



The A to Z Of Domestic Abuse Research

**119 RESEARCH SURVEYS
OF DOMESTIC ABUSE**

*"Society Does Not Have The Right
To Discriminate Against Victims Of Domestic Violence
Because Of Their Gender"*

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SOURCE

RESULTS

Aizenman & Kelley (1998) No significant gender differences in domestic violence.

Amen – Monaghan Study (1999) The study examined the nature and effects of domestic violence against men and found them to be broadly similar to those against women.

Archer (1999) (i) Analysis of 50 studies worldwide showed that slightly more women than men reported some physical aggression towards their partners and across all measures, self-reports show consistently that there is a greater proportion of female aggressors.

Archer (1999) (ii) Men show greater restraint than women and put up with a higher level of abuse by their wives / lovers. Women are encouraged to be violent towards men because women generally realise that men can generally be relied upon not to hit back.

Archer & Ray (1989) Women significantly more likely to express physical violence than men. 48% of boyfriends and 65% of girlfriends committed at least one violent act in their current relationship.

Arias et al (1987) 30% of men and 49% of women engaged in aggression. 19% of women and 10% of men used severe physical aggression in a past relationship.

Arias & Johnson (1989) 19% of women and 18% of men were physically aggressive.

Bernard & Bernard (1983) 15% of men and 21% of women physically abused their partners.

Billingham & Sack (1986) Women reported higher rates (9%) of violence initiation, compared to men (3%).

Bland & Orne (1986) Women both engaged in and initiated violence at higher rates than men. 14.6% of men and 22.6% of women hit or threw things at their spouse or partner.

Bohannon et al (1995) 11% of wives and 7% of husbands in military couples were physically aggressive.

Bookwala et al (1992) 22% of women reported initiating violence with non-violent men, compared to 17% of men. 38% was mutual.

Brinkerhoof & Lupri (1988) 10.7% of wife-to-husband severe violence and 4.8% vice-versa. Overall violence was 13.2% wife-to-husband and 10.3% husband-to-wife.

British Crime Survey (1996/8/2000) 29%, 28% and 25% respectively of victims of domestic abuse were men.

British Crime Survey (1996)

Of total physical violence:	(1a) 4.2% female-to-male;
	(1b) 4.2% male-to-female.
Initiators of violence rates:	(2a) 8.0% female-to-male;
	(2b) 2.0% male-to-female.

Psychological violence rates:(3a) 56.1% female-to-male;
(3b) 56.1% male-to-female;
(3c) 52.5% both partners.

Frequency of violence rates: (4a) 5.0 female-to-male ;
(4b) 5.2 male-to-female.

Brush (1990) Women engage in higher levels of spousal violence than men. 2.8% of women were victims of men and 3.8% of men were victims of women.

Brutz & Ingoldsby (1984) Female-to-male abuse 15.2%; male-to-female abuse 14.6%. Severe violence was inflicted by 2.8% of women on men and 0.8% of men on women.

Burke, Stets et al (1988) 14% of men and 18% of women inflicted physical abuse on partners.

Canada Calgary Survey (1981)

Of total physical violence: (1a) 13.2% female-to-male;
(1b) 10.3% male-to-female;
(1c) 14.3% both partners.

Of severe physical violence: (2a) 10.7% female-to-male;
(2b) 4.8% male-to-female;
(2c) 6.0% both partners.

Of psychological violence: (3a) 23.5% female-to-male;
(3b) 13.2% male-to-female;
(3c) 36.7% both partners.

Frequency rates of severe violence: (4a) 2.7 female-to-male;
(4b) 1.1 male-to-female.

Frequency rates of minor violence: (5a) 2.6 female-to-male;
(5b) 1.8 male-to-female.

Canada Edmonton Survey (1983/84)

Of total physical violence: (1a) 22.6% female-to-male;
(1b) 14.6% male-to-female;
(1c) 19.7% both partners.

Initiators of violence: (2a) 42.3% female-to-male;
(2b) 26.6% male-to-female.

Carlson (1987) Men and women are equally likely to aggress against their partners.

Carrado, George et al (1996) 18% of men and 13% of women had been victims of spousal violence and 11% of men and 5% of women were currently victims of domestic abuse.

Cascardi et al (1992) 33% of men and 37% of women were severely aggressive towards their partners.

Caulfield & Riggs (1992) 19% of women and 7% of men slapped their partner; 13% of women and 3% of men kicked, bit or punched their partner. 2.3% of women and 1.9% of men assaulted their partners.

