

TUSSHU INTERIM FILES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

8. Police can arrest/cannot arrest a battering husband if they have witnessed the assault. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
Can arrest	148	85%
Cannot arrest	21	12%
No answer	6	3%

	Female	Male
Can arrest	85%	94%
Cannot arrest	15%	6%

	High School	Some College	Degree	MA/PHD
Can arrest	95%	85%	79%	94%
Cannot arrest	5%	15%	21%	6%

9. A wife can/may not file charges against her husband for assault. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
May file charges	163	93%
May not file charges	5	3%
No answer	7	4%

10. If arrested, a husband can/cannot be released on bail quickly. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
Can be released quickly	167	95.4%
Cannot be released quickly	4	2.3%
No answer	4	2.3%

11. Bail will usually be low (\$25.00, \$50.00)/high (\$2,000.00, \$5,000.00). (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
Low bail	153	87%
High bail	10	6%
No answer	12	7%

12. A husband released on bail may/may not legally and immediately return home. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
May return home	156	89%
May not return home	9	5%
No answer	10	6%

13. Police are usually supportive/hostile to the battered wife. (N=175)

	Absol. Freq.	Rel. Freq.	Pct.	
Supportive	67	38.3%		
Hostile	95	54.3%		
No answer	13	7.4%		
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
Supportive	32%	67%		
Hostile	68%	33%		
	<u>High School</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>MA/PHD</u>
Supportive	68%	36%	24%	33%
Hostile	32%	64%	76%	67%

14. Police and prosecutors tend to encourage/discourage wives to file charges against battering husbands. (N=175)

	Absol. Freq.	Rel. Freq.	Pct.	
Encourage	55	31%		
Discourage	110	63%		
No answer	10	6%		
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
Encourage	29%	46%		
Discourage	71%	54%		
	<u>High School</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>MA/PHD</u>
Encourage	58%	34%	10%	13%
Discourage	42%	66%	90%	87%

15. Police tend to be supportive/critical of battering husbands. (N=175)

	Absol. Freq.	Rel. Freq.	Pct.	
Supportive	76	43%		
Critical	77	44%		
No answer	22	13%		
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
Supportive	60%	26%		
Critical	40%	74%		
	<u>High School</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>MA/PHD</u>
Supportive	26%	54%	63%	63%
Critical	74%	46%	37%	37%

16. Friends and families are critical/supportive of wives who leave battering husbands. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
Critical	74	42.3%
Supportive	83	47.4%
No answer	18	10.3%

	Female	Male
Critical	50%	41%
Supportive	50%	59%

	High School	Some College	Degree	MA/PHD
Critical	24%	54%	51%	75%
Supportive	76%	46%	49%	25%

17. Friends and families are critical/supportive of wives who stay with battering husbands. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.
Critical	112	64%
Supportive	46	26%
No answer	17	10%

	Female	Male
Critical	73%	67%
Supportive	27%	33%

	High School	Some College	Degree	MA/PHD
Critical	78%	65%	71%	73%
Supportive	22%	35%	29%	27%

18. A woman stays with a man who beats her because; she enjoys it/ she loves him/ she is afraid of him/ she is stupid/ she is emotionally dependent upon him/ she is financially dependent upon him/ because of the children/ she has low self esteem/ she has no place to go/ she does not want her marriage to fail/ she feels helpless/ she hopes things will get better/ she is embarrassed. (Participants were told to check those statements they felt were true.) (N=175)

	Rel.Freq.Pct.	Absol. Freq
She enjoys it.....	21.1%	37
She loves him.....	59.4%	104
She is afraid of him.....	77.7%	136
She is stupid.....	22.9%	40
She is emotionally dependent upon him.....	77.7%	136
She is financially dependent upon him.....	90.9%	159
She stays because of the children.....	85.7%	150
She has low self esteem.....	66.9%	117
She has no place to go.....	82.3%	144
She does not want her marriage to fail.....	60.0%	105
She feels helpless.....	75.4%	132
She hopes things will get better.....	84.6%	148
She is embarrassed.....	69.7%	122

18. Continued - A woman stays because:	Female	Male
She enjoys it.....	18%	29%
She loves him.....	57%	67%
She is afraid of him.....	79%	75%
She is stupid.....	17%	40%
Emotionally dependent upon him.....	81%	71%
Financially dependent upon him.....	95%	81%
Because of Children.....	85%	90%
Has low self esteem.....	71%	57%
No place to go.....	89%	67%
Does not want marriage to fail.....	54%	77%
Feels helpless.....	80%	65%
Hopes things will get better.....	84%	88%
She is embarrassed.....	71%	67%

	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/ PHD
She enjoys it.....	13%	11%	39%	35%
She loves him.....	49%	55%	73%	65%
She is afraid of him.....	63%	82%	84%	88%
She is stupid.....	24%	8%	36%	35%
Emotionally dependent upon him....	73%	69%	86%	94%
Financially dependent upon him....	88%	90%	93%	100%
Because of children.....	81%	86%	89%	100%
Has low self esteem.....	49%	66%	79%	94%
No place to go.....	73%	82%	93%	94%
Does not want marriage to fail....	56%	55%	64%	82%
Feels helpless.....	66%	76%	77%	100%
Hopes things will get better.....	83%	82%	89%	94%
She is embarrassed.....	54%	68%	82%	100%

19. A man beats a woman because; he is mentally ill/ he uses drugs or alcohol/ society accepts violence/ he can't communicate verbally/ sexual problems/ poor self-image/ frustration/ because of changes (pregnancy, wife working, move, etc.)/ because he has learned to use violence as a way to solve problems/ because he feels it is his right (she belongs to him)/ because he feels it is a safe (legally) outlet for anger. (N=175)

