

Surprising Facts on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Until society recognizes and accepts the fact that women can and do commit domestic violence, the problem of domestic violence will never be addressed and a “solution” will never be found. Domestic violence is a societal phenomenon that is not gender-specific- to deny this fact is unrealistic, biased, and shortsighted.

Facts You Probably Haven't Heard:

More than half of all ‘severe’ domestic violence is committed by women against their husbands or boyfriends. [1]

Extrapolating from a 1985 survey of more than six thousand couples, the authors estimate that 1.8 million females are the victims of severe domestic violence each year (with injuries suffered by one in ten), *but so were about 2.1 million men.* [2]

A random survey of 2,143 American homes uncovered the fact that severe abuse was committed equally by men and women. [3]

One study of inner city child abuse found that 49% of all child abuse is committed by single parent mothers. [4]

Natural mothers are the perpetrators of:

- 93% of physical neglect of children
- 86% of educational neglect
- 78% of emotional neglect
- 60% of physical abuse, and
- 55% of emotional abuse [5]

A Bureau of Justice report found that Mothers (55%) are more likely than fathers (45%) to murder their children. [6]

According to the government's own figures, females (mostly mothers) kill **31** times as many children as natural fathers. [7]

Females comprise 78% of the perpetrators of fatal child abuse (child murder). [8]

As disturbing as these statistics are, even more disturbing is the fact that they are virtually unknown. Only recently has any attention at all been focused on the issue of female batterers.

As psychologist Judith Shervin writes, "*Women must share responsibility for their behavior and contributions to domestic violence.*"

These contributions are far bigger than mainstream media and most feminist groups are willing to admit.

References

- 1) Research by M. Strauss & R. Gelles as reported in "Women Are Responsible Too", Judith Shervin, Ph.D. & Jim Sniechowski, Ph.D., LA Times. 6/21/94.
- 2) From the National Family Violence Survey (1975, 1985, 1992) developed by M. Strauss & R. Gelles, and funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.
- 3) 1980 study by Murray Straus, Richard Gelles, and Suzanne Steinmetz.
- 4) A study of child abuse in Lansing, Michigan. Joan Ditson and Sharon Shay in *Child Abuse and Neglect*, Volume 8. 1984.
- 5) Data from the *Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect* (NIS-3) from DHHS, and also from the Bureau of Justice Statistics report entitled "*Child Victimiziers and Their Victims*".
- 6) Bureau of Justice, "Murder in Families", NCJ-143498.
- 7) From item 5, the *Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect* (NIS-3)
- 8) From item 5, the *Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect* (NIS-3)
- 9) Martin S. Fiefert, Cal State Univ., <http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiefert/assault.htm>
- 10) "Violent Touch: Breaking Through the Stereotype" by Dr. David L. Fontes <http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/fontes1.doc>

Female Domestic Violence

Dr. Martin Fiebert, professor of Psychology at the California State University of Long Beach, found 94 empirical studies that support the position that men and women are assaulting their intimate partners at nearly the same rate. When all the evidence is weighed fairly, the only reasonable conclusion is that *men and women commit spousal abuse against each other at nearly equal rates.* [9]

"In the final analysis, whether dad is verbally or physically abusing mom, or mom is verbally or physically abusing dad, the children are learning the wrong message about how to resolve conflict. This places these children at greater risk of becoming abusive and violent to their partner when they grow up, regardless of gender.

If we are serious about reducing spousal abuse in the next generation and preventing children from witnessing abuse in the home, we need to hold both men and women accountable for their violent behavior with the same standard. We need to insure that all victims of spousal abuse, male or female, receive the assistance they need.

The spotlight has been on the female victim of spousal violence for over twenty-five years; now the time has come to turn on all the lights and see who else is on the stage in need of our help." [10]

If you or someone you know is a victim of female domestic violence, there are steps you can take:

Call the police and file a report if you are assaulted. Insist on filing a report.

Take pictures of any visible injuries you receive. Make copies of any injury reports.

Contact local Fathers' Rights groups in your area for support, advice, and assistance.

If you have children, do whatever you can to ensure they don't witness violence.

If necessary, take the children and stay at a motel or with a friend to make sure they're safe.

Do not blame yourself for your partner's behavior. You are not the reason they are violent.

Free online assistance can be found at the FRTC Web site, at: www.deltabravo.net/

Above all, **SPEAK OUT!** Let someone else know that your partner is abusive. Don't hide it.

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Female Domestic Violence

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A support group for fathers and non-custodial parents

"Women must share responsibility for their behavior and contributions to domestic violence."

-Psychologist Judith Shervin

Domestic violence is not committed only by men as is popularly believed. **In fact, men and women abuse each other with almost equal frequency.**¹ You've probably heard the statistic that claims a woman is abused by her spouse every 15 seconds. What you may not know is that *the same study* also found that a man is abused by his spouse every 14 seconds.²