Channel 4 (1999) 30% of men were attacked in their sleep. 25% had been kicked in the genitals. 25% of the male victims had themselves been arrested, after seeking police help, rather than the

female assailant. Only 7% of the female assailants had been arrested and none were subsequently charged. 89% of male victims felt that the police did not take their complaints seriously.

Deal & Wampler (1986) Men (15%) were three times more likely than women (5%) to be victims. 6% of females and 4% of men were aggressors.

DeMaris (1987) 31.1% of women and 23.5% of men inflicted violence on their partners in the previous year.

DeMaris (1992) The partner who usually instigated the violence was the woman.

Ernest, Nick, et al (1997) 20% of men and 19% of women were current victims of physical violence and 19% of women and 6% of men reported past abuse to the police.

Feather (1996) Observers of hypothetical cases of abuse were significantly more negative of the husband than the wife and more sympathetic towards the wife and believed that the husband deserves harsher penalties for his behaviour.

Fiebert MS (1999) 102 reviews of research into domestic abuse across the world, with an aggregate sample of 60,000 shows that women are as, if not more, physically aggressive than men.

Fiebert & Gonzalez (1997) 29% of women revealed that they had initiated assaults during the past 5 years. Women tend to aggress because they did not believe that their male victims would retaliate.

Flynn (1990) Men and women in relationships, both marital and pre-marital, engage in comparable amounts of violence. Violence by women in intimate relationships has received little attention from policy makers, the public and even, until recently, researchers. Battered men and abusive women have received selective inattention by both the media and researchers.

Follingstad et al (1991) Women (20%) were twice as likely to report perpetrating dating violence as men (12%).

Gelles (1994) He points to the absence of objectivity on the part of feminist critics of research demonstrating female perpetrated domestic violence.

George (1994) Men are equal victims of partner abuse.

Goldberg & Tomlanovich (1984) The difference between male and female aggression was not statistically significant.

Gonzalez (1997) 55% of females admitted to initiating physical aggression towards their male partner at some point in their lives.

Hampton et al (1989) 17% of husbands were abusive to their wives, 33% of wives were violent toward their husbands.

Henton et al (1983) Abuse was reciprocal with both partners initiating violence. 5.7% of females were the sole abusers, compared to 1.4% of men.

Home Office (UK) (1999) 4.2% of men and 4.2% of women committed domestic violence. 5.9% of women and 4.9% of men had experienced physical assaults and/or frightening threats (a proportion of 45% of males). About 40% of injured victims and about 25% of chronic victims were men. 23% of women and 15% of men had been physically assaulted by a current or former partner. 26% of women and 17% of men had experienced physical assault and/or frightening threats. 47% of women and 31% of men suffered cuts and broken bones. (This study was and remains the largest study of its kind in the world.)

Jouriles & O'Leary (1987) Husbands and wives agreed that rates of marital violence between them were approximately equal. Husband-to-wife severe aggression was 3.8%, compared to wife-to-husband rate of 4.6%

Kalmuss (1984) The rate of husband-to-wife severe aggression was 3.8% while the rate of wife-to-husband severe aggression was 4.6%.

Kennedy & Dutton (1996) Overall violence by women was 12.4% and men 11.2%. Severe by wives was 4.7% while for husbands, it was 2.3%.

Lane et al (1985) Found higher rates of violence against men (6.7%) than women (4.4%)

Laner et al (1982) 23% of women slapped, scratched and grabbed their boyfriends while 11% of men were guilty.

Langhinrichsen-Rohling et al (1994) 61% of husbands and 64% of wives were classified as aggressive. 36% of husbands and 53% of wives were classified as severely aggressive.

Lo & Sporakowski (1989) Women were more likely than men to be abusers and less likely to be victims.

Magdol et al (1997) 35.8% of women perpetrated violence vs. 21.8% of men. 18.6% of women used severe violence vs. 5.7% of men. Overall violence was 37.2% of women and 21.8% of men.

Makepeace (1986) Rates of commission of acts and initiating of violence were similar across gender.

Malone et al (1989) Women engage in more amounts of physical aggression against their male partners than men. Women were more likely to slap, kick/bite/hit, or hit their spouses with an object. There were no significant differences for the other aggressive acts measured.

Mann (1988) Approx. 60% of murderesses premeditated their murder, compared to approx. 35% of murderers.

Margolin (1987) Husbands (39%) and wives (41%) perpetrated similar amounts of violence.

Marshall & Rose (1990) Women report expressing more physical violence than men.

