

- 30% experienced depression
- 14% required bed rest to recuperate from the injuries
- 10% needed to take time off from work

3. Men are far less likely to report DV incidents than women.

- According to the National Family Violence Survey, female victims of DV are *nine times* more likely to call the police than male DV victims. These are the percentages of victims who called the police in response to the assault:
 - Women: 8.5%
 - Men: 0.9%

[Source: JE Stets and MA Straus: Gender differences in reporting marital violence and its medical and psychological consequences. In Straus and Gelles (editors): Physical violence in American families, 1990, Table 15.]

4. The myths about domestic violence are numerous.

These are some of the common myths about domestic violence:

- According to the FBI, a woman is beaten every 15 seconds
- 4,000 women each year are killed by their husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends
- There are nearly three times as many animal shelters in the United States as there are shelters for women
- Battering during pregnancy is the leading cause of birth defects and infant mortality
- Women who kill their batterers receive longer prison sentences than men who kill their partners

Richard Gelles, an internationally-recognized expert on domestic violence, refers to many of these claims as “factoids from nowhere.”

[]

5. Many of these myths are based on DV studies that use biased survey methods.

- Some studies survey women but not men. Predictably, these studies yield one-sided findings.
- The DOJ National Crime Victimization Survey is flawed because persons do not consider most forms of domestic violence, such as slapping, shoving, or throwing an object at a partner, to be a crime.
- The DOJ National Violence Against Women survey prefaces the questions by repeatedly using the phrase “personal safety.” Those words bias the responses because women are more concerned about personal safety than men.
- Some studies of domestic violence assess both physical and verbal abuse. That inflates and distorts the picture of physical violence.

[Source: Maury A. Straus, Ph.D: The controversy over domestic violence by women: A methodological, theoretical, and sociology of science analysis. In XB Arriaga and S Oskamp: Violence in intimate relationships. Sage Publishers, 1999.

]

1. Women are just as likely as men to engage in partner aggression.

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, "In nonreciprocally violent relationships, women were the perpetrators in more than 70% of the cases. Reciprocity was associated with more frequent violence among women, but not men." [Source: Whitaker, Haileyesus, Swahn and Saltzman, Differences in Frequency of Violence and Reported Injury Between Relationships With Reciprocal and Nonreciprocal Intimate Partner Violence, American Journal of Public Health, May 2007, Vol 97, No. 5, pp. 941-947,]
- Psychologist John Archer reviewed hundreds of studies and concluded, "Women were slightly more likely than men to use one or more act of physical aggression and to use such acts more frequently." [Source: John Archer: Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. Psychological Bulletin, Vol. 126, No. 5, pages 651-680]
- Law professor Linda Kelly noted, "leading sociologists have repeatedly found that men and women commit violence at similar rates." [Source: Linda Kelly: Disabusing the definition of domestic abuse. Florida State University Law Review, Vol. 30, pages 791-855, 2003. Accessible at:]
- An international survey of violence between dating partners in 16 countries concluded: "Perhaps the most important similarity is the high rate of assault perpetrated by both male and female students in all the countries." [Source: Murray Straus: Prevalence of violence against dating partners by male and female university students worldwide. Violence Against Women, Vol. 10, No. 7, 2001]
- Cal State Psychology Professor Martin Fiebert has assembled a bibliography of 175 scholarly investigations: 139 empirical studies and 36 reviews and/or analyses, which demonstrate that women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners.
- An analysis of the data collected by the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey found that more women than men engage in controlling behavior in their current marriages, but there was no statistically significant difference between men's and women's use of controlling behaviors in former marriages. Controlling husbands were not particularly likely to engage in frequent, injurious, or unprovoked violence. Husband and wives did not differ in their motivation to control. [Source: Sociology Professors Richard B. Felson (Penn State) and Maureen C. Outlaw (Providence College) "The Control Motive and Marital Violence," Violence and Victims, 2007, Vol. 22, Issue 4

2. Men experience over one-third of DV-related injuries.

- Of all persons who suffer an *injury* from partner aggression, 38% are male. [Source: John Archer: Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. Psychological Bulletin, Vol. 126, No. 5, pages 651-680]
- Of all persons who require *medical treatment* as the result of partner aggression, 35% are male. [Source: John Archer: Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. Psychological Bulletin, Vol. 126, No. 5, Table 5]
- Men who are victims of severe domestic violence suffer other problems, as well [Source: Richard J. Gelles: Intimate Violence in Families, 1997]:

But, he said, the other one-third can't be ignored. Lauren agreed. "No violence should be ignored," he said. "It's a problem regardless of who perpetrates it." Hickok asked whether there is a correlation between the changing roles of women in society and increased violence perpetrated by them. Straus said the issue is disputed, but there is a theory of that nature. He said his international study is consistent with the theory because countries with liberated women have more cases of violence by women. "Does that mean we shouldn't have equality?" he asked. "No." "Every social change — including desirable ones — has its downside," he said.

