



Fall/Winter 2007

Women are doing virtually everything these days that men are—including physically assaulting their spouses or partners.

Research in the area of intimate partner violence (IPV) has been going on for decades. A great deal of the research on IPV has been primarily focused on violence against women by their male intimate partners. For years the research has shown that the most prevalent and injurious type of domestic violence is men's violence against women. However, as we learn more about domestic violence; it's causes, it's victims and it's perpetrators, researchers and others working in the field of domestic violence are discovering and acknowledging that both women and men in heterosexual and same-sex relationships can be victims and perpetrators of this insidious problem that plagues our society.

A recent study focused on reciprocal and nonreciprocal IPV in heterosexual couples conducted by Daniel Whitaker, Ph.D. and his colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had some surprising outcomes for the researchers.

For this study Daniel Whitaker, Ph.D. and his colleagues used the responses from a national

longitudinal study of adolescent health which asked subjects to answer questions about their romantic or sexual relationships of the past five years and about whether there was any violence in those relationships. Of the original sample of 14,322 individuals ages 18 to 28, 11,370 reported having heterosexual relationships and also answered violence related questions. Whitaker et al. used those responses to determine how much violence was experienced in intimate heterosexual partner relationships, who the instigators were and whether or not physical harm resulted from the violence.

The 11,370 subjects reported on 18,761 relationships, 76 percent of which were nonviolent and 24% violent. Of the 24% that were violent, half had been reciprocally violent and half had not. Regarding perpetration of violence, more women than men (25% versus 11%) were responsible. In fact, 71% of the instigators were women.

What the researchers found was that while physical injury was more likely to occur in relationships

where the violence was reciprocal and perpetrated by a the man, when the violence was nonreciprocal it was the man who was injured by the woman more often. Whitaker and his group felt that this was a surprising and important finding because violence perpetrated by women has often been seen as less or not serious.

DAHMW helpline callers have reported serious injuries, i.e. being hospitalized with gun shot and stab wounds, being struck purposely by a vehicle, perpetrated against them by their female intimate partners for the last seven years. So the results of this research is does not come as a surprise to us, however it does reaffirm the need for more supportive services for male victims.

To read the entire article by Joan Arehart-Treichel, "Men Shouldn't Be Overlooked as Victims of Partner Violence," in the Clinical & Research News go to:

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

An abstract of the study, "Difference in frequency of Violence and Reported Injury Between Relationships with Reciprocal and Nonreciprocal Intimate Partner Violence" is posted at www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/97/5/941

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DAHMW Publications Will Soon Be Available

Over the summer we have been working on putting together a series of publications that address male victimization and intimate partner violence in the GLBT community. This series will be informational as well as educational to both victims and those who work in the field of domestic violence.

All and all there will be a series of eight publications on these topics;

- Defining domestic violence for male victims and survivors,
- Elderly male victims of intimate partner violence,
- Options and legal remedies,

- Safety planning,
- Contributing factors to why women abuse,
- Intimate partner violence in GLBT relationships,
- Myths and realities of domestic violence,
- Working with immigrants and men of other cultures who are victims.

To request copies of any of these publications please email us at:

director@dahmw.org or call us at: 866-786-0758



A Message from our Director

When the battered women's movement first began the thinking at that time was that domestic violence was a social problem that ended at husbands beating their wives in order to dominate, control and oppress them. Consequently, battered women's advocates worked passionately and diligently to create safe havens and legal remedies, and to educate the public in order to put an end to violence against women. They have done a tremendous job of bringing supportive services and public awareness to this group of victims.

However, rarely does a societal problem have one cause and "one cure." Throughout the last few decades there have been thousands of studies on the nature and causes of domestic violence. Many of these studies indicate that both women and men in heterosexual and same sex relationships are being battered. The original definition of husband's beating their wives has been expanded over the years to include not only physical assault but also abusers use of emotional, psychological, sexual, financial, and verbal abuse. Our expanded definition and understanding

of domestic violence has lead us to realize that physical battering is not the only form that domestic violence takes and heterosexual women are not the only victims.

The topic of male victims and female perpetrators of domestic violence has been the controversial focus of debate for over two decades. Some say that men cannot be victims of female violence because men are more domineering as well as bigger and stronger than women. After receiving thousands of calls to our toll free helpline from men being abused and others concerned about a male family member or friend who is being abused we know that abuse is not strictly a gender based issue.

The Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women (DAHMW) was founded in October 2000 to fill the gap in services left by the movement that was put in place to protect battered women. Though we specialize in offering supportive services to male victims our

advocacy does not end there. Transgender persons, gay men and women in heterosexual and lesbian relationships have also received supportive services from our agency.

...we do not support an agenda that seeks to minimize men's violence against women in order to expose women's violence against men.

We want to be clear that we do not support an agenda that seeks to minimize men's violence against women in order to expose women's violence

against men. We collaborate with a number of domestic violence shelter programs in the country who also understand that the human capacity for family violence is not limited or dictated by gender. Here are just a few examples of ways we have helped victims of domestic violence:

"Gwen", (not her real name) called the DAHMW helpline one Friday evening. She was looking for shelter so that she and her two young children could escape her abusive husband. She knew from prior experience after living with this man for over ten years that when

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I support the important work that the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women is doing. Enclosed is my donation.

