser issues; (7) victim issues; and (8) services and interventions.


The authors discuss a study that assessed the needs of older women who are victims of violence by a partner or family member in British Columbia and Yukon.


This updated directory provides a listing of 439 services and programs that address the needs of older adult victims of violence. The services are listed by province/territory, from east to west coast and, within each province/territory, alphabetically by town or city. Each listing identifies the type of organization (long-term care, resource, government, legal) and type of services (crisis, care, general, bilingual).


This article presents a qualitative study based on interviews with social workers with shelter experience pertaining to elderly women. The essential tenets of personalized intervention are recounted to demonstrate what adjustments are made in the approach of the social worker when dealing with an elderly woman. The formal and informal categories of this type of intervention
are presented to demonstrate what approaches are currently taken to treat elderly victims of domestic abuse, as well as what facets of this treatment merit further development.


Stratka, S. M., & Montminy, L. (2006). Responding to the needs of older women experiencing domestic violence. Violence Against Women, 12(3), 251-267. Older women experiencing domestic violence are an invisible group who fall into the gap between two forms of family violence: elder abuse and domestic violence. This article reviews the literature in both fields, describing each paradigm, how it explains and responds to its specific form of violence, and why neither has been able to provide an adequate response to domestic violence against older women. A collaborative response is needed, accounting for both the age and gender dimensions of the problem.

Wolf, R. S. (2001). Support groups for older victims of domestic violence. Journal of Women & Aging, 13(4), 71-84. Wolf presents the results of a United States and Canada search that aimed to identify support groups for older victims of domestic violence in 1997. She includes details of interviews with group leaders of domestic violence programs and aging services; offers recommendations for further group supports; and discusses information on a policy of collaboration among domestic violence coalitions.

International References


**Domestic Homicide/Femicide**

This review seeks characteristics and risk factors that are present in cases of spousal homicide, concentrating mainly on the North American literature but also touching on research conducted in Australia and the United Kingdom. Major risk factors that may help predict the probability of a partner homicide include previous domestic violence, childhood witnessing of or being victimized by family violence, cohabiting, having a husband 10 or more years older, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual jealousy, threat of separation, stalking, and personality disorder.


Bourget, D., Gagne, P., & Moamai, J. (2000). Spousal homicide and suicide in Quebec. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, 28*(2), 179-182. Retrieved from PsychINFO database. Domestic violence is a cause for major concern in psychiatry today, yet little is known about the amplitude and dynamics of spousal homicide and extended suicide. Within the jurisdiction of the Quebec Coroner's Office, the investigation files on all consecutive cases of deceased victims of intrafamilial violence occurring between 1991 and 1998 were reviewed. The majority of offenders suffered from clinical symptoms of depression. This study emphasizes the need to develop a detailed tool to assist coroners in the field and police investigators with the gathering of specific information that will be of use to clinical researchers.

Brewer, V. E., & Paulson, D. J. (1999). A comparison of U.S. and Canadian findings on uxoricide risk for women with children sired by previous partners. *Homicide Studies, 3*(4), 317-332. Using an evolutionary psychological perspective, M. Daly et al. (1997) found that, among Hamilton’s population of women with male partners and co-resident minor children, 7% had children who were not those of the current partner, yet such women accounted for 50% of all uxoricides (wife killings). The present study replicated that research for Houston, TX, from 1985 to 1994. These studies lend strong support to evolutionary psychological theories of homicide.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. (2003). *Homicide in Canada – 2002*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. This report indicates that the spousal homicide rate dropped slightly in 2002 (-3%), following a 25% increase in 2001. Spousal homicides accounted for one out of every five solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides. In 2002, 84 spousal homicides occurred: 67 women were killed by their husbands, 16 men were killed by their wives, and one woman was killed by her same-sex partner.

Cooper, M., & Eaves, D. (1996). Suicide following homicide in the family. *Violence and Victims, 11*(2), 99-112. Retrieved from Sociological Abstracts database. This study examines the characteristics of victims, perpetrators and the circumstances leading to homicide among familial homicide-suicides and familial homicides in southwest BC. Consistent with an evolutionary perspective, homicides followed by suicide were most often attributable to male proprietariness (manifested by killing former intimate partners or offspring following an intimate separation) or mental illness. By contrast, none of the murders that occurred as a result of violence by the victim, child abuse, family conflict or financial/criminal motives was followed by suicide.