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> The commission asked Straus for advice on what kind of public initiative could help lower the violence against men. Straus said the violence presentation programs in public schools need to be changed to address violence by females against males. "Little by little — too little at a time — but things are
> happening," Straus said

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Wednesday, July 5, 2006 Researcher calls for women to stop abusing men
By CHLOE JOHNSON
Staff Writer
ljohnson@fosters.com

CONCORD — Murray Straus says its time for a men's movement. Posters and broadcasts on partner violence always portray male perpetrators and female victims, he said. According to his new research findings, that leaves the other half out of the picture. He told this to the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men at their meeting Friday in the Legislative Office Building in Concord. Straus, co-director of the Family Research Lab at the University of New Hampshire, recently completed an international study on partner violence among university students. His queries of more than 13,600 students revealed that the most common instance of partner violence is mutual abuse. The second most common situation of partner violence is when the female is the perpetrator against the male, he said. This leaves the reverse — when males abuse females — to be the least common in practice, although the most common in publicity.

"I have a long-term prevention goal that I hope my research will make a contribution to," Murray said prior to the meeting at which he was asked to testify. He added that it's not enough to provide services for the battered, and that the solution is to stop the aggressive behavior in the first place. He said it's possible to stop half of abuse by making it as reprehensible for a woman to slap a man as it for a man to hit a woman. "If we want men to stop it," he said. "Women have to stop it also." This is in part because his research indicates that abuse can escalate from one partner to both. He said overall partner abuse has decreased since the problem was recognized nationally. However, he said, the change only applies to abuse by men, not against them. That's because society has not made a "big deal" out of abuse against men, he said.

Straus said he lauds the women's movement for calling attention to violence against them. Now, he says it's men's turn. "We should make the same big deal about women hitting men," Straus told his audience. "That's one of the things your Commission can do." Commissioner Marshall Hickok said the effort is blocked by society. "There's a perceptual wall we run into where it's not taken seriously," he said. Straus said the fact that the commission even exists is evidence that people are taking the position of men more seriously. It was established by the Legislature in 2002. "It's going to depend on a mass social change of opinion," he said. "And that takes a movement."

Straus said the study relied on self-reporting since partner violence is rarely observed and rarely reported. He said violence usually has to lead to injury or a disturbance of the peace before the police are notified, and that is only a small fraction. Straus said men are less likely to report abuse because of their own shame and the disbelief of other people. "No one has waged a campaign to get men to come forward when they are victimized," Straus said. Straus said female perpetrators of violence don't get reported by shelters, because they aren't asked if they also hit the men. And women do not go to a shelter if they are the only one doing the hitting. Research indicates that women are as likely to initiate violence as men, Straus said. Straus said the offenses range from a slap to homicide. He said nationally women only commit 10 percent of homicides, but they commit one third of domestic violence-related homicides. "Women rarely commit homicide," he said. "But when they do, it's a male partner."

Commissioner David Lauren asked whether the study took into account the reason women would be abusive. Straus said his research found that dominance is the primary reason people use violence. People get violent out of anger and frustration, Straus said. He said they are frequently attempting to correct misbehavior or punish for wrongdoing.

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> Chairman Joseph Mastromarino said the problem is not based on gender, but on the ability to function in a relationship. He said people need to learn to deal with conflicts without resorting to violence. Straus noted that there is a difference between the type of violence the different genders inflict. He said men cause two-thirds of the partner violence that results in injuries requiring medical treatment. "Men's violence against women has more severe consequences both physically and mentally," he said.

· Where serious spousal conflict is alleged, shared parenting would be precluded, inuring to the benefit of a custodial parent irregardless of the source of conflict.

<http://www.shatteredmen.com/VAWA%20II.htm>

<http://mediaradar.org/>

<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/42/15/31-a>

<http://www.dvmen.org/>

Look at just some of the things VAWA contains:

<<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec621.htm>> Bar deportation of illegal immigrant women who claim abuse, grant immigrant status, automatically give them welfare benefits, while prosecuting the alleged perpetrator.

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec404.htm>> Define a legal "Determination" that domestic assault took place solely on the statement of the alleged victim, unless the "agency" has an independent, reasonable basis to find the individual not credible. (Sec. 404 (2)(B)(i) and (vi)). With this home-made "Determination" of abuse, all the other provisions of VAWA II become effective. [Note the true meaning of this provision once combined with the next item]

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec241.htm>> Deny funding to any domestic violence center that questions or attempts to assess abusive behaviors, motives, or credibility of a woman claiming to be a victim (Sec. 251(b)(4))

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec403.htm>> Fund H.U.D. to provide permanent free housing to any woman who alleges spousal or child abuse. Remember that "victim" status is based solely on assertion.