Marshall & Rose (1987) 46% of women expressed actual violence compared to 39% of men.

Mason et al (1987) No significant gender differences in terms of the infliction of physical abuse. But women inflicted significantly higher psychological abuse on their partners than did men.

Matthews (1984) Both men and women ascribed joint responsibility for violent behaviour.
McKeown et al (Mar. 2001) 48% of domestic abuse in Ireland was 'mutual'. 23% was perpetrated by men. 30% was perpetrated by women.

McKeown, Haase & Pratschke (April 2001) 33% of domestic violence among Irish married couples was 'mutual'. 26% was initiated by the husband and 41% by the wife.

McKeown & Kidd (2000) Irish men are much less likely than women to report being a victim of abuse. In approximately half of all intimate relationships in which domestic violence occurs, both partners use violent acts, with the remainder divided equally between male-only and female-only violence. The self-reported prevalence of domestic violence among men and women, both as victims and as perpetrators, is broadly similar for all types of violence, both psychological and physical, minor and severe.

McKinney (1986) 38% of women and 47% of men indicated that they were victims of dating physical abuse. 26% of women and 21% of men acknowledged that they physically assaulted their dating partners.

McLeod (1984) Men used weapons in 25% of assaults while women assailants used weapons 86% of the times. Male victims are injured more often and more seriously than females. 74% of men sustained injuries and of these, 84% required medical attention.

McNeely et al (1987/90) Women are more prone than men to engage in severely violent acts. Classifying spousal abuse as a women's issue rather than a human issue is erroneous.

McNeely & Robinson-Simpson (1990) Review of research concludes that women are as violent as men in domestic relationships.

Mercy et al (1989) Wives and husbands were equally likely to be killed by firearms. Husbands were more likely than wives to be stabbed.

Meredith et al (1986) 6% of men and 5% of women reported using severe violence against their partners.

Moffitt (1998) Women knew that in domestic abuse matters, their version of events would be more likely to be believed than men's.

MORI (1994)

Of total physical violence:	(1a) 11.2% was female-to-male;
	(1b) 4.5% was male-to-female;
	(1c) 6.0% was mutual.
Of severe physical violence:	(2a) 4.0% was female-to-male;
	(2b) 2.0% was male-to-female.
Frequency rates for violence:	(3a) 2.8 female-to-male;
	(3b) 1.6 male-to-female.

MORI (1991) 10% of women and 3% of men admitted to hitting their partner.

Morse (1995) The prevalence rates of any violence and severe violence were significantly higher

for female-to-male (any violence – 27.9% / severe violence - 13.8%) than for male-to-female (any violence – 20.2% / severe violence - 5.7%). Over twice as many women as men reported assaulting a partner who had not assaulted them. Women were more likely to self-report personal injuries. **Mwamwenda (1997)** 2% of children saw their mother beat their father. 18% saw or heard female relatives beating their husbands. 26% saw or heard female neighbours beating their husbands.

New Zealand Dunedin Survey (1972/73)

Of total physical violence: (1a) 37.2% female-to-male;
(1b) 21.8% male-to-female.

Of severe physical violence: (2a) 18.6% female-to-male;
(2b) 5.7% male-to-female.

Of minor physical violence: (3a) 35.8% female-to-male;
(3b) 21.8% male-to-female;

Of psychological violence: (4a) 94.6% female-to-male;
(4b) 85.8% male-to-female.

Nisonoff et al (1979) 18.6% of men and 12.7% of women report having been hit by their spouse. Equal frequency and severity.

O’Keeffe et al (1986) 11.9% of school girls compared to 7.4% of school boys admitted to being sole perpetrators of physical violence. 17.8% of girls and 11.6% of boys admitted that they were both victims and perpetrators of physical violence.

O’Leary et al (1989) 44% of women compared to 31% of men reported physically aggressing against their pre-marriage partners and 36% of women compared to 27% of men similarly reported after 18 months of marriage. After 30 months, the figures were 32% of women and 25% of men.

Plass et al (1983) Women were 3 times as likely as men to slap and 7 times more likely to kick, bite or punch. Overall, results showed that women were significantly more likely than men to be aggressors.

Riggs et al (1990) 39% of women and 23% of men reported engaging in physical aggression against their current partners.

Rollins et al (1990) Women’s rates of severe violence were 5.3% compared to a male rate of 3.4%.

Rouse (1988) Men (25%) were significantly more likely than women (14.6%) to report that their partners used moderate physical force and caused a greater number of injuries requiring medical attention. More men (18.8%) than women (9.8%) reported being slapped or pushed and similarly, 8.3% of men and 1.2% of women reported being struck with an object.