	Rel. Freq.	Pct.	Absol Fre
He is mentally ill.....	57%	100	
He uses drugs or alcohol.....	74%	129	
Society accepts violence.....	51%	89	
He can't communicate verbally.....	74%	130	
He has sexual problems.....	54%	95	
He has poor self-image.....	81%	141	
He is frustrated.....	90%	158	
Changes (pregnancy, wife working, move, etc.)....	63%	111	
Has learned violence as way to solve problems....	78%	136	
Feels it is his right (she belongs to him).....	72%	126	
Feels it is safe outlet for anger (legally).....	53%	93	

19. Continued - A man beats because:	Female	Male
He is mentally ill.....	57%	62%
He uses drugs or alcohol.....	75%	75%
Society accepts violence.....	57%	40%
He can't communicate verbally.....	77%	71%
He has sexual problems.....	55%	60%
He has poor self-image.....	87%	67%
He is frustrated.....	91%	92%
Changes (pregnancy, wife working, move, etc)	66%	58%
Learned violence to solve problems.....	85%	63%
Feels it is his right.....	82%	50%
Feels it is safe outlet.....	58%	44%

	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/PHD
He is mentally ill.....	53%	52%	66%	71%
He uses drugs or alcohol.....	75%	67%	82%	82%
Society accepts violence.....	30%	46%	71%	71%
He can't communicate verbally.....	61%	74%	82%	88%
He has sexual problems.....	56%	47%	67%	65%
He has poor self-image.....	76%	75%	91%	100%
He is frustrated.....	93%	92%	91%	94%
Changes (wife working, move, etc.).	56%	54%	77%	88%
Learned violence to solve problems.	66%	75%	93%	88%
Feels it is his right.....	61%	72%	82%	88%
Feels it is safe outlet.....	44%	47%	71%	53%

20. Men who beat their wives never/sometimes/always beat their children. (N=175)

	Absol. Freq.	Rel. Freq. Pct.
Never	2	1%
Sometimes	154	88%
Always	12	7%
No answer	7	4%

21. A man has/does not have the right to control his wife and her actions. (N=175)

	Absol. Freq.	Rel. Freq. Pct.
Has right to control	23	13%
Does not have right to control	142	81%
No answer	10	6%

	Female	Male
Has right to control	7%	32%
Does not have right to control	93%	68%

	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/PHD
Has right to control	21%	14%	5%	12%
Does not have right to control	79%	86%	95%	88%

22. It is/is not acceptable to slap one's spouse on appropriate occasions. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.				
Is acceptable to slap	19	11%				
Is not acceptable to slap	150	86%				
No answer	6	3%				
	Female	Male				
Is acceptable to slap	7%	24%				
Is not acceptable to slap	93%	76%				
	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/PHD		
Is acceptable to slap	13%	8%	10%	18%		
Is not acceptable to slap	87%	92%	90%	82%		

23. Men beat their wives because they drink/drink because they want to beat their wives(an excuse). (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.				
Beat because they drink	124	71%				
Drink because they want to beat	50	29%				
	Female	Male				
Beat because they drink	84%	93%				
Drink because they want to beat	34%	39%				
	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/PHD		
Beat because they drink	91%	86%	92%	60%		
Drink because they want to beat	32%	23%	46%	60%		

24. I have/have never been violent toward my spouse (slapped, hit, pushed, beaten, etc.). (N=158)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.Pct.				
I have been violent to spouse	40	25%				
I have not been violent to spouse	101	64%				
No answer	17	11%				
	Female	Male				
I have been vio. nt to spouse	25%	30%				
I have not been violent to spouse	75%	70%				
	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/PHD		
I have been violent to spouse	27%	29%	15%	43%		
I have not been violent to spouse	73%	71%	85%	57%		

25. My spouse has/has never been violent toward me. (N=158)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.	Pct.	
My spouse has been violent to me	49		31%	
My spouse has not been violent to me	90		57%	
No answer	19		12%	
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
My spouse has been violent to me	31%		35%	
My spouse has not been violent to me	69%		65%	
	<u>High School</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>4 yr. Degree</u>	<u>MA/PHD</u>
Spouse has been violent to me	31%	38%	18%	47%
Spouse has not been violent to me	69%	62%	82%	53%

26. There was/was no violence within my parent's marriage. (N=158)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.	Pct.	
Was violence in parent's marriage	46		29%	
Was no violence in parent's marriage	110		70%	
No answer	2		1%	
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
Was violence in parent's marriage	23%		38%	
Was no violence in parent's marriage	77%		62%	
	<u>High School</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>4 yr. Degree</u>	<u>MA/PHD</u>
Violence in parent's marriage	23%	34%	16%	35%
No violence in parent's marriage	77%	66%	84%	65%

27. There is/is no shelter for a battered wife and her children available in Anchorage, Alaska. (N=175)

	Absol.Freq.	Rel.Freq.	Pct.
There is a shelter	154		88%
There is no shelter	13		7%
No answer	8		5%
	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>
There is a shelter	91%		96%

DISCUSSION

The results of this survey have been both encouraging and discouraging. They are encouraging in that a reasonably large percentage of those surveyed seem to have a good understanding of the problems of wife battery and a fairly good knowledge of the problem. The discouraging aspect is that wife battery, as a problem, seems to be alive and well and the knowledge and understanding of the problem do not seem to have reduced the extent of the problem, within the population of this survey.

Seventy-six percent of the respondents of this survey acknowledged that wife battery occurs frequently, however, a larger percentage of women (85%) seemed to be aware of it than men (58%). Ninety-two percent realized that the problem exists locally, nationally and world wide. Ninety-four percent acknowledged that wife battery occurs in the lower and middle socioeconomic class, however, only 86% realized that it happens in the upper class too. Men and those who had only completed high school had more difficulty accepting wife battery within the upper socioeconomic class than women or those with more advanced education. The overall results, however, are very encouraging in view of the fact that as recently as 1976, wife battery was unacknowledged and rarely discussed in Anchorage as well as the rest of the country.