This two-part study on intimate femicides draws on data from Ontario police and coroner's records, criminal justice records, and personal data for 1991-93. Statistics are compared to those of an earlier study during 1974-1990. Of the 246 cases, 224 identified perpetrators who were former legal spouses, common-law spouses or boyfriends. The rate of femicide was six times the rate at which men were killed by their intimate partners. Women at greater risk were estranged from partners at the time of the killing; living in common-law relationships; ages 30-44 years; and with partners who had a previous criminal record. Compared to 1974-1990, rates of femicide remained virtually unchanged over time; however, the percentage of intimate femicides constituted 71% in the 1991-93 period, compared to 61% in the earlier period.


People who kill others rarely kill themselves afterwards. When they do, they are more likely to have killed someone with whom they were intimate. Two broad types of suicidal killers have been identified in research that presume varying degrees of premeditation. Using data on over 700 intimate femicides, the role of premeditation in cases of intimate femicide-suicide compared to killings that do not culminate in a suicide was examined. The results show that premeditation is more likely to occur in cases involving the offenders' suicide, but that evidence of premeditation varies depending upon the type of suicidal killer.


Dawson examines whether 'separation' killings attract harsher sanctions than 'intact' killings. Using 144 cases of intimate femicide that occurred in Toronto, her results demonstrate that offenders who kill estranged partners are treated more severely than those who kill current partners. Discussing possible interpretations of this differential legal treatment, Dawson highlights assumptions that may underlie such a punishment rationale, suggesting avenues for future research.


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It is recognized that the causes and correlates of homicides within intimate relationships differ from the causes and correlates of homicides by strangers. Using relationship state and relationship status to differentiate among various degrees of intimacy and commitment, the authors show that the characteristics of the people involved in intimate femicides, as well as the circumstances surrounding the killing, do differ by relationship type.


A study of spousal homicide explores modus operandi and whether certain forms of personality disorder are linked to this offence. Data were obtained from interviews with and the institutional records of 90 federally incarcerated male prisoners in Canada. Comparisons were made with 50 non-lethal spouse abusers drawn from a court-mandated treatment program based in Vancouver. A surprising finding was that the so-called "overcontrolled" personality disorders were overrepresented among spousal killers.


North American research shows that interventions and their type, appropriateness, timing, and patterning may help explain variations in the relationship between estrangement and intimate femicide on one hand and reintegration or conciliation on the other. The main objective of this article is to build on M. Wilson and M. Daly's (1992) male proprietorship thesis by integrating it with a theory of interventions. A. O. Hirschman (1970) conceives of interventions as mechanisms. Here, these mechanisms, "responses to decline," are applied in describing reactions to estrangements that mediate the impact of estrangement on intimate femicide.


Based on a review of 40 Saskatchewan femicides from 1988 to 1992, this chapter discusses the intimate and domestic character of femicide by remembering those women killed by intimate male partners. The characteristics of the victims, the killers, and the killings are presented with a view to contributing to policies of prevention.


A special section of the journal includes five papers on domestic homicide in Canada. Frigon examines the use the "battered woman syndrome" as a defence in domestic homicide cases, with particular reference to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the 1990 case of Angeline Lyn Lavalle.

The discourses of judges and prosecutors in the trials of Quebec women accused of killing their husbands are analyzed by Bernier and Cellard. Wilson and Daly identify risk patterns for violence against Canadian wives, according to data in the national Homicide Survey and a 1993 phone survey. The increase in domestic homicides in Montreal between the 1950s and 1980s is documented by Boisvert. Finally, Cote discusses the legal defence of provocation in Canadian law as it applies to domestic homicides.

The authors present an overview and statistical picture of intimate femicide in Ontario, 1974-1994, and locate this statistical picture in the literature on violence against women by their intimate partners. Killings by intimate partners accounted for 63%-76% of all women killed in Ontario, 1974-1991. Trends in intimate femicide are documented in the discourse, along with characteristics of victims and offenders, circumstances of the killings, and criminal justice responses to offenders. The gender-specific nature of intimate femicide is considered, as well as how intimate partner killings by males and females are distinctly different.