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec422.htm>> Require health care insurance companies and worker's compensation plans to provide permanent insurance coverage to any woman alleging abuse

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec721.htm>> Make it nearly impossible for employers to dismiss or discipline women who allege domestic abuse, and award attorneys fees against employers dealing with emotionally unstable female employees.

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec741.htm>> Create unemployment compensation and paid leave entitlements. Employers would be gagged from internal discussion questioning why the leave is necessary.

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec122.htm>> Fund the kidnapping of children across state lines by women who allege domestic violence or child abuse. [Remember that "Victim" status is legally recognized solely on the basis of an assertion of domestic violence or child abuse.]

· Create a strong <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec241.htm>> federal presumption for sole maternal custody irregardless of who actually did most of the childcare, the quality of the childcare, or other factors of marital moral responsibility. [Sec. 241 (1)].

· <<http://www.acfc.org/acfc/vawa/sec212.htm>> Fund the establishment of "Supervised Visitation Centers" to study all the fathers who become "perpetrators" on the sole basis of an assertion of abuse. Existing NGOs would have line-item veto over funding of these centers, assuring adherence to the female-victim model.

· Mandate that domestic violence treatment centers help only women. Existing non-governmental abuse centers would be given state-level "line-item-veto" authority to approve/disapprove applications for new centers.

· Blame any domestic disagreement on men, and deny funding to any organization that disagrees with this approach.

· Where spousal conflict is alleged to have taken place, children would no longer be able to benefit from parenting by the noncustodial parent.

"Domestic violence 'research' has been misleading, in that data has been extracted from crime reports and/or 'crime victim surveys – in which men underreport more than women – and have been publicized as indicating domestic violence is a gender issue (male-perpetrator/female-victims). In fact, when larger surveys with representative samples are examined, perpetration of domestic violence perpetration is slightly more common for females..."

Richard James Gelles, PhD, Director for the Center for Research on Youth & Social Policy:

"The real horror is the continued status of battered men as the 'missing persons' of the problem. Male victims do not count and are not counted..."

"Federal funds typically pass to a state coalition against or to a branch of a state agency designated to deal with violence against women.

"Thirty years ago battered women had no place to go and no place to turn for help and assistance. Today, there are places to go—more than 1,800 shelters, and many agencies to which to turn. For men, there still is no place to go and no one to whom to turn."

John Hamel, LCSW, a court-certified batterer treatment provider and author of the book *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse*:

"[U]nder current policy abused men are both denied services and told, essentially, that they don't even exist. Ignoring male victims is not only a human rights issue, but also a public health issue. Until all perpetrators of family violence are held accountable for their actions, regardless of gender, our efforts will be limited, with serious implications for future generations."

Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling of the University of South Alabama:

"I interviewed women in battered women's shelters and wondered why some were leaving in less than a week. The answer, it turned out, is that they too were engaging in violence against their partners, and in some cases had left to pick up the battle again. We weren't helping these women because [by ignoring their role in DV] we were ignoring their paradigm."

John Hamel, LCSW, a court-certified batterer treatment provider and author of the book *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse*:

"[T]he majority of mainstream researchers are now acknowledging the gender-inclusive nature of intimate partner abuse."

Dr. Donald Dutton, author of *Rethinking Domestic Violence*:

"The domestic violence establishment--of which I was once very much a part--has distorted the research to minimize and ignore female and mutual domestic violence."

California State Long Beach University professor Martin Fiebert maintains an online bibliography summarizing 219 scholarly investigations, with an aggregate sample size exceeding 220,000, which concludes "women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners."

Dr. Donald Dutton, author of *Rethinking Domestic Violence*:

"Research shows that domestic violence is actually more common in lesbian relationships than in heterosexual relationships."

John Hamel, LCSW, a court-certified batterer treatment provider and author of the book *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse*:

"According to the [female] victims themselves, the majority of these cases did indeed involve mutual abuse and, and some featured a dominant female perpetrator whose [male] partner was arrested after fighting back. This clinical data contradicted much of what I had been taught, and led me to conduct an extensive review of the research literature. What I found more than corroborated my clinical findings."

New California Appeal Court Ruling: 'Domestic Violence Is a Serious Problem for both Women and Men'

"California domestic violence laws violate men's rights because they provide state funding only for women and their children who use shelters and other programs, a state appeals court has ruled.

"The decision by the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento requires the programs to be available to male as well as female victims of domestic violence..."

"Justice Fred Morrison said in Tuesday's 3-0 ruling, the state acknowledges that 'domestic violence is a serious problem for both women and men.'" --(The Associated Press, 10/16/08)

Dr. Donald Dutton, author of *Rethinking Domestic Violence*:

"I have conducted surveys of nationally representative samples of American families funded by the National Institutes of Health in 1975, 1985, and 1992.

"In 2006 I conducted a study of partner violence in 32 nations. In all of these studies, the rate of men victimized by physical and psychological attacks by their partners is about the same as the rate of women victimized by male partners...

"Physical attacks by women account for about a third of the injuries."