Please mail this form with your check made payable to:

Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women

P.O. Box 252

Harmony, Maine 04942

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

City/State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

You can also donate online at our website: www.dahmw.org and click on the paypal button.

NOTE: In an effort to recognize all our generous donors, DAHMW would like to mention donor names in our newsletter and/or annual report. Please indicate your preference below:

☐ **Yes, please mentioned me**

☐ **No, I wouldn't like my name mentioned**

Study on Male Victims —Your Participation is Requested



A study is being conducted on men who are in relationships with abusive women. If you are a man between the ages of 18 and 59 and have been physically assaulted at least one time in the last year by your current or former female intimate partner please call our helpline or email us about partici-

pation in this important study. The number to call is 888-7HELPLINE (888-743-5754 or you can email us at: dahmwagency@gmail.com for more information. Your call or email will be kept strictly confidential, no personal identifying information will be required from you if you decide to participate in this study."

New Public Service Announcement Video produced for DAHMW by Jerry Miranda

Jerry Miranda and his children lived in constant fear and danger for over 25 years. For most of those years what was going on behind closed doors at the Miranda house was a deep dark secret.

Unable to live with the secret anymore, Jerry began sharing the nightmare that he and his children were experiencing with others in the hope that he would receive some guidance and support. But no one would believe a man could be abused by a woman and no one would help him...until one day...finally...

everyone believed him.

To view Jerry and his children's story about the domestic violence they suffered and see DAHMW's new video public service announcement (PSA) go to our website: www.dahmw.org and click on, "The Miranda Story."

We wish to offer our sincere thanks to Mr. Miranda and his sons for bravely sharing their story and to Mr. Miranda for producing this superb PSA video for DAHMW.



**DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE FOR
MEN AND WOMEN**

P.O. Box 252
Harmony, Maine 04942

Crisis: 1-888-743-5754
Phone: 207-683-5758
Fax: 775-255-9626

Visit us on the Web!
www.dahmw.org

What can you do to help?

Shop online through www.igive.com.

Designate the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women (DAHMW) as your charity and up to 26% of each purchase you make will go to DAHMW. Shop at name brand stores such as: Staples, Best Buy, Macy's, Home Depot, Sears, Target and more!

Use Good Search as your web browser search engine. Go to www.goodsearch.com, a yahoo search engine, and designate us as the charity you want to support. Good Search donates approximately 0.01 cent to DAHMW for each search you do.

Join our Board. DAHMW is seeking constructive, positive individuals to join our Board of Directors. You do not have to live in Maine to be a board member! Our Board meets monthly by teleconference. If you believe in our mission to end domestic violence in the lives of all victims and would like to investigate the possibility of becoming part of our organization in this manner, please give us a call.

Volunteer! Answer our helpline (we offer online training), assist us with our outreach efforts, help us with various office projects, or help us in our fund raising efforts so that we can continue to offer free services to victims in need.

A Message from the Director (cont. from page 2)

he went to the bar he would come home drunk and become physically abusive towards her. She was ready to leave this situation, but after making a call to the local battered women's shelter she discovered that they were full and couldn't take her and her two children into shelter. Our helpline advocate looked up the numbers of shelters in the surrounding counties (Gwen had found us in her local phone book, she did not have access to the internet) and made half dozen calls on behalf of Gwen. The advocate finally located a shelter that had room for a woman with two young children. She called Gwen back and gave her the contact information. The advocate could hear the relief in Gwen's voice as she thanked her and said good-bye.

"Susan" (not her real name) called DAHMW after leaving her home in fear. Her abusive boyfriend tried to choke her and she was afraid to go back. DAHMW put Susan up in emergency shelter. She had left her home

with little more than the shirt on her back and her personal papers. We bought her clothes, food, a trac phone and provided transportation for her to get to doctor and other appointments. She stayed in the emergency shelter for almost three weeks. We supported her during her court hearing to obtain a permanent protection order and continued to assist her after she moved from the emergency shelter into her own apartment. Susan told the DAHMW advocates that had we not helped her, she probably would have gone back to her abusive boyfriend.

"Jack" (not his real name) needed emergency shelter for himself and his young son. Jack's wife of 12 years abused alcohol and only took her prescribed medications (for a mental health diagnosis) occasionally. She had been beating Jack up regularly, especially when she was drunk which Jack said was a daily occurrence as of late. She had also been abusive to their son when Jack was at work. Jack had

tried to leave the relationship a number of times but always returned because he could find no help or support for him and his son. The local domestic violence shelter told Jack, "We only help women and children." Jack and his son were placed in an emergency shelter until he obtained an emergency protective order and was granted permission to go back to his home and have his abuser removed. Jack expressed his appreciation for the support and assistance. He said that until he found DAHMW he didn't think anyone cared what happened to him and his son.

We hope that this message furthers your understanding of our mission and position on domestic violence. Please feel free to write me with any questions or comments at: director@dahmw.org

Sincerely,
Jan Brown, Founder and Executive Director