Eighty-three percent of the N realize that wife battery is a crime, but 99% realize that it is seldom reported. It is interesting to note that of those who felt that wife battery was legal, 25% held graduate degrees, as compared with 13% with a high school education, 10% with some college and 15% with a four year degree. It is especially interesting since those with graduate degrees experienced the highest level of violence to spouse or violence by spouse on this survey.

Eighty-two percent of the N are aware that "domestic disturbance calls are dangerous for police. The 1974 FBI statistics showing that 22%, or one out of every five police officers, is killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

There is some confusion as to when and if a police officer may make an arrest for wife battery. A previous survey I conducted in 1977 showed similar results. That survey also indicated some confusion as to whether wife battery is a misdemeanor or a felony. This would seem to be an area where the public needs further information and/or education.

Other legalities seem to be well understood by the participants. A woman may file charges against her husband (93%), he can be released on bail quickly (95%), his bail will usually be low (87%) and he may legally return home immediately (89%).

Results regarding the questions as to whether the police are supportive or hostile to battered wives or to battering husbands are mixed. Thirty-eight percent feel police are supportive to battered wives and 43% feel police are supportive of battering husbands. Not surprisingly, men (67%) outnumbered women (32%) in feeling that police supported battered wives. Women (60%), on the other hand, outnumber men (26%) in feeling that police supported battering husbands. Hopefully, through training and workshops for police, the trend is changing, however, in the past, police have been generally supportive of husbands and hostile to battered wives. Commander James Bannon, Detroit Police Department wrote, "Those of us in law enforcement, who are the first official representatives of government to respond to violence in the home, are socialized in precisely the same manner as the citizens we are expected to protect. Policemen, as are most males, are taught self reliance, "fight your own battles," philosophy from the cradle. Similarly we are socialized into the conscious perceptions of masculine-feminine roles. In our society this process translates into dominance-submission terms. The man is boss, the owner, the female the subordinate."

"It is amazing to me that we are seemingly unaware of the extreme paradox of delegating to police officers the role of arbiters of family disputes. Of all the non-athletic occupations none is so absorbed with the use of physical coercive force as that of police officers. Nor are any

more thoroughly socialized in their masculine role images."

"This paradox suggests to me that traditionally trained and socialized policemen are the worst possible choice to attempt to intervene in domestic violence. The known physical propensities may in fact reinforce the perceived legitimacy of the use of violence." ¹

Only 63% of the N were aware that police and prosecutors have tended to discourage wives in their attempts to file charges against their husbands. Much of the socialized masculine-feminine, man boss, woman subordinate that Commander Bannon speaks of would apply in this area. Prosecutors would also cite the number of wives who withdraw their charges. Until recently, prosecutors have been oblivious to the fact that bail was quick and low and a husband's return home was an immediate fact. The wife was then faced with having to live with and depend upon, for food and shelter, a man whom she had brought criminal charges against. Little wonder that she soon dropped her charges.

Response was generally mixed as to whether friends and families were critical or supportive of wives who stayed and those wives who left. I don't know of any studies

1. James Bannon, Ph.D., "Law Enforcement Problems With Intra-Family Violence", paper presented to The American Bar Association Convention, August 12, 1975.

that have been done in this area, however, in interviews that I conducted with battered wives in 1976, I found the wives greatly relieved that the subject was being brought into the open. Their experience had been that they were not believed, friends and family had not wanted to get involved if they did believe, or they were told that wives had to expect such behavior from their husbands from time to time. Their experience was that friends were a little more willing to help them than families were. Families seemed to feel that keeping the marriage together, a "home" for the children, was more important than the safety of the woman. Hopefully the publicity that has been directed at this subject in the past three years has helped to change some attitudes. Forty-two percent of the N felt that family and friends were critical of wives who left and 64% of the N felt that family and friends were critical of wives who stayed.

There was a generally good understanding of the reasons why a woman would stay with a man who beat her.

91%	She is financially dependent upon him.
86%	Because of the children.
85%	She hopes things will get better.
82%	She has no place to go.
78%	She is afraid of him.
78%	She is emotionally dependent upon him.
75%	She feels helpless.
70%	She is embarrassed.
67%	She has low self esteem.
60%	She does not want her marriage to fail.
59%	She loves him.
23%	She is stupid
21%	She enjoys it.

It is heartening to note that the old myth that "she enjoys it" has lost much of its popular support. It should be noted, however, that the breakdown by sex follows the socialized trend of women's opinion of men and men's opinion of women.

I will submit the responses to why a man beats a woman with very little comment, mostly because there is practically no literature on the subject. Persons concerned with wife battery were concerned with safety for the women in the form of shelters or safe houses and also with generating publicity about the problem. It was a matter of priorities, and working with the batterer was down on the list. Those few researchers who did try to get information found that it was difficult because most of the men felt they were not doing anything wrong, did not have a problem and weren't about to be studied, interviewed or counseled. This past year has brought some changes and improvement in the situation, but the results are not in yet. Results of this survey were:

90%	Because of frustration.
81%	Because of poor self-image.
78%	He has learned violence as way to solve problems.
74%	Because of drugs and alcohol.
74%	Because he can't communicate verbally.
72%	Because he feels it is his right (she belongs to him)
63%	Because of changes (pregnancy, wife working, move, etc.)
57%	Because he is mentally ill.
54%	Because of sexual problems.
53%	Because he feels it is safe outlet for anger (legally).
51%	Because society accepts violence.

Again, the breakdown by sex follows the socialized trend of thinking of men about women and women about men.

Most of the respondents (88%) realized that men who beat their wives would sometimes beat their children, but there is no absolute answer for this question.

The majority of those surveyed (81%) did not feel that a man has the right to control his wife or her actions. Of the 13% who felt that a man does have that right, 7% were women and 32% were men. This question is significant because wife battery has its roots in the philosophy that women are property and can and should be controlled by their owners - men. There was much vacillation of respondents while answering this question. I tend, therefore, to question whether the answers reflect actual feelings of respondents or views that they feel they should hold. A breakdown, by age, of those who feel a man has the right to control his wife is as follows:

18-23 years	19%
24-30 years	38%
31-39 years	14%
40-49 years	29%
50-58 years	0%

The survey I conducted in 1977 tended to show the same results and the same vacillation in answering. It is possible further exploration into this question could result in an interesting study.