Denise A. Hines, Ph.D. of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire:

"[W]hen men with children try to access domestic violence services and are turned away, we deny their children services and put them in danger. There is an unknown quantity of children...who cannot find the services they need to escape their violent mothers, and therefore, they must remain in their homes. Thus, by discriminating against male victims of domestic violence, we are also discriminating against their children and putting both the father and his children at risk. It is imperative, then, to assure that male victims and their children can get access to domestic violence services."

Batterers' Treatment Provider Claudia Ann Dias, MSC, JD:

"It's mandated that I have the Duluth Domestic Violence Power & Control Wheel prominently displayed in the office where I provide batterers' treatment classes. I do, but with one minor modification -- I drew a circle around it and a line going through it."

[In the Duluth theoretical framework, domestic violence is caused by a patriarchal society that sanctions violence by men against their female partners. Women are assumed to be either victims or, when they are found to aggress against their male partners, to be doing so in self-defense.]

John Hamel, LCSW, a court-certified batterer treatment provider and author of the book *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse*:

"A recent study [published in the journal *Violence and Victims*] analyzed data originally obtained through the National Violence Against Women Survey in the mid-90s...[which was] a study which was designed, conducted and analyzed by feminist researchers.

"Researchers looked at 10,000 respondents who were currently married, and found that adult women are just as controlling and jealous towards their male partners as the other way around.

"They also found that the relationship between use of control and jealousy and physical violence existed equally for both male and female respondents, and that 'intimate terrorists' can be either male or female."

John Hamel, LCSW, a court-certified batterer treatment provider and author of the book *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse*:

"Men account for half of all DV victims and incur a third of DV-related injuries. Ignoring female-on-male violence inhibits our efforts to combat domestic violence."

Dr. Daniel J. Whitaker of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, describing a 2007 study published in the *American Journal of Public Health*:

"[H]alf of [violent relationships] were reciprocally violent. In nonreciprocally violent relationships, women were the perpetrators in more than 70% of the cases."

Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling of the University of South Alabama:

"Every time we tried to say that women's intimate partner abuse is different than men's, the evidence did not support it."

Dr. Donald Dutton, author of *Rethinking Domestic Violence*:

"My independent research as to gender and domestic violence reveals that women use all forms of domestic violence at least as frequently as do men and with very similar effects on male victims."

A meta-analytic review of 552 domestic violence studies published in the *Psychological Bulletin* found that 38% of the physical injuries in heterosexual domestic assaults are suffered by men.

Psychology professor Marlene Moretti of Simon Fraser University:

"Both boys and girls who observe their mothers engaging in violence toward her partners tend to use more violence in their romantic relationships. Moreover, such girls are more likely to be aggressive with their peers."

Murray A. Straus, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director Family Research Laboratory University of New Hampshire:

Additionally, the Violence Against Women Act prohibits VAWA funds from being used to support lobbying activities.

Despite those warnings, VAWA-funded groups have openly lobbied against shared parenting legislation in New Hampshire, California, and elsewhere.

BIASING THE JUDICIARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

VAWA has created widespread bias in the judiciary and law enforcement.

Half of all restraining orders do not include even an *allegation* of physical abuse.⁸ Elaine Epstein, former president of the Massachusetts Bar Association, once noted, “Everyone knows that restraining orders and orders to vacate are granted to virtually all who apply...In many cases, allegations of abuse are now used for tactical advantage.”

VAWA encourages states to enact “primary aggressor” laws that in practice amount to little more than gender profiling.⁹ As a result, the man is automatically arrested, even if he only acted in self-defense:

Former NFL quarterback Warren Moon got into a fight with his wife, the police were called, and Mr. Moon was arrested. The case went to trial against Mrs. Moon's wishes. Placed on the witness stand, Mrs. Moon admitted that she had started the fight by throwing a candlestick. Warren Moon was acquitted.

GROWING PUBLIC OUTCRY

Groups representing all points on the political spectrum are now speaking out against VAWA abuse:

- *Independent Women's Forum*: “Men may become alienated from and hostile to the system in the conviction that it is stacked against them.”
- *Eagle Forum*: “VAWA funds the re-education of judges and law enforcement personnel to teach them...how to ride roughshod over the constitutional rights of men.”
- *Ms. Foundation for Women*: “Unfortunately, when state power has been invited into, or forced into, the lives of individuals, it often takes over.”

- *American Coalition for Fathers and Children*: “Americans’ most fundamental constitutional protections and human rights are violated openly, intentionally, and systematically.”

Now, 50 children’s rights and family preservation organizations around the country are demanding strong Congressional oversight of VAWA programs.¹⁰ These groups are requesting that the Senate Appropriations Committee include report language in the FY2007 appropriations bill requesting the DoJ to provide VAWA utilization statistics by male and female victims.

In addition, the organizations are calling on the Senate Judiciary Committee to promptly hold hearings to investigate the widespread civil rights abuses of VAWA.

