

## SPOUSAL CONFLICT

- ◆ 75% of spousal violence involves an offender who had been drinking. Another 11% involves drug use, leaving only 14% of serious spousal conflict unrelated to chemical abuse [BJS, 1998].
- ◆ Only 4.1% of all violent crimes in 1987 to 1988 were perpetrated by a spouse or ex-spouse [Chadwick and Heaton, 1992].
- ◆ Only 6.7% of married individuals reported a physical altercation from 1987 to 1988, with the wife initiating the altercation in 58% of reported instances [Chadwick and Heaton, 1992].
- ◆ Only 4% of serious spousal violence occurs in intact families, while 96% occurs in separated or divorce families [Chadwick and Heaton, 1992].
- ◆ Of every 100 families, 3.8 experience severe husband-to-wife violence — but 4.5 experience severe wife to husband violence [Straus, 1975].
- ◆ From 1976 to 1986, the rate of violence by husbands against wives dropped from 12.1 to 11.3%, while the rate of violence by wives against husbands rose to 12.1% from 11.6% [Straus and Gelles, 1986]
- ◆ Of every 100 domestic assaults on men, 82 involve weapons used by females; of 100 domestic assaults on women, 15 involve weapons used by males [McLead, 1974].
- ◆ While 1.8 million women annually suffer one or more assaults from a husband or boyfriend, 2-million men were assaulted by a wife or girlfriend — 54% of all violence termed “severe” was by women. [Journal of Marriage and Family, 1986].
- ◆ “According to the 428 women who responded to the question regarding who initiated the physical conflict, their partner struck the first blow in 42.6% of the cases, they hit first in 52.7% of the cases ...” [Straus, 1989].
- ◆ Of every 100 dating couples, 33 men commit a

violent act upon their partners, but even more women — 39 — commit such acts [Sugerman, et. al., 1989].

- ◆ Of 472 homicides reported in Alabama in 1993, only 105 were domestic homicides, where 55% of victims were male and 45% of victims were female.
- ◆ The wife is 402% more likely to desire ending a relationship than the husband [National Survey of Families and Households, 1987]. (Note: ending a marriage with children involved, particularly for ‘optional’ reasons or pretending that a normal marriage is somehow a “control issue”, is a serious act of social violence. Presently unquestioned as a social norm, it drives more commonly discussed forms of downstream domestic conflict. Marriage is power-sharing — divorce as we know it is power monopoly over social status, children, and assets — which predictably drives serious post-separation conflict, as proven in statistics from every major study of “domestic violence”)
- ◆ “Recognition of the global nature of violence may be more realistic than assuming that only women are victims” [JAMA, 1997]
- ◆ From 1975 to 1985, domestic violence against women dropped from 12.1% of women to 11.3% while domestic violence against men rose from 11.6% to 12.1%. [Straus and Gelles, JAMA, 1986]
- ◆ 31% of men and 44% of women in a study reported that they aggressed against their partner in the year before marriage. Eighteen months after marriage, 27% of the men and 36% of the women reported being violent towards their partner. [O’Leary, 1989]

### **From *Physical Assaults by Wives: A Major Social Problem* [Straus, 1993]:**

- ◆ “It is important not to use findings based on cases known to the police or shelters for battered women as the basis for deciding how to deal with the relatively minor and infrequent violence found in

the population in general. That type of unwarranted generalization is often made; it is known as the *clinical fallacy*.”

- ◆ “One can conclude that the research on who hit first does not support the hypothesis that assaults by wives are primarily acts of self-defense or retaliation.”
- ◆ “The Kentucky [Commission On Women] study brings out a troublesome question of scientific ethics, because it is one of several in which the data on assaults by women were intentionally suppressed.”
- ◆ “Studies of residents in shelters for battered women are sometimes cited to show that it is only their male partners who are violent. However, these studies rarely obtain or report information on assaults by women, and when they do, they ask only about self-defense.”
- ◆ “Without an adjustment for injury, the National Family Violence Survey produces an estimate of more than 6 million women assaulted by a male partner each year, of which 1.8 million are “severe” assaults (Straus & Gelles, 1990). If the injury adjusted rate is used, the estimate is reduced to 188,000 assaulted women per year. The figure of 1.8 million seriously assaulted women every year has been used in many legislative hearings and countless feminist publication to indicate the prevalence of the problem.”
- ◆ “It follows from the above that efforts to prevent assaults by husbands must include attention to assaults by wives.”

## CHILD ABUSE

- ◆ Of every 100 children who are abused, 47 are abused by mothers; 25 are abused by their fathers [Texas Department of Human Services].
- ◆ Of every 100 children victimized by violence, 62 are victimized by their mothers [Steinmetz, 1980].