In October, 1968, Louis Harris and Associates conducted a poll for the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. The poll consisted of 1,176 interviews with American adults. Results showed that one-fifth of the respondents approved of slapping one's spouse on "appropriate" occasions. Sixteen percent of those with eight years of schooling or less approved and 25% of college-educated people approved of a husband slapping his wife.²

2. Del Martin, Battered Wives, (San Francisco: Glide Publications, 1976, p. 19-20.

The results of the survey just completed indicates some improvement in that only 11% of those surveyed approved of "slapping".

The Harris data was further analyzed and found that 25% of the males and 16% of the females interviewed approved of "slapping". The recent survey indicated that male attitudes had not changed much with 24% showing approval of "slapping". Female attitudes had changed considerably with only 7% of the recent survey indicating approval.

It would seem, however, that this question is rather academic, since some who indicated approval of "slapping" did not resort to violent behavior, or did not admit to violent behavior, and others who indicated disapproval of "slapping" indicated that they and/or their spouse had indulged in violent behavior.

The Harris Poll indicated that acceptance of "slapping" rose with the education level. My survey indicated that 13% of those with a high school education approved. The approval rate then dropped to 8% for those with some college, rose to 10% for those with a four year degree and peaked at 18% for those with graduate degrees.

Alcohol is often involved in wife battery and has long been

thought to be the cause of much of the violence. Many alcohol abusers are not wife abusers, however, and Dr. Richard Gelles believes, "One possible explanation is that cause and effect are the reverse of what is commonly supposed. Instead of men beating their wives because they've been drinking, they drink because they want to beat their wives.....Also, alcohol can serve as an excuse in retrospect; it's not that something is wrong in the family, it's 'demon rum' that's to blame."³

The participants in this survey still seem to believe that alcohol is the cause rather than the excuse for wife battery, 71% indicating that men beat their wives because they drink.

A recent (1976-77) survey was conducted by Professors Murray A. Straus (University of New Hampshire), Richard J. Gelles (University of Rhode Island) and Suzanne K. Steinmetz (University of Delaware) under a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. The survey consisted of a national representative sample of 2,143 families. Results of the survey showed that slightly over one out of six couples - an estimated seven and a half million couples - had a violent episode during the survey year. Taking the entire duration of the marriage, the figure is over one quarter of all American couples (28%) or about 13 million couples. Professor Straus feels that there is a 95% chance that if the entire U.S. population had been interviewed, the figures for spousal violence would fall between 26 and 30 percent.

3. Susan Edmiston, "The Wife Beaters", Woman's Day, March 1976, p.110

Straus and Gelles both feel that underreporting occurred and so the figures could be considerably larger than those revealed by the survey or somewhere around 50 or 60 percent of all couples having hit each other at least once.⁴

The results of my survey tend to confirm the Straus, Gelles, Steinmetz survey. Twenty-five percent of the respondents indicated that they have been violent to their spouse, 31% indicated that their spouse had been violent to them, and 29% indicated that there had been violence within their parents marriage. Twenty-seven percent of the participants had experienced violence in only one of the above mentioned ways, 20% had experienced violence in two areas and 7% had experienced violence in all three areas (they were violent, their spouse was violent and their parents were violent).

The results indicate that persons most likely to escape family violence are those with a four year degree, however, those with graduate degrees experienced the highest incidence of violence.

	High School	Some College	4 yr. Degree	MA/PhD
I have been violent to my spouse	27%	29%	15%	43%
My spouse has been violent to me	31%	38%	18%	47%

The answers to these questions generated other questions that I should have included such as whether the respondent initiated

4. Professors Murray A. Straus, Richard J. Gelles, Suzanne K. Steinmetz, "National Survey Finds High Level of Violence in American Families" January 25, 1977.

the violence or responded to it. Several of the questionnaires had notes that the respondent had acted in self defense. It would seem that despite over two years of study regarding this problem, despite helping to establish a shelter and acting as a Board Member and despite many speaking engagements to inform the public about wife battery, it took the response to this survey, my survey, to convince me that when dealing with the general public, I am dealing with battered wives and should ask questions accordingly.

Respondents indicated that 29% of them had witnessed violence within their parents' marriage. Much has been written to indicate that violence in the family is intergenerational, however, the results of this survey indicate that only 11% of those who witnessed violence within their parents marriage had violence within their own lives. Twenty-three percent of those who experienced violence in their own lives had not experienced violence within their parents marriage.

The last question on the survey questionnaire indicated that the majority (88%) of the respondents were aware that there is a shelter for battered wives and their children in Anchorage.

SUMMARY

The results of this survey indicated that the majority of respondents are aware that wife battery is an extensive problem in our country as well as throughout the world. They basically

understand the legalities of the problem, but were somewhat confused as to when and if a police officer could make an arrest for wife battery. There were also mixed feelings as to whether the police were supportive of battered wives or battering husbands. The same mixed feelings applied to friends and families.

There was a generally good understanding of the reasons why a woman would stay with a man who beat her. Some of the old myths (she enjoys it or she is stupid) seem to have lost much support.

Only 13% of those surveyed felt that a man has the right to control his wife. Seven percent of these were women and 32% were men.

Eleven percent of those surveyed felt that "slapping one's spouse on "appropriate" occasions was acceptable. This was some improvement over the one-fifth approval rate shown in a 1968 Harris Poll. The approval rate for men had not changed much, however, with the Harris Poll showing 25% approval and my survey showing 24% approval. The approval rate for women had changed considerably, however, the Harris Poll showing 16% approval for women and 7% approval for women in my survey.

A recent survey conducted by Professors Murray A. Straus, Richard J. Gelles and Suzanne K. Steinmetz showed that slightly over one out of six couples - an estimated seven and a half million couples - had a violent episode during the survey year.