Congress originally passed the Violence Against Women Act to address an important social problem. But over the years VAWA has expanded without adequate Congressional oversight or attention to protecting the civil rights of the falsely-accused.

Allowing VAWA waste, fraud, and abuse to continue is no longer an option. We urge Congress to take action now.

RADAR – Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting -- is a non-profit organization of concerned men and women working to assure that the problem of domestic violence is treated in a balanced and effective manner. For more information, visit RADAR's website at www.mediatoradar.org.

¹ SafeHouse plans last appeal of \$483,000 penalty by state. www.mlive.com, June 3, 2006.

² Theft alleged at abuse shelter. Pioneer Press, Feb. 2006.

³ Congressional Record, October 11, 2000, pp. S10191–92.

⁴ [http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/VAWA Abuse-10s1002.pdf](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/VAWA%20Abuse%201002.pdf)

⁵ www.medijs.org/pdf/files/nij_s1000734.pdf.

⁶ www.mediatoradar.org/docs/VAWA-Discriminates-Against-Males.pdf

⁷ Violence Against Women Act, 2005. Section 40002(b)(8).

⁸ www.mediatoradar.org/docs/VAWA-Restraining-Orders.pdf

⁹ www.mediatoradar.org/docs/Justice-Denial-DV-Arrest-Policies.pdf

¹⁰ www.mediatoradar.org/docs/VAWA-Resolution.pdf

Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Widespread Under the Violence Against Women Act

Two weeks ago SafeHouse of Michigan was ordered to repay \$483,000 in federal funds because services it had billed for could not be verified. The order follows the resignation of executive director Susan McGee, who admitted she had falsified federal financial reports to cover up delinquent tax payments.¹

This past May Paulette Wang, former treasurer of Asian Women United in Minnesota, pleaded guilty to stealing \$265,000 from her domestic violence organization. Ms. Wang is scheduled to be sentenced on August 1.²

These two scandals are just the latest examples of the widespread waste, fraud, and abuse involving Violence Against Women Act funds. Repeatedly, the DoJ Violence Against Women Office and VAWA grantees have ignored Congressional mandates, misused grant monies, and violated the federal Anti-Lobbying Act.

DISREGARD OF CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES

When the Violence Against Women Act was renewed in 2000, the Congress directed the DoJ:

“Executive branch agencies responsible for making grants under the Act, as amended, will continue to administer these programs so as to ensure that men who have been victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault will receive benefits and services under the Act.”³

Despite that explicit directive, two years later the DoJ Violence Against Women Office issued guidance stating, “states must fund only programs that focus on violence against women.”⁴ A recent DoJ Solicitation for Proposals specifically prohibited “proposals for research on intimate partner violence against, or stalking of *males of any age...*”⁵

In some cases, state domestic violence councils have refused to admit service providers that focus on male victims. In New Hampshire, the Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence refused to even send a membership application to the Violence

Intervention Program, a service provider for both male and female victims.

VAWA awardees openly and routinely discriminate against male victims of domestic violence.⁶ One director of a Washington state shelter admitted, “Whenever I speak of male abuse, I am met with disbelief and, even worse, laughter.”

One survey of California shelters openly admitted, “Most shelters do not admit males.” In one case a male victim approached 10 southern California shelters asking for help. All turned him away.

Despite explicit language in the current VAWA law,⁷ discrimination against male victims continues to this day.

MISUSE OF GRANT MONIES

The DoJ Office of the Inspector General has repeatedly documented large-scale waste and abuse by VAWA grantees:

- A 2005 audit of Legal Aid of Nebraska identified \$1.3 million in non-allowable and questionable expenses.
- An audit of a grant to the Texas Office of the Governor found that \$852,000 in claimed matching costs could not be documented.
- A DoJ audit of Dane County, WI concluded, “we question \$1,766,964 in grant funds received.” The total amount of the grant award was \$1,771,146. That means over 99% of the total grant expenditures were considered questionable.

Industry insiders reveal that VAWA meetings are often held in five-star hotels where high-priced consultants charge \$10,000 for a single speech.

VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL ANTI-LOBBYING ACT

DoJ grant application kits state, “Under the Anti-Lobbying Act (18 USC 1913), grantees generally may not use funds to support the enactment, repeal, or modification of any law, regulation, or policy at any level of government.”

**REFERENCES EXAMINING ASSAULTS BY WOMEN ON THEIR SPOUSES OR MALE
PARTNERS:
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Martin S. Fiebert
Department of Psychology
California State University, Long Beach**

Last updated: September 2008

SUMMARY: This bibliography examines 246 scholarly investigations: 187 empirical studies and 59 reviews and/or analyses, which demonstrate that women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners. The aggregate sample size in the reviewed studies exceeds 237,750.