Russell et al (1992) Results showed:

Husband-to-wife violence: overall violence = 25%; severe violence = 5.8%.

Wife-to-husband violence: overall violence = 25%; severe violence = 11.3%.

Sack et al (1982) No differences between men and women in the expression of physical violence.

Saenger (1963) Husbands were victims of aggression in 63% of conflict situations; wives were victims in 39% of such cases. Wives were more aggressive in 73% of domestic situations, both partners were equally aggressive in 10% of cases and in only 17% of cases were husbands more violent than wives. **Sigelman et al (1984)** More men (18.4%) than women (9.0%) reported being kicked, hit or bit by their partners and men reported experiencing significantly more violence than women. 18.6% of women and 11.8% of men admitted assaulting spouses with an object.

Sommer (1994) 39.1% of women reported being physically aggressive compared to 26.3% of men; 16.2% of women reported having perpetrated severe violence compared to 7.6% of men. 21% of males and 13% of females required medical attention as a result of partner abuse incidents. 10% of women and 15% of men perpetrated partner abuse in self-defence.

Sommer et al (1992) 39% of women physically aggressed against their male partners at some point in their relationship.

Sorenson & Telles (1991) More women than men reported higher rates of hitting, throwing objects, initiating violence and striking first more than once. Women were more likely to have struck first and to have struck first more than once. Gender did not predict spousal violence.

Stanko (March 5th 2002) One in five of 100,000 incidents of domestic violence to which police were called in London last year were cases of men being attacked by their female partners.

Steinmetz (1977/78) The incidence of husband beating was similar to the incidence of wife beating. 19% of husbands and 18% of wives threw things; 10% of husbands and 10% of wives hit their spouse with their hands; 5% of husbands and 5% of wives hit their spouse with something hard.

Steinmetz (1981) The percentage of husbands who used violence was similar to the percentage of violent wives. Wives who used violence tended to use greater amounts.

Stets & Henderson (1991) 22% of men and 40% of women reported using some sort of physical violence. Women (19.2%) were 6 times more likely than men (3.4%) to use severe aggression. Men (15.7%) were twice as likely as women (8%) to report receiving severe aggression.

Stets & Pirog-Good (1989) More men than women were slapped or had something thrown at them.

Stets & Straus (1990) 43.7% of men and 44.1% of women reported striking the first blow. Concluded that violence by women is not primarily defensive.

Stitt & Macklin (1997) 90% of male victims do not report the abuse by their female partners to any authorities, compared with 60% of female victims. Women use the element of surprise and weapons to compensate for, generally, not being as physically strong as men. There are practically no support services for abused men.

Straus (2002) Study concluded that women are as violent towards their partners as men. When only one partner is violent, it is twice as likely to be the woman.

Straus (1995) While the approval of a husband slapping his wife declined dramatically from

1968 to 1994 (21% to 10%), the approval of a wife slapping her husband did not decline but remained at 22% during the same period. Severe physical assaults by men declined from 48% from 1975 to 1992 (3.8% to 1.9%) while severe physical assaults by women did not change during that period and remained above 4%

Straus (1993) Women initiate physical assaults on their partners as often as men do.

Straus (1980) This research found that 3.8% of husbands beat their wives and 4.6% of wives beat their husbands. In 49.5% of cases, both husbands and wives committed at least one violent act, while husbands alone were violent in 27.7% and wives alone were violent in 22.7% of the cases.

Straus et al (1996) 49% of men and 31% of women reported being a victim of domestic assault. 38% of men and 30% of women reported being a victim of sexual coercion by their partner. 16% of men and 14% of women reported being seriously injured by their partners.

Straus & Gelles (1986) 12.1% of women vs. 11.3% of men were violent overall, while 4.4% of women vs. 3.0% of men used severe violence.

Straus & Kantor (1994) Minor assault rates by wives was 9.5% vs. 9.3% of husbands. Severe assaults by wives were 4.5% vs. 1.9% of husbands. Approval of slapping by husbands decreased from 21% in 1968, to 13% in 1985, to 10% in 1994. The approval of slapping by wives was 22% in 1968 and has not declined over the years.

Sugarman & Hotaling 1989) Women (39.3%) reported having expressed violence at higher rates than men (32.9%)

Szinovacz (1983) 33% of wives and 26% of husbands were physically aggressive.

Tang (1994) Mothers were as likely as fathers to use actual physical force towards their spouses.