Taking the entire duration of the marriage, the figure is over one quarter of all American couples (28%) or about 13 million couples. These figures do not consider the possibility of underreporting, which could send the figures higher.

My survey would tend to confirm the Straus, Gelles, Steinmetz survey. Twenty-five percent of the respondents indicated that they have been violent to their spouse, 31% indicated that their spouse had been violent to them and 29% indicated that there had been violence within their parents marriage.

Rocky

Accent

Erasing Myths and Helping Battered Women

It's a crime for men to beat up women.

So, in the first year of the Battered Women's Project in the City Attorney's office, charges were filed against 318 "batterers" in response to 871 police reports. There are 186 cases pending.

Sally Buckley, coordinator of the project, believes her office has helped many women who had been battered and, in the long run, may help the husbands or lovers who battered

Sally Raleigh

them. The office was established last June.

Courting is the name of the game. Her office counsels the victims, telling them their legal rights. It finds temporary shelters where they can live, refers them to agencies for long-term counseling and sometimes gets "no-contact" orders. These are comparable to restraining orders.

Prosecutors in the City Attorney's office rarely seek jail terms for the offenders. The man who is taken to court often is given a suspended or deferred sentence on the condition that he goes to counseling -- to learn why he batters, to understand his problems or perhaps for alcoholism.

A major deterrent to prosecution always has been that victims -- virtually all of them women -- have had second thoughts and refused to testify, sometimes just by not showing up in court.

Buckley is pleased that, of those contacted and counseled by the project, 191 did prosecute successfully.

Yet, she says, the figures aren't everything.

"We are like a stairway. We need to be there for these women to let them know they have support. But the counseling, the learning to control their lives, is such a long process."

Buckley is one of many who believes "crime" should be the word up front, that criminal charges probably will be the biggest deterrent.

A domestic abuse case starts when the woman calls the police. Reports are screened and project aides follow up by contacting victims by telephone,



SALLY BUCKLEY COORDINATES A PROJECT TO HELP BATTERED WOMEN
She feels criminal charge will be biggest deterrent

by meeting them before the court hearing, attending the hearing with them and finally, by following through.

Buckley says, "We do some of the basics. We find out if they are safe, if they need another place to live, if they need medical care. We check out their physical and emotional conditions."

"We give them information and explain their legal rights. Many women still believe they have to get a divorce to prosecute the men. They don't."

"A lot of our work is throwing out myths about the law," says Buckley, who is a lawyer.

Buckley's tone of voice shows that she -- like almost all those who work with battered women -- doesn't believe what she knows to be true.

She says, "One of the phenomena of battered women is that they minimize, or don't recognize, what has happened to them. Many don't want to get the man in trouble. We have to challenge that dependency, the women protecting the men."

Buckley explains that the stereotype of the batterer is of a macho man. "But he is a man who doesn't have high self-esteem. He sees himself as a victim in the world. He can't deal with his stresses. Instead of relaxing,

perhaps by physical exercise like the rest of us, he hits.

"Batterers come from all racial backgrounds, all ages and all economic groups. They are professional and working-class and so are the victims."

"The women victims also have low self-esteem, even though one may be a lawyer with professional self-esteem."

Joanne Pritchett, a project aide, adds, "Women say, 'He didn't really hurt me, I just have a black eye' because they're not in the hospital with broken bones. They also want to protect the men from the outside world. And they're afraid everything will get

worse if the men find out they told someone."

Buckley says the women apologize for their men, explaining they've been abused only three times in 10 years, or saying the men acted under stress. They say, "We're going to take a vacation and everything will be OK."

But battering isn't only a black eye or broken bones. Buckley explains there are three other types. One is psychological -- name calling and using degrading terms. Or there may be actions to hurt or destroy the woman's property or anything dear to her. That could be children, an animal, even a plant. Sexual battering may be violent insistence on having sex, sometimes after a beating.

"The point of it is power," Buckley says. "He is showing that he has power over her. There probably are many more cases of sexual violence that we don't get reports on."

Often the woman is not the only victim. Buckley says Federal Bureau of Investigation figures show that more police officers are injured during domestic violence calls than in any other crime.

Police often have been charged with indifference, even with not answering such calls.

Buckley says, "Seattle police, for the most part, have reacted favorably and responsibly in the year I've been working with them. They don't give women verbal static or put them down for calling. But it does happen, sometimes. I have a couple of reports where police laughed at the victims."

"But it's the police, or community-service officers, who take the women to shelters and hospitals. It's important that police everywhere open their minds to the fact that this is one more crime in the community. It affects families and children."

"If these women have support from the police and the prosecutors, if they get peace and safety, if they are treated as they would be in any other assault, things would change for the better. It can't all be left to the victim."

Increasingly, the victims in this community are getting more help and more people are caring.

Buckley lists the protection and counseling groups such as Evergreen

Legal Services, Salvation Army social services and its Catherine Booth House shelter, the Abused Women's Network and the domestic violence project at Group Health Hospitals, among others. There are shelters and "safe homes" where victims can "hide out."

Buckley says her project can't go back to the causes of violent behavior. The alternative is to teach the batterer, by counseling or a jail term, that "society no longer will accept this behavior in the family. He must be taught how to handle his stress and anger."

"We are in the prosecutor's office and are in the role of adversary to the batterer. We also have a role in sentencing and probation. We can recommend help for him. And we work with psychiatrists and counselors to find out why people batter."

"Few recognize and do something about these problems. It is the goal of being taken to court that gets them to counseling. Then there's at least a year of consistent counseling and follow-through needed. It's hopeful but it's not easy or quick."

Buckley gets up-tight with policemen and judges who expect that women victims won't show up in court to testify against the men who battered them.

She counters, "When a woman calls the police, she recognizes what is happening and that no one has the right to do these things to her."

"People don't understand why a woman takes it but often the batterer makes sure she has no control of her environment. She doesn't have control of finances, of places to go, her meals and even her sleep may be interrupted."