Aizenman, M., & Kelley, G. (1988). The incidence of violence and acquaintance rape in dating relationships among college men and women. *Journal of College Student Development*, 29, 305-311. (A sample of actively dating college students <204 women and 140 men> responded to a survey examining courtship violence. Authors report that there were no significant differences between the sexes in self reported perpetration of physical abuse.)

Anderson, K. L. (2002). Perpetrator or victim? Relationships between intimate partner violence and well-being. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 64, 851-863. (Data consisted of 7,395 married and cohabiting heterosexual couples drawn from wave 1 of the National Survey of Families and Households <NSFH-1>. In terms of measures: subjects were asked "how many arguments during the past year resulted in 'you hitting, shoving or throwing things at a partner.' They were also asked how many arguments ended with their partner, 'hitting, shoving or throwing things at you.'" Author reports that, "victimization rates are slightly higher among men than women <9% vs 7%> and in cases that involve perpetration by only one partner, more women than men were identified as perpetrators <2% vs 1%>.")

Archer, J. (2000). Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. *Psychological Bulletin*, 126, 651-680. (Meta-analyses of sex differences in physical aggression indicate that women were more likely than men to "use one or more acts of physical aggression and to use such acts more frequently." In terms of injuries, women were somewhat more likely to be injured, and analyses reveal that 62% of those injured were women.)

Archer, J. (2002). Sex differences in physically aggressive acts between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 7, 213-351. (Analyzing responses to the Conflict Tactic Scale and using a data set somewhat different from the previous 2000 publication, the author reports that women are more likely than men to throw something at their partners, as well as slap, kick, bite, punch and hit with an object. Men were more likely than women to strangle, choke, or beat up their partners.)

Archer, J. (2006). Cross cultural differences in physical aggression between partners: A social-role analysis. *Personality & Social Psychology Review*, 10, 133-153. (A review article which suggests that

Violence Against Men in New Hampshire

A report from the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Every person deserves to live a life free of sexual and physical violence, but the results of the first ever New Hampshire Violence Against Men Survey reveal that is not the reality for thousands of men in our state. Nearly three of four men have been sexually or physically assaulted, a rate that exceeds the last available national average. The majority of sexual violence reported by men in the survey occurred before the victim's 18th birthday; the majority of physical assaults occurred before age 25.

The survey, based on telephone interviews with 1,012 randomly selected men, found that:

- One in 20 New Hampshire men reported being sexually assaulted; over two thirds (68%) of those assaults occurred before the victim's 18th birthday.
- Nearly three quarters of men (71%) reported experiencing a physical assault.
- Nearly one in four men (24%) reported being physically assaulted by an intimate partner.

These findings are consistent with the 2006 New Hampshire Violence Against Women Survey, which found that more than half of all women in our state have been sexually and/or physically assaulted. As with men, women reported that sexual assaults were primarily perpetrated against them in their youth, with 81% of assaults reported in the survey having occurred before age 24.

The high rate of violence against boys and young men is underscored by the fact that even though Violence Against Men

Survey respondents ranged from 18 years old to older than 96, and were asked to report only on the most recent assault, most reported incidents from their childhood. Additional assaults could have occurred at even younger ages.

The high prevalence of violence against men and boys in New Hampshire has costs and consequences that affect the well-being of our communities. Violence against youth, in particular, has long term consequences for health and well being. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study has shown that adverse childhood experiences, including physical and sexual abuse, increase the victim's risk for physical and mental health difficulties, as well as substance abuse problems. The ACE Study findings suggest that childhood abuse is a major risk factor for the leading causes of illness and death, as well as poor quality of life, in the United States.

Fortunately, New Hampshire has a comprehensive network of local programs that provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and an increasing number of men are using those services in recent years. The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence also has a strong history of collaboration with the criminal justice system, the courts, state agencies and other non-profits to improve societal and systemic responses to victims. But services, particularly mental health services, for youth are lacking or non-existent in parts of New Hampshire. New Hampshire cannot ignore the high rates of sexual and physical violence against boys and men, nor America's culture of violence. Specific recommendations to address violence against males are included later in this report.

The Survey

A collaborative project of the University of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, and the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), this survey of violence against men in our state found rates of violence that were higher than the last available national average. Conducted in October and November of 2007, the survey of adult men used questions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and from the National Institute of Justice 1996 National Violence Against Women Survey, which also included a survey of men. The National Violence Against Women Survey is the most recent national data available on the prevalence of sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

It is important to note that this survey measured lifetime prevalence of assaults and did not ask where the assaults occurred. So while New Hampshire has a higher percentage of men currently living in the state who have been assaulted than were found in the national survey, it cannot be concluded that the assaults occurred in New Hampshire.