Using data from Statistics Canada's Homicide Survey, this article explores the dynamics of intimate partner homicides in Canada between 1991 and 2000 among a range of relationships. The authors' findings are consistent with previous studies that document an elevated risk of intimate partner homicide for women who have separated compared to women in intact relationships. The authors find that a number of incident characteristics set apart homicides that occur in intact and estranged intimate relationships for women but not for men. Similarly, this study finds that the circumstances and motivational contexts of intimate homicides differ for female victims depending on relationship type (legal marriages, common-law unions, and other intimate relationships).


This chapter of the statistical profile uses data from the Homicide Survey and examines the different circumstances and characteristics of family-related homicides in Canada between 1995 and 2004, noting that of all family-related homicides, nearly half were spousal homicides, with four out of five committed by a current or former husband against his wife.


This article describes 17 cases of intimate partner homicide in Nova Scotia that occurred over a five-year period. Topics include: a description of the relationship dynamic; an examination of the contributing factors and observable indicators; the contact or intervention points with government agencies or community supports; a review of the women's and the men's presenting problems when they contacted government agencies and community supports; an analysis of government agency and community response; and recommendations to improve intervention and prevention in situations that may be escalating to a homicide.


This study considers differences in the social situation of intimate partners as an explanation of racial differences in the female-to-male ratio of spousal homicides. Police reports of 9,642 homicides occurring from 1961 to 1983 were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada. The ratio of women killing their husbands to men killing their wives was highest among Aboriginals and lowest among blacks, with the ratio for whites falling somewhere in between. Possible sources of racial differences in this ratio include the proportion of couples (a) in common-law relationships, (b) who are coresiding as opposed to being separated, and (c) for whom there is a substantial age disparity between the partners. These factors appeared to be related to the spousal sex ratio of killing more generally. In addition, controlling the factors substantially reduced the importance of race in predicting the gender of the victim.
Report on sentencing for manslaughter in cases involving intimate relationships.

The issue of sentencing for manslaughter in cases of intimate relationships was originally brought up at the meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Deputy Ministers of Justice in June 2001 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Prince Edward Island raised the issue because of the public call for stiffer penalties in response to recent sentencing decisions in PEI, most notably in the case of R. v. Sheppard. This subject was added to the agenda for the FPT meeting of Ministers of Justice in September 2001 at White Point, Nova Scotia. The Ministers subsequently decided that the FPT Working Group on Sentencing should investigate this subject and report back in the fall of 2002. A subgroup was formed, composed of members of the FPT Sentencing Working Group and other federal Justice officials from the Research and Statistics Division and the Family, Children and Youth Section (which included members of the FPT Working Group on Spousal Abuse). A preliminary report was tabled at the FPT meeting of Deputy Ministers of June 4-5, 2002, in Charlevoix, Quebec. That report included only the case law analysis; the final report has now been completed. The investigation led to five recommendations.


The focus of this article is on the most serious aspect of domestic violence, intimate partner homicide. Although both men and women kill their intimate partners, it appears that differences exist in the motivation behind the homicide in both cases. The male proprietoriness theory and the self-defense theory are presented as a means of understanding the gender differences in spousal homicide. These theories suggest that dynamics of the relationship play an important role in the increasing violence, which eventually results in homicide in certain instances. The implications of these theories are presented as a means of reducing the number of domestic homicides.


In this introduction, the authors present an overview of violence against women efforts. They assert that, despite the fact that relentless efforts of feminists, pro-feminist men, and human rights activists, international laws, agreements, treaties, and conventions have increasingly conceptualized violence against women as a serious violation of human rights, when it comes to intimate partner violence against women, developed nations are not that much better off than most of their developing counterparts.


The authors present additional views of domestic homicide-suicides to compliment studies of men who commit homicides-suicides from psychopathology and evolutionary psychology viewpoints. Applications of theories from social (escape from self), developmental (evolution of self and continuity of self), gender role (power and the male role), and family violence psychology (abusive personality and proximal antecedents of abuse) are outlined. These conceptualizations are offered because they pertain to instability and deconstruction of the self amidst the life changes and intimate distress that precede many cases of domestic homicide-suicides.

This book is a compelling tribute to the lives of women murdered across Canada and to the memorial-makers who ensure that these women are not forgotten. It is the first public record of feminist remembrance to document over 30 memorials that women.