"These women are not born losers. But they often see themselves as losers. 'No power, no self-esteem equals loser.' It's subtle."

Buckley doesn't have any figures on whether these cases of domestic violence are between married or unmarried couples.

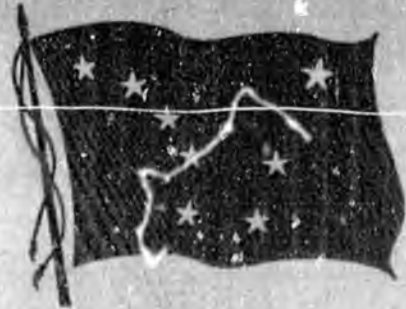
Her staff is federally paid and includes Pritchett, Diane Priest and Barbara Daniels -- plus volunteers.

Next to more shelters, more safe homes and more help for battered women, Buckley would like more volunteers.

SAVE

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Unseen, violence occurs almost daily within Fairbanks families



Domestic violence First of a series

Linda was married at 17. Her eldest child is five; the youngest less than a year. A third is somewhere in between. She and her husband split before the last baby was born. Hurting for money, she moved in with two other young women and took up with another man. She is now trying to make up for lost time. She is often out all night, leaving her children to fend for themselves. Linda is termed "marginally neglectful."

Rita and her boyfriend argued when she announced that she wanted to go home. He didn't want her to leave Alaska. He lost his temper. They yelled. Finally he shoved her through a window. The next night it was worse. More yelling and fighting. He punched her. He beat her. He broke her nose. He threatened to scar her for life. A neighbor called police and they arrested him after Rita signed a citizen's arrest form. After three and a half months in jail awaiting trial, he pleaded guilty to assault.

Jan had been threatened and was not comfortable home alone. Her son-in-law sometimes called her late at night, threatening to harm her. So she asked a friend to stay with her, to comfort and protect her. Three months ago, her son-in-law fulfilled his promise. He shot dead Jan and friend Bill, and then himself.

By DAVID RAMSEUR
Staff Writer

The names in the first two incidents are made up but all three situations are real. They are just a few examples of what many in Fairbanks agree is a deadly serious problem—domestic violence. And it's getting worse.

"It's a problem that's getting worse and will continue to get worse," says Fairbanks District Attorney Harry Davis, who sees nearly 30 assault cases a month. He says most of those involve domestic violence.

Fairbanks was shocked this spring when well-known artist Bill Berry and Jan Tedesco, a friend whom he was trying to protect, were shot dead on a city street. Reaction ranged from sorrow to rage. The shooting focused attention on Fairbanks' hidden issue of domestic violence.

Almost every day in the Fairbanks area, statistics show, an act of domestic violence is committed. It may be as comparatively mild as a child neglected by a mother or as serious as a fatal wife-beating.

Chances are it's something in between.

• In July alone, Women in Crisis-Counseling and Assistance, a part private, part public local social service and emergency shelter group, counseled 28 battered women. That's nearly one a day.

• A recent national study indicates that one-sixth of all American couples each year experience "a violent episode" ranging from an impulsive slap to homicide.

• The average child-abuse caseload of a state social worker in the Interior-Fairbanks and points north—was 61 in January. There are 13 case workers employed in Fairbanks by the state Department of Health and Social Services.

• There were about 2,000 child abuse and neglect cases in Alaska in 1973. Nationally, an estimated 1 million children are the subject of abuse and neglect each year.

Domestic violence is rarely the topic at cocktail parties, city council meetings or police conventions. Perhaps it should be, say experts who know the scope of the problem.

Domestic violence, unlike many other crimes and social ills, cuts across class lines. Several years ago, Fairbanks' city attorney was convicted and sentenced to six months in jail for beating his wife so severely she lay in a hospital bed for several months before regaining consciousness.

In North Carolina, the wife of a high state Republican party official was recently acquitted of killing her husband. Testimony during her trial

indicated that he beat her regularly for years.

And everyone, it seems, has some personal knowledge of an act of domestic violence.

Domestic violence defies definition. To feminist groups that exist to battle it, it represents oppression of women. To police, it's a complex, elusive crime sometimes more easily ignored than faced.

To those who commit it, experts say, it's a way to show attention, frustration and superiority. And to the victim, it can be a painful, terrifying and emotion-wrenching experience.

"If you let it run its full course," WIC-CA Director Carla Slaughter says of wife beating, "you can end up dead."

Domestic violence is not unique to Alaska.

But there is something about Alaska, and specifically Fairbanks, that experts suggest contributes to a particular pattern of domestic violence unlike any other place in the country.

Alaska, asserts Slaughter, "attracts a lot of macho, he-man woodsmen types." They tend to express anger through violence and feel that they're justified in striking out at girlfriends and wives.

"The consequences of smacking the boss are too severe," she says, "but not your wife."

From the DA's office, Davis adds: "We live in a very violent community. It's a product of our western environment."

Frustrations build up in interior Alaska more quickly than outside, says Jim Fox, regional social service manager with the state Department of Health and Social Services. His is the primary government agency for child abuse cases.

Fox says Alaska tends to attract a high percentage of individuals rather

than families, he says, and the reliance on relatives elsewhere diminishes here.

"You can't ask grandma how she did it (raised children), so who do you turn to?" he says.

Winters that force isolation for long periods, especially in the more isolated Bush, also contribute to domestic violence. "Being trapped indoors with a bunch of young kids tends to drive you up the wall," says Fox.

Fox says Fairbanks has more than its share of social service agencies but they go unused. "They'll look down on you or take your kids away," he says is the typical reaction to his agency.

As has been the experience elsewhere such as West Virginia during periods of economic depression, crime rises as jobs run out.

According to chief State Trooper investigator C.R. McCoy, the number of thefts has risen dramatically since the pipeline peak in 1976. More unemployed workers mean more idle time. And more unemployed people mean more thefts, he says.