SEXUAL ASSAULT:

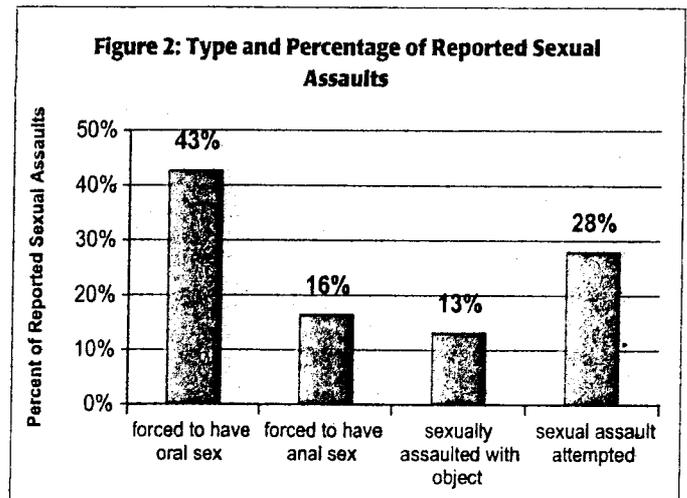
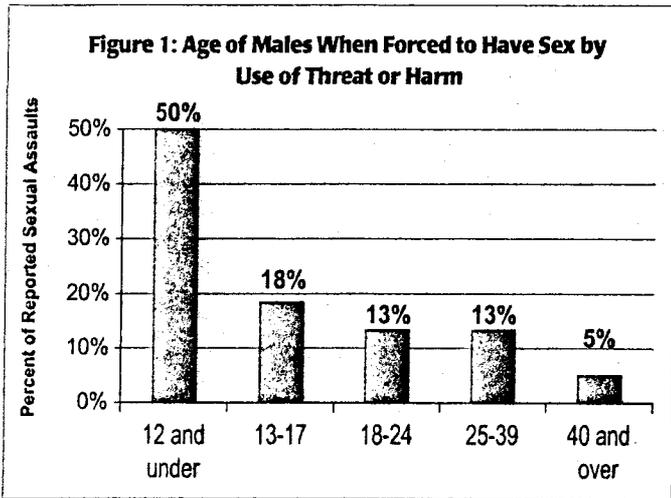
The estimated number of men who have been sexually assaulted could fill the Verizon Wireless Arena more than twice.

The New Hampshire Violence Against Men Survey found that 4.9% of men have been sexually assaulted, including 3.7% of all respondents whose sexual assaults included penetration. This represents approximately 25,000 New Hampshire men who have been sexually assaulted, more than twice as many as it would take to fill the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. These sexual assault rates are higher than those found in the last national survey, in which 3% of men reported having been sexually assaulted with 2.1% reporting being penetrated.

Sexual assault against males is primarily a crime against boys.

Young males are much more likely to be sexually assaulted than are adults. Sixty-eight percent of the most recent sexual assaults committed against men in New Hampshire occurred before the victim was 18. Fifty percent of reported assaults occurred when the victim was age 12 or younger; another 18% occurred between ages 13 and 17. Again, these figures are conservative, since only the most recent assaults were reported (Figure 1).

The sexual assaults reported by survey respondents most frequently involved being forced to engage in oral sex (Figure 2).



PHYSICAL ASSAULT:

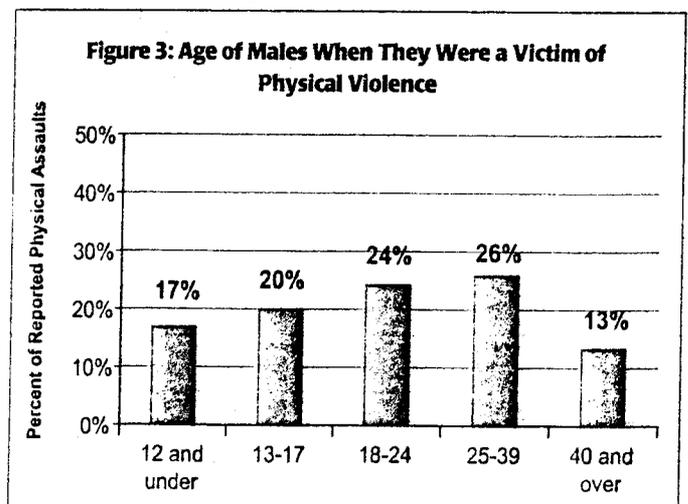
The estimated number of men who have been physically assaulted, standing shoulder to shoulder, would cover the state from Berlin to Manchester.

As with the national survey, the majority of men have experienced some type of physical assault in their lifetime. The New Hampshire survey found that 71% of men reported having been assaulted, which represents an estimated 351,769 men. In the national survey, 66.4% of men reported being physically assaulted.

Physical violence against men affects all age groups, but young men and boys are at greatest risk.