Telles & Sorenson (1991) Women use weapons, smash and throw things (usually belonging to the man) more often than men.

Thompson (1991) 29.6% of women and 27.5% of men had used physical aggression. Figures for severe aggression were 10.7% for women and 7.2% for men.

Thompson (1990) 24.6% of men compared to 28.4% of women expressed physical violence towards their dating partners. Women were twice as likely as men to slap their partners.

US National Family Violence Survey (1975/76) (1) Of total physical family violence, 11.6% was female-to-male, 12.1% male-to-female and 16.0% both partners. (2) Of severe physical violence cases, 4.6% was female-to-male, 3.8% was male-to-female and 6.1% both. (3) The frequency rate for total physical violence was: female-to-male 10.1; male-to-female 8.8. (4) The frequency rate for severe physical violence was: female-to-male 8.9; male-to-female 8.0.

US National Family Violence Re-Survey (1985)

(1) Of total physical violence, 12.4% was female-to-male, 11.6% male-to-female and 16.1% both. (2) Of severe physical violence, 4.8% was female-to-male, 3.4% was male-to-female and 6.3%

was both. (3) Of minor violence, 7.5% was female-to-male and 7.2% was male-to-female. (4) Women initiated 52.7% of domestic violence while men initiated 42.6%. (5) Of psychological abuse, the rates were equal between men and women. (6) The frequency rate for total physical violence for female-to-male was 6.1; for male-to-female, 5.4. (7) The frequency rate for severe violence for female-to-male was 5.4; for male-to-female, 5.2.

US National Survey (1992) 13.8% of severe physical violence female-to-male; 5.7% was male-to-female and 15.8% was both partners.

US National Survey of Families and Households (1987/88)

(1) Of total physical violence, 3.4% was female-to-male and 2.9% was male-to-female.
 (2) Of injuries sustained through physical violence, 0.4% was female-to-male and 0.2% was male-to-female.

US National Youth Survey 1983/86/89/92

(1a) Total female-to-male physical violence:	48.0%,	41.4%,	35.0%	27.9% resp.
(1b) Total male-to-female physical violence:	36.7%,	31.4%,	27.9%,	20.2% resp.
(2a) Severe female-to male violence rates:	22.4%,	22.8%,	17.7%,	13.8% resp.
(2b) Severe male-to-female violence rates:	10.1%,	9.5%,	7.6%,	5.7% resp.
(2c) Severe both-partner violence rates:	25.5%,	24.9%,	20.0%,	15.8% resp.
(3a) Minor female-to-male physical violence:	46.4%,	40.5%,	33.4%,	26.5% resp.
(3b) Minor male-to-female physical violence:	36.4%,	36.4%,	27.0%,	19.9% resp.
(4a) Women initiated violence in	54.2% of cases in 1992			
(4b) Men initiated violence in	38.7% of cases in 1992			
(5a) Injuries sustained in female-to-male violence in 1986 =	19.6%			
(5b) Injuries sustained in male-to-female violence in 1986 =	21.2%			
(6a) Medical treatment required in female-to male violence in 1992 =	14.3%			
(6b) Medical treatment required in male-to-female violence in 1992 =	11.8%			
(7a) Frequency of total female-to-male violence:	6.1,	7.9,	6.4,	6.3 resp.
(7b) Frequency of total male-to-female violence:	4.8,	5.1,	3.7,	3.6 resp.
(8a) Frequency of severe female-to-male violence:	3.8,	4.9,	3.6,	4.5 resp.
(8b) Frequency of severe male-to-female violence:	2.5,	2.9,	1.7,	2.1 resp.
(9a) Frequency of minor female-to-male violence:	4.4,	5.3,	4.7,	4.3 resp.
(9b) Frequency of minor male-to-female violence:	3.7,	3.6,	2.9,	2.6 resp.

Vivian et al (1996) There were no significant differences between husbands' and wives' reports concerning the frequency and severity of assault victimisation. 32 of the 57 women and 25 of the 57 men reported the presence of a physical injury which resulted from partner aggression.

Waiping et al (1989) 35.3% of women and 20.3% of men admitted themselves as abusers.

White & Humphrey (1994) Women-only research showed that 51.5% of women used physical aggression, while 30.2% did so in the previous 12 months.

White & Koss (1991) Feminist research which showed that 37% of men and 35% of women inflicted physical aggression. 39% of men and 32% of women were victims.

White & Kowalski (1994) Acknowledged that women equal or exceed men in numbers of reported aggressive acts committed within the family.



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