Though statistics are unavailable to prove the point, the theory apparently applies to crimes of domestic violence as well, says McCoy. More unemployed workers mean more domestic crime.

But all of those factors, the experts say, are relatively minor when compared to alcohol—the single most significant cause of domestic violence in the area.

The annual U.S. consumption rate of alcohol per person in 1975 was 2.9 gallons. In Alaska during the same period it was 4.5 gallons.

Fairbanks police Sgt. J.B. Carnahan estimates that 90 per cent of his department's domestic disturbance cases involve alcohol. The 1979 Health Systems Plan for Northern Alaska flatly states: "Children are frequently abused by adults with alcohol problems."

According to Ellen Ganley, program director for the Fairbanks Native Association's alcohol program, alcoholism in the area is "a big problem. Much bigger than your average Fairbanks citizen can imagine. That you see on Second Avenue is only 5 per cent. Tops."

For Thursday: an interview with a victim of domestic violence.



TURMOIL AT HOME—Domestic violence has its effect on the children, who often feel unwanted and responsible for their parents' fighting. A recent study indicates that one-sixth of all American couples each year experience "a violent episode," ranging from an occasional slap to homicide. In Fairbanks, domestic violence is a serious problem and it's getting worse, experts say.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

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Miner

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20 Pages

For the victim, the pain and anguish fade slowly

By DAVID RAMSEUR
Staff Writer

We'll call her Susan. She's a Fairbanks housewife. Her husband works up north, returning home for visits every few weeks. She has friends in town and keeps busy while her husband is away.

Typical? Not quite:
Her husband beats her.

The most recent beating a few months ago resulted in four fractured ribs and a dislocated shoulder. She was flat on her back for several days recovering from the intense pain, and she still has nightmares.

She agreed to talk with the News-Miner anonymously. She said she hopes it will help other women "who are afraid to talk about it."

Susan, 39, was raised in Nome but resettled in Anchorage where she lived for nearly 20 years before moving to Fairbanks two years ago. She came here with her boyfriend, whom she later married, because they thought it would be easier to find work.

It wasn't.

"My husband had been out of work for six months. His relatives were pressuring him, and when they do that there is nobody for him to pick on besides me," she said of events leading up to the first beating.

When he finally landed a job, he expected her to be home when he got there.

One day late this May, he returned home from work and found the house empty. Susan was visiting relatives, helping them with their own family problems. In the past he had come home drunk after a few hours at the bars and she wanted to give him time to cool off.

"This is the second time I had run away because I don't like to be with him when he has been drinking," she said. "He just completely loses control of himself."

When she finally arrived home, the questioning began. Then yelling. He demanded to know where she had been. Her explanation didn't help.

"He started beating me," she said. "I begged him to stop it. He just kept beating me on my stomach."

It didn't stop until a passerby heard the screaming and called police. They took her to the hospital emergency room. After she signed a citizen's arrest form, her husband went to jail.

The police told Susan about Women in Crisis-Counseling and Assistance. She called them from the hospital. She



Domestic violence

Second of a series

spent the next month at the WICCA shelter for abused women.

That beating was not the first Susan has received from a husband. Her first husband was a fisherman in the Aleutians. At first, the marriage was good one, despite frustrations.

They moved to his home island where "it took me a while to get used to their way of living." When the fishing was good, there was money and they were happy. But the money also led to trouble: alcohol.

"They fished from May to October and he made enough money to stay drunk all winter long," she recalled. "Half the time I didn't know where he was at and I don't see him for two weeks because he don't come home."

The situation worsened.

Three years later, drinking led to arguments and finally, violence. "He beat me with anything. One time he even threw his father at me." He put her in the hospital three times.

Susan tried her best to tolerate it. "He kept telling me that he wouldn't do it again," she said, regret in her voice. "He did pretty good for a while. But fishermen get together and they have a big party and that goes on year after year. Before fishing and after fishing. They're celebrating all the time."

After a particularly severe beating Susan abruptly left. "We just pulled into a fishing port and I got out of the boat and went to Anchorage." That's the last she saw of him.

Like many other victims of domestic violence, Susan is confused and unsure of herself. Her current husband goes to court in a month on assault charges. But she's willing to forgive him. And like many other battered wives, she partly blames herself.

"Maybe sometimes I ask for it. I open my mouth at the wrong time," she said. She hopes to be more understanding, to let her husband's friends borrow her car, to not criticize. Slowly with the passage of time, the frightening memory of her beating fades.

Her husband calls her regularly from work now and sends money to pay for

their Fairbanks apartment and her expenses. "He says he is sorry and he asked me to forgive him and I said I would. Because I think I have put him through some hell."

Wife-beating, Susan believes, is often tied to drinking, which itself can be the product of frustration. "They drink because they are bored. They get disgusted because they can't find a job."

She doesn't know the statistics showing that domestic violence is a growing problem in America. Nor does she know the statistics indicate one outbreak of domestic violence occurs, on the average, every day in Fairbanks.

She has only her own problems, confusion and uncertainty about the future to consider. There are no easy answers for her. But she does know one thing for sure: she was helped by WICCA.

"When I first went out there (to the WICCA shelter), I used to have nightmares," she said. "I would wake myself up screaming. But one of the counselors would come into my room and wake me up and if I wanted to sit up she would sit right there on the edge of the bed and talk with me."

The nightmares have passed. Life is back to a routine. She frequently visits the organization's office to talk with women in her same boat. "I just feel relaxed all over," she said. "I think WICCA is the greatest thing that ever happened."

Susan wants to continue her crusade. She plans to take counseling courses at the University this fall so she can deal more professionally with other women in similar situations.

Now, Susan says, she understands what battered women go through. Not only the pain but the frustrations, wondering and hope. And what they can do for themselves.

...

For Friday: Child abuse and neglect is a shockingly serious problem in Fairbanks.

Child abuse 'a big problem here'

By DAVID RAMSEUR
Staff Writer

In one family, a father goes out to the backyard, pulls down a willow switch and swats his child until welts rise. In another, the child is restricted to the house. Different punishment for the same act.