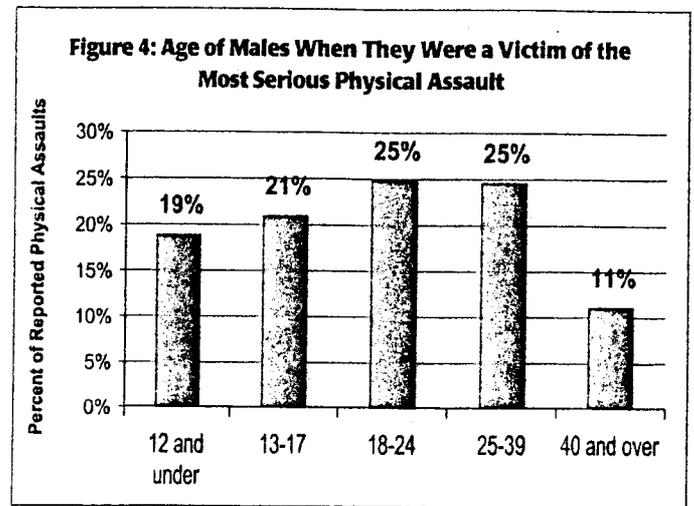
As with sexual violence, there is a higher prevalence of physical assault against boys and young men in New Hampshire than was found in the national survey. Figure 3 shows:

- 17% of reported physical assaults occurred before the respondent was age 13.
- 37% of reported physical assaults occurred before the respondent was age 18.
- 61% of reported physical assaults occurred before the respondent was age 25.



Again, these numbers represent only the most recent physical assault; young men who experienced assault could have also been assaulted as children.

The New Hampshire survey also asked men at what age the most serious physical assault occurred. A serious assault is defined as being kicked, attempted choking or drowning, hit with an object, beat up, threatened with a knife or weapon other than a gun, threatened with a gun, use of a knife or weapon other than a gun, and use of a gun. Responses followed the same pattern with 65% of assaults occurring before the victims' 25th birthdays (Figure 4).

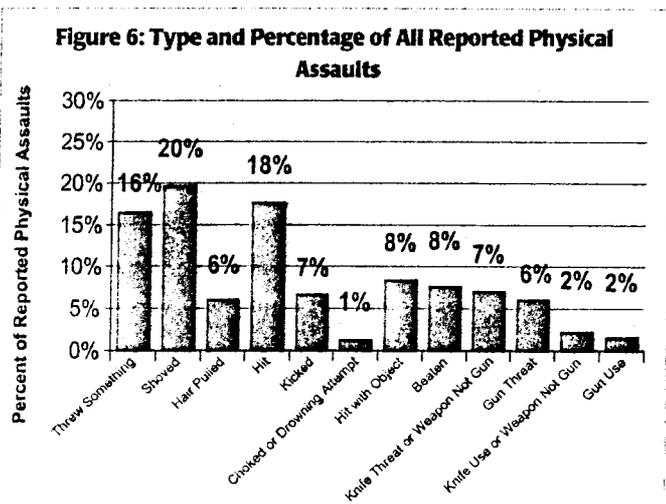
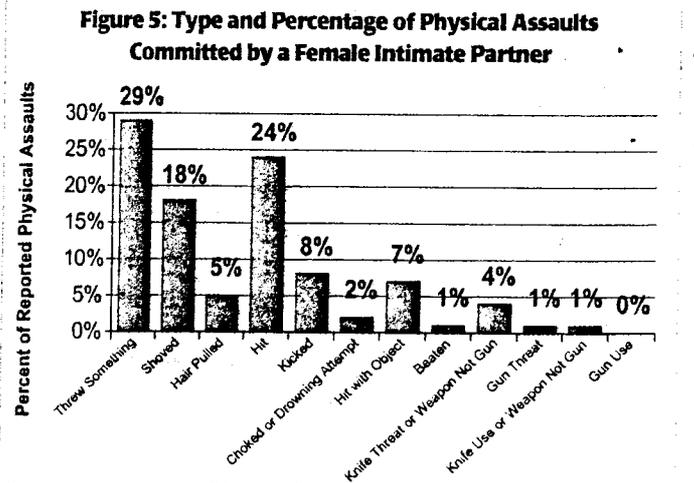


INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:

The estimated number of men who have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner is greater than the population of Manchester, New Hampshire's largest city.

Twenty-four percent of men in the survey reported having been physically assaulted by an intimate partner, defined as a current spouse, ex-spouse, live-in partner or someone the victim was dating. Based on the survey it is estimated that at least 118,908 men in New Hampshire have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner. This number is greater than the population of Manchester by 9,500. Because most survey respondents were heterosexuals, the primary perpetrators of intimate partner violence against men were women. In the New Hampshire Violence Against Women Survey, 33.4% of women reported they had been the victim of an assault by an intimate partner.

The types of assaults by intimate partners reported by men in the survey show that intimate partner assaults are more likely to be less serious types of assault. However, it is important to acknowledge that some men do experience severe forms of violence from intimate partners (Figure 5).



Type and Percentage of All Reported Physical Assaults:

In order to fully understand violence against men and boys in New Hampshire, it is important to know the types of assaults that men report having experienced. Based on the previously reported age of males, the majority of the assaults occurred before the victim was 25 (Figure 6).