**International References**


**Women as Offenders**


Violent crime has traditionally been viewed as a uniquely male phenomenon. In 1989, however, it was estimated that women were committing about 10% of serious (violent) crimes in Canada, and more recent research shows a steady increase in the rate of female offending in general. These findings indicate the need to understand better violent offending by women.

Although national-level research conducted in the U.S. and Canada finds that extreme partner age discrepancy is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide in opposite-sex couples, these studies carry two caveats: they are limited to cohabiting marital or common-law couples, and they are not detailed enough to explore alternative explanations for the age discrepancy-homicide risk association. Results of the current study replicated national-level findings showing that the risk of intimate partner homicide is considerably elevated for couples with a large discrepancy between their ages – where the man is at least 16 years older than the woman, or the woman is at least 10 years older than the man. This risk pattern occurred regardless of whether the man or the woman was the homicide offender. The higher risk of intimate partner homicide for age-discrepant couples was robust and did not depend on the previous arrest record of the offender.


This review of the literature attempts to highlight the main views and interpretations relating to violence by women. It includes publications from 19984 to 1994, as well as material on understanding women's use of anger and aggression. It deals with the extent of violence by women and the different forms it takes, how and why violence arises in women, and programming for violent women.


In contrast with information from police, courts, hospitals, and shelters and with feminist, cognitive, and evolutionary theory, research using the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) has suggested that women are as physically aggressive towards their male partners as men are towards their female partners. In this research, four studies were conducted to demonstrate the inadequacy of the CTS and to develop a new measure that takes account of the severity of physically injurious outcomes. The findings may have important implications for interpretations of research in the area and address the issue of Battered Husband Syndrome.


The authors review female intimate abuse and conclude that females are as abusive as males in intimate relationships according to survey and epidemiological studies. This is especially so for younger "cohort" community samples followed longitudinally. Predictors of intimate violence with women appear to be similar to those of men, including antisocial criminal records, alcohol abuse, and personality disorders.


The Women Offenders Sector of the Correctional Service of Canada conducted a study of federally sentenced women convicted of homicide who were under the purview of the Correctional Service of Canada (incarcerated or on conditional release) as of December 1996. The goal was a more accurate profile of female homicide offenders in Canada. This article presents some preliminary results of the research.

This document provides an overview of the available research findings on the nature and extent of abuse committed by women against their intimate male partners, as well as an examination of the various methods that have been used in that research. It identifies risk factors and the physical and psychological effects on victims. Finally, it considers issues relevant to prevention and offers suggestions on what individuals (victims, friends and professionals) can do and what resources and services they can access for help.


The arrest of large numbers of women under laws originally designed to protect them from malevolence tells us very little about women's use of violence against their intimate partners. However, it does tell us about the difficulties of organizing to protect women from violence and about some of the unanticipated challenges of engaging the legal and criminal justice systems as ways of protecting women from violence. The authors offer strategies that activists can use to advocate for women who have been victims of domestic violence and who have been arrested for using domestic violence.


Student participants viewed a videotaped simulated case involving a woman who had entered a self-defence plea in the shooting death of her abusive husband. As successful claims of self-defence rest on the portrayal of a defendant who has responded reasonably to his/her situation, the implications of various forms of expert testimony in constructing this narrative were examined. Jurors were presented with either expert testimony regarding the battered woman syndrome (BWS), the BWS framed within post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) nomenclature, or a no-expert control condition. As the BWS classification may support a stereotypical victim, the degree to which the defendant fit the stereotype in terms of her access to a social support network (family, friends, employment outside of the home) was varied within the expert testimony conditions to reflect either a high or low degree of stereotype fit. Although jury verdicts failed to differ across expert testimony and stereotype fit conditions, perceptions of her credibility and mental stability did. Although affording jurors a framework from which the defendant’s experiences as a battered woman may be acknowledged, this portrayal, as advanced with PTSD nomenclature, endorsed a pathological characterization of the defendant. Implications of this discourse for battered women within the context of self-defence are discussed.


This review of the literature was prepared at the request of Correctional Services Canada as part of the Federally Sentenced Women Initiative. It was designed to be fairly wide-ranging in terms of the disciplines covered, and to consider any specific programs and assessment methods designed for women offenders who have acted violently. It considers why violence by women has been neglected in the literature.