That, says Jim Fox, regional social service manager for the state Department of Health and Social Services, is the thin line between child abuse and punishment.

Fox's agency, whose jurisdiction extends from Fairbanks north, handles an average 40 family crises a month. About 60 per cent involve child abuse and neglect.

Most of them, he says, "don't tend to be the real juicy ones." Like the mother in Nome who drinks too much, passes out and whose infant children freeze to death. Or the parents who lock their child in a closet for months at a time.



BLANCHE BRUNK
Alaska's isolation contributes to the child abuse problem



Domestic violence

Third of a series

Those cases of extreme neglect constitute less than one per cent of the cases, he says. It's the less dramatic, the ones that don't get the headlines, that concern the social workers.

And they say there is plenty of reason for concern. National figures suggest that only one in five cases of child abuse and neglect are reported. Last year, more than a million cases were reported nationally. Of those, 2,000 involved deaths.

In the first six months of 1977, the most recent statistics available, 435 cases of child abuse and neglect were recorded in Alaska. And Blanche Brunk, director of the Fairbanks Child

Abuse Task Force, says the figures are rising.

Says Brunk, "It's a big problem here."

Child abuse and neglect, the experts say, is caused primarily by stress. Most of the Alaska's cases involve complete families in which the parents are driven to abuse or neglect. It can be whining infants, a blaring television or job pressures.

In Alaska, alcohol usually plays a role, too. According to the 1978 Proposed State Health Plan for Alaska, "The consumption of alcohol contributes significantly to the incidence of child abuse and neglect as it does to

accidental injury and death."

Most parents have the capacity to be abusing parents, says Brunk. Less than 10 per cent are psychotic, she says, and the rest can be helped.

"As trite as it may sound," says Fox, "most abusing parents don't like to be abusing parents. They just reach the end of their limits."

The isolation of Alaska—what Brunk calls "rugged individualism" of Alaskans—the poor economy and the state's general distaste for government agencies apparently intensify the problem here.

In Fairbanks, the number of military families, which tend more toward strict discipline, also contributes to the regional problem, says Fox.

The Legislature deals with child abuse and neglect by charging Fox's agency with enforcing two statutes. One spells out the problem; the other gives the department powers to do something about it.

Child abuse and neglect cases come to the agency's attention through a variety of means. An emergency room doctor may notice—while treating a

(See VIOLENCE, page 5)

Here are the signs of child abuse or neglect

Child abuse and neglect aren't always burns and bruises, bloated stomachs and ragged clothing. Often they're more subtle.

Experts in the field generally divide child abuse and neglect into four categories: physical abuse; neglect, which can be physical or emotional; emotional abuse, which can be verbal; and sexual abuse.

Experts say these are signs of possible abuse in the appearance and behavior of children:

Child's appearance:

- Unusual bruises, welts, burns,

fractures and bite marks or frequent injuries explained as "accidents."

- Often dirty, tired, without energy; clothes dirty, torn or wrong for the weather.

- Needs glasses or other medical care.

- Venereal disease; pain or itching in the genital area.

Child's behavior:

- Unpleasant, demanding, troublesome; frequently breaks things.

- Account of how an injury occurred not plausible.

- Apt to accept affection from any adult.

- Comes to school late, is frequently

absent or stays around after school is dismissed.

- Is behind for his or her age in school or in emotional and intellectual development.

Parent or caretaker's behavior:

- Has history of abuse as a child or a parent.

- Enforces harsh discipline which doesn't seem proper for the age or act of the child.

- Misuses alcohol or other drugs.
- Lives isolated and doesn't appear to get along well with others.

- Has long-term illnesses.
- Doesn't care about the child or withholds love and affection.

VIOLENCE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

child's broken leg—small, round burns on the child's buttocks. The doctor is required by law to report such an incident to the department.

Neighbors may hear loud screaming next door or see that parents have left their small children unattended. The neighbors may call the child abuse people. Or there are referrals from other agencies, teachers or even children themselves.

When a call comes in, a social worker is dispatched to investigate. If interviews and physical examinations point to child abuse or neglect, the agency may take any of several steps.

The most extreme, says Fox, is to get a court order to have the child removed for 48 hours. If further inquiry reveals the need, the state can be granted custody of the child for 30 days. During that time he or she usually stays in a foster home.

Meanwhile, case workers try to counsel the parents, solve the problem and prepare for the return of the child. "Philosophically," says Fox, "we don't feel a child should be raised outside the family."

The ultimate final action is adoption, which the department supervises.

The most common type of abuse is excessive punishment, says Fox. For example, he says, a nine-month-old child has no concept of punishment and spanking a child that age is probably abusive.

More than half the families the agency deals with are in lower income brackets, primarily because the lack of money contributes to neglect, he says. Poor children are sometimes without proper clothing or shelter. But, Fox says, "Abuse is no respecter of bank accounts."

Besides the initial physical and emotional scar abuse leaves on a child, there also is a lasting effect that can continue for generations. Recent studies show that 80 per cent of felons presently in jail were abused or neglected as children.

Fighting child abuse and neglect is expensive. This year, the Fairbanks division of the Department of Health and Social Services will spend more than \$1 million in taxpayer's money treating the problem. And that figure does not include, among other expenses, payments to hospitals for treatment.

The job of the local child abuse agency is made more difficult because of its reputation, says Brunk, but she adds, "They don't go snatch kids as people think."

Part of her job is to make the state department look better. Her task force, which has roots in Fairbanks dating back to 1973, last month received \$81,000 from the Legislature.

The group is charged with setting up an information and referral service, speakers bureau and library and with performing in-service training for professionals in the field. Brunk also wants to start a parent aid program in which "lay therapists" counsel abusing parents.

She considers herself a necessary jack-of-all-trades in a business of many evils. "Children," says Brunk, "are our immortality."

. . .

For Saturday: There are no easy solutions.