The authors examined the impact of a defendant's prior response history (passive v. active) and the presence and form of expert testimony on jurors' verdicts of homicide trials involving battered women who kill their abusers.


This article examines the characteristics of women in provincial-territorial and federal correctional facilities. The data are based on a one-day snapshot of inmates who were on-register in adult correctional facilities at midnight on Saturday, October 5, 1996. While generalizations about the data should be made with caution, a better understanding of the characteristics of female inmates can assist program planners and may help identify areas for prevention.


This review examines the research on women's abuse of husbands in Canada. It covers issues of gaps in knowledge about husband abuse, abused men's description of their experience, and treatment programs. The conclusion offers suggestions about where male abuse victims can seek help and some policy implications of acknowledging husband abuse.

**International References**


**Feminist Theory**


The authors begin with a brief review of the major feminist critiques within the domains of law and the social sciences. They explore the assumptions on which both are based and provide examples of how well meaning attempts to use these disciplines in the area of domestic violence have fallen short of their goals. They then show how the problematic assumptions of both disciplines may worsen when research on domestic violence is done within the context of the criminal justice system, using the example of the mandatory arrest experiments. They conclude that research and the law should come together only under conditions where feminist critiques are taken seriously and the perspectives of women who are the victims of these offences are placed at the center of the work.

This book brings together some of Canada’s top researchers on woman battery in one edited anthology. Proceeding from the entreaty that disparate standpoints can often substantially add to the understandings of woman battery, the authors include the voices of traditionally marginalized women in focused discussions on some of the most contentious issues facing battered women, activists, academics, and policymakers in Canada. Collectively, the contributors expose new conundrums in efforts against woman battering, while revisiting old ones.

This article maps out the current literature and trends in Canada in the area of restorative justice and intimate violence. It focuses on feminist and women-centred approaches to the debates and controversies in this area. The article concludes with a recommendation for a moratorium on new restorative justice initiatives dealing with intimate violence.

Comack and Balfour discuss the gendering of violent crime from a legal perspective, including the practice of law under zero-tolerance.

Currie presents a brief examination of the major obstacles to an inclusive Canadian feminist movement against woman battery. She notes that feminists need to continue questioning the legitimacy of legal remedies to women abuse, especially in light of historic Eurocentric logics that ignore the voices of woman having the most to lose by criminalization. In fact, criminalization may be the most dubious of feminist gains in the area of violence against women. Looking to First Nations communities, for example, Currie asks whether feminists may have much to learn by transforming retributive justice into social justice through alternatives to the criminal justice system.

Canada is experiencing a major antifeminist backlash against the results of two Canadian national surveys on woman abuse. The main objectives of this article are to provide examples of the key tactics used in this backlash, such as misleading interpretations of Conflict Tactics Scales data, and to suggest several ways of challenging and resisting them.

Feminist theory of intimate violence is critically reviewed in the light of data from numerous incidence studies reporting levels of violence by female perpetrators higher than those reported for males, particularly in younger age samples. Results of a critical analysis show that the gender disparity in injuries from domestic violence is less than originally portrayed by feminist theory. Studies are also reviewed indicating high levels of unilateral intimate violence by females to both males and females. It is concluded that feminist theory is contradicted by the findings of this study, and that the call for "qualitative" studies by feminists is really a means of avoiding this conclusion. A case is made for a paradigm having developed amongst family violence activists and researchers that precludes the notion of female violence, trivializes injuries to males, and maintains a monolithic view of a complex social problem.


Children’s health is a key factor in women’s decisions to leave abuse partners, yet how these families promote their health after leaving is poorly understood. In this feminist grounded theory study, the authors conducted repeat interviews with 40 single-parent families that had left abusive partners/fathers. Findings reveal the central problem faced by families is intrusion, unwanted interference in everyday life that stems from abuse and its fallout. Over time, families promote their health through the basic social process of strengthening capacity to limit intrusion. Depending on the degree of intrusion, the focus strengthening capacity shifts between practice goals of surviving and more proactive efforts directed toward positioning for the future. This theory adds to our knowledge of the long-term consequences of IPV for families and provides direction for practice and policy.


The two projects featured in this publication are examples of qualitative research. The first project examines pre-shelter and post-shelter experiences of women and the issues and complexities of leaving an abusive partner and re-establishing in the community. The project uses two qualitative research orientations: ethnography and feminist research orientation. The second project takes a phenomenological approach to explore the research question of how survivors of abuse experience the Women of Courage program offered by Outward Bound.


Jiwani comments on the 1996 massacre of the Gakhal family in Vernon, BC and brings to the forefront the issue of violence against women from a cultural perspective. She writes that the focus on culture serves to deflect attention away from the real issues at hand: power and control, and the results of challenging male authority or patriarchy.


Lacombe agrees that mobilizing criminal law cannot radically transform women’s everyday lives and that women are constrained and oppressed though law. However, in her essay, she does not abandon law as a terrain on which to struggle for equality. She concludes that, rather than seeing law as ‘an actor doing bad things to women,’ the effects of law are produced rather than given, and remain always an empirical question. Instead of dismissing law, therefore, feminists should strive to demonstrate how ‘outlawing’ women takes place by including and excluding various discourses and practices along axes of gender, race, class, age, and sexual orientation, among others.

This paper analyzes the etiology of wife abuse using the Violence Against Women Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. Two major theoretical models are compared – the power theory of Murray Strauss and feminist theory. The data indicate that a culture of male dominance is central to the etiology of wife abuse, but that it is an insufficient explanation. Lenton concludes that a theory incorporating gender inequality along with other sources of power provides a better explanation for who is most likely to be abusive.


This paper summarizes the data collected from the experiences of 15 social workers after being trained in a new feminist intervention model for working with abused women and then applying this approach in their practices. The intervention model and its objectives, in addition to the results of the research are described.


This paper stresses the importance of a gender analysis in adequately understanding and responding to domestic violence. Additionally, it highlights some of the current issues and problems facing those working for change in the movement to end the problem of violence against women.


The author examines some of the issues surrounding the feminist views of family violence and challenges the dominant feminist stance by 1) identifying the limitations of the patriarchal model and the flaws in the research based upon it, and 2) addressing the criticisms directed towards gender-neutral family violence research.

**International References**


**Research Issues**


This reply to critical comments on the author's meta-analysis of partner physical aggression addresses the theoretical dichotomy used, the issues of samples used, the use of the Conflict Tactics Scale, the measure of sexual aggression, and the contrast between sex differences in physical aggression toward partners and toward same sex partners.


Bonnycastle and Rigakos present four central themes as suggested avenues for fruitful critical inquiry into the area of woman battering: (1) the challenges of inclusivity; (2) women’s relationship to violence; (3) resisting new forms of pathologizing; and (4) the enabling and disabling effects of criminal justice interventions.


The present article argues that the failure of most family violence researchers to analyze cohabiting relationships separately from marital unions constitutes a major gap in understanding violence against women. The review of available evidence indicates that violence by men in cohabiting relationships is more common and more likely to be severe. Research is needed, therefore, to identify the causal pathways leading to violence for marrieds and cohabiters separately. Recognizing a lack of theoretical application, a number of explanatory frameworks that may be used to study marital status differences in violence are articulated. As part of an agenda for future research in this area, several problems of past studies that need to be overcome are identified along with possible solutions.

Campbell presents a theory of the relationship between research on aggression and research on gender roles. Campbell's unique contribution is her rich and subtle account of and theoretical explanation for what she convincingly asserts are men's and women's widely divergent ways of understanding and expressing aggression. Though written in an accessible, almost popular style, the book is strongly based in psychological and sociological research and theory.

Clark, J. P, & Du Mont, J. (2003). Intimate partner violence and health: A critique of Canadian prevalence studies. Canadian Journal of Public Health, 94(1), 52-58. The Canadian Public Health Association, along with other professional organizations, has identified intimate partner violence (IPV) as a priority health issue to which the health professions must respond. This study synthesizes Canadian studies on the prevalence of IPV against women, focusing in particular on the stated implications for women's health and health care. This review reveals a paucity of Canadian prevalence data on IPV, marked by design and methodological issues. Poor quality data may pose a challenge to articulating and establishing a coordinated health care response to eliminating IPV in Canada.

Cousineau, M. M., & Rondreau, G. (2004). Toward a transnational and cross-cultural analysis of family violence. Violence-Against-Women, 10(8), 935-949. This article summarizes issues and priorities for prevalence surveys and intervention studies raised by researchers and practitioners at an international symposium on transnational and cross-cultural research on family violence, convened near Montreal, Canada, in June 2003.

Damant, D., & Guay, F. (2005). The question of symmetry in the investigations of couple violence and the relations of love. The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology/La Revue Canadienne de Sociologie et d'Anthropologie, 42(2), 125-144. The present discourse on symmetry of violence between partners originates in the results of surveys primarily using one type of instrument, the Conflict Tactics Scales (Straus, 1979). An examination of the critiques that have been formulated, and of the justifications given by the authors of the instrument suggests that symmetry is a result of a specific representation of action constructed by the instrument. Comparing the protocols and results of four large surveys in Canada, England and the United States, the authors underline the importance of taking into account severity in the measurement of violence.

Dat, C. (1998). Examining the potential for community and institutional partnerships to prevent violence against women. Vancouver: The Vancouver Women's Fund. The results of this research show that barely 2.3% of all institutions have expressed a definite interest in supporting violence against women's programs in women's organizations. The findings have led the author to conclude that unless the federal and provincial governments fulfill their responsibilities of funding women's organizations, the work of preventing violence against women may be threatened.

DeKeseredy, W. S. (2000). Current controversies on defining nonlethal violence against women in intimate heterosexual relationships: Empirical implications. Violence Against Women, 6(7), 728-746. There is considerable disagreement about what harmful behaviours should be included in a definition on non-lethal violence against women in intimate heterosexual relationships. For example, many researchers restrict their focus to physical and/or sexual assaults, whereas others offer formulations that include a much broader range of injurious acts. The main objectives of this article are to describe and evaluate narrow and board definitions and provide some suggestions for achieving consensus in defining violence against women.

This paper reviews the prevailing criminal justice intervention model, provides examples of how the paradigm supporting this model distorts interpretation of research, and compares this flawed research with methodologically superior studies that suggest a different and potentially more effective approach.


Originally published in *Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 45*(5), 472-474, this article reviews the book by Hearn, which presents a single study based on interviews with violent men and their service providers and uses these data to support an analysis of violence committed by men against women they know. The reviewer expresses disappointment that no predictions are articulated in this study. Instead, the data – sometimes, lengthy quotes from interviews – are used selectively to punctuate Hearn's theoretical perspective about the "text of violence." The theoretical analysis espoused in this book is completely unable to account for the origins and complexities of violence in intimate relationships and, therefore, cannot offer a practical solution to violence against women.


This article answers the following questions: (1) where does qualitative research fit within the paradigm of evidence-based practice, and (2) how can qualitative research be used by public health professionals? Strategies for using qualitative research findings instrumentally, conceptually, and symbolically are identified by applying Estabrooks' (1999) conceptual structure of research utilization. Different research utilization strategies are illustrated through the use of research examples from the field of work on intimate partner violence against women. Recommendations for qualitative researchers disseminating findings and for public health practitioners/policy makers considering the use of qualitative findings as evidence to inform decisions are provided.


This article describes interviewer selection and training in the World Health Organization (WHO) Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence and highlights their importance. Such training ensures high-quality data and cross-country comparability, protects the safety of respondents and interviewers, and increases the impact of the study. Moreover, women are not only willing to share experiences with trained and empathetic interviewers, but also find the interview a positive experience.

The past two decades have yielded a recognition that intimate partner violence is ubiquitous. Although violence within relationships is bidirectional, there is acknowledgment that violence directed against women is more persistent and dangerous. Strategies for treatment of men have been largely unsuccessful, and studies of women-centered approaches to prevention are in their infancy. An emerging concept in the brain-behaviour field is the recognition of genetics as a powerful influence on aggressive and violent behaviours. Mouse models of human health and disease have facilitated our understanding of the role of genetics in the manifestation of these traits. There is a need to push the boundaries of research on intimate partner violence by adopting biosocial approaches to understand its causes.


Johnson’s qualitative and quantitative analysis critically examines contemporary social scientific thought on male violence against women. Topics discussed include: theoretical debates about how various forms of violence against women have been conceptualized and measured; techniques for measuring the prevalence and nature of various types of violence against women; the links between women's perceptions of personal security and their experiences of physical and sexual assault, and sexual harassment; the prevalence and nature of specific types of sexual and physical violence experienced; spousal killings and the legal responses available to battered women; and the consequences of violence for female victims, steps taken to receive help, role of the criminal justice system, and recent innovations for improving the criminal justice response to abused women.


At the request of the federal Department of Health, Statistics Canada undertook this special survey in 1993. The sample consisted of 12,300 women 18 years of age and older who were questioned about their experiences as victims of sexual and physical assault since the age of 16. This survey differs from crime victim surveys in design and in scope. For example, non-criminal acts of sexual harassment that form a component of women's awareness and perceptions of vulnerability are included for a more comprehensive understanding of women's fear. It contains details about the circumstances, precursors, and dynamics of violent events necessary to test theories about the etiology of assaults on women. This article discusses the ethical considerations involved in conducting survey research on this topic, the concepts used in this survey to measure sexual and physical violence, and some general findings concerning the prevalence of violence, sexual harassment, and controlling and emotionally abusive acts by spouses.


In this review of the family violence literature, two broad themes are suggested as the most promising directions for the future. The first is the importance of distinctions among types or contexts of violence. Second, issues of control that focuses on men using violence to control “their” women, also arises in other contexts, calling for more general analysis of the interplay of violence, power, and control in relationships. The review also covers the literature on coping with violence, the effects on victims and their children, and the social effects of partner violence.


This paper examines whether differentiating among types of intimate partner violence enhances the explanatory capacity of extant empirical models. The analysis uses national-level Canadian data to evaluate an alternative approach to operationalizing intimate partner violence, drawing upon Black's (1990) and Johnson's (1995) theoretical work. The main argument suggests that current efforts to explain intimate partner violence with victimization studies are inadequate because they typically do not measure key sociological variables. The failure to assess the contexts within which different types of violence occur further hinders explanatory efforts. The paper concludes with recommendations for innovative theoretical and methodological strategies to address these limitations.


The current article draws on comparative research and Donald Black's theoretical approach to argue that key factors involved in the problem of violence against women include: (a) the degree of social isolation, (b) interdependence of support networks, (c) inequality, (d) relational distance, (e) centralization of authority, and (f) exposure to violent networks. The weak explanatory power of previous research can be improved by developing measures to evaluate an integrated structural model of violence against women.


Despite the prevalence of violence in society, the significance of this public health problem and the strong potential for nurses to initiate prevention efforts and become actively involved in efforts to enhance the health and well-being of abused women and children, there is only a small cadre of nurse researchers in Canada conducting research in this area. To further complicate research efforts, nurses who are actively involved in violence research are scattered across country, making dialogue and collaboration with others in the field a challenge. There is a definite need for more nurses to conduct research in this important area of inquiry, and for those already involved in violence research to seek means of facilitating collaboration with each other.


The objectives of this project were: 1) to review the research process developed through ORWAS and to draw some conclusions about the value of a community-based approach; 2) to investigate the effects of participating in woman abuse research on the survivors, community researchers, and project leaders; and 3) to examine the benefits to government and communities of a collaborative partnership.


A major methodological problem in victimization surveys on physical and sexual violence against women is the underreporting of violence. The first part of this article makes a case for six feminist strategies for improving the accuracy of self-report data on victimization within a mainstream survey research framework. The second part of the article is a presentation of data from a survey of Toronto women that is designed to show the efficacy of these feminist strategies.


In spite of almost three decades of awareness about the critical issue of intimate partner violence, there remains considerable controversy about what to label as abusive and how to assist both the victims and perpetrators. This chapter looks at these and other future research questions.


The authors question why family violence has not been claimed by the Canadian nursing community as a vital issue for practice and research, when violence has affected the health of most Canadian individuals, families, and communities? In this discussion, the authors explore the conditions that have contributed to this apparent disregard of violence in the Canadian nursing agenda, and the consequences of this neglect for responsive research, theory, policy, and practice.


This paper traces the development of a universal violence prevention initiative from its early roots in the dynamics of child abuse developmental psychopathology. The author’s research reflects how knowledge about the causes and consequences of violence in relationships is leading to promising educational and prevention initiatives such as the Fourth R, a universal school-based initiative aimed at early adolescence to reduce relationship violence and related risk behaviours.

**International Resources**


