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## **Social context discrimination among type 1 and type 2 domestic batterers**

Sean Patrick Brannon

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SOCIAL CONTEXT DISCRIMINATION AMONG TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2  
DOMESTIC BATTERERS

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A Thesis  
Presented to the  
Faculty of  
California State University,  
San Bernardino

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science  
in  
Psychology: Clinical Counseling

---

by  
Sean Patrick Brannon

June 1998

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by  
Sean Patrick Brannon


June 1998

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Michael G. Weiss, Chair, Psychology

*5/27/98*  
Date

  
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Gloria Cowan

  
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Michael Lewin

## ABSTRACT

Heterosexual men attending court-mandated group therapy for anger management and drug/alcohol addiction recovery (N = 58) participated in a study of social context discrimination and the cognitive processes of physically abusing others. Four target individuals (Mate, Child, Friend and Stranger) were presented as antagonists in hypothetical vignettes in which the participant was physically harmed by the target, but the intent of the target was unclear. The participants' attributed hostile intent, response preference and outcome desirability ratings of an aggressive, assertive and passive response to each target was evaluated. In addition, a detailed history of both adult and childhood violent experiences was analyzed. It was found that Type 1 batterers (Generalized) attributed more hostile intent and preferred a more aggressive response to the Mate and Friend targets as compared to Type 2 batterers (Family Only) and controls. Among the batterer groups (Type 1 and Type 2) childhood exposure to violence was found to predict violence to children and violence to non-family persons. Attribution of hostile intent was found to be a predictor of aggression whereas outcome desirability was not. The clinical applicability of the findings are discussed.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First I would like to thank the "men in the trenches" Rodney Burke, Wayne Patillo and Micheal Dyer for their suggestions and assistance in gaining access to this population of men. Secondly I'd like to thank the men who participated in this research and shared intimate details of their lives so that someone else may benefit from their experiences. Whatever these men have done in the past and since this writing, they gave freely of themselves for the purpose of helping others.

My education at CSUSB has had three primary facets. The foundations of psychology I learned from Stuart Ellins, Chuck Hoffman, Bob Cramer and especially Frederick Newton.

My professional/academic development was promoted by Gloria Cowan, Diane Halpern, Jan Kottke and John Hatton.

And finally, my development as a clinician was fostered by Michael G. Weiss, Ed Teyber and Martha Kazlo.

I thank you all for your support and guidance throughout my 6 years here. Thank you for the gentle nudges and the not-so-gentle pushes when I needed it. You all have guided me to a new level of enlightenment and achievement.

## DEDICATION

To my family who so patiently supported me through my academic endeavors. Arlene my wife has encouraged me to succeed and has even promoted my career at the expense of her own for which I am eternally grateful. Without her support I could never have risen so high nor shone so bright as I have. Also to my young children Sebastian and Megan who often have wondered why daddy is so tired. Someday if you read this please know that I gained great satisfaction from my education, but I did it all because you both deserve a more enlightened and brighter future than I had as a child. Remember, the future begins now!

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## INTRODUCTION

In recent years rates of domestic violence have dramatically increased. Whether this is an actual increase in household violence or if societal awareness, intervention and reporting methods have greatly improved is still speculation. Regardless, we know from recent surveys that spousal abuse is a far-reaching problem in America. The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that in 1992, over 20% of all violent crimes against women were perpetrated by intimates (husband, ex-husband or boyfriend). A surprising 28% of all female homicide victims were known to be killed by intimates (DOJ, 1994).

Although many treatment programs for male batterers have been developed to help stop domestic abuse, reports vary as to the effectiveness of current treatment methods. Gondolf (1997) conducted a review of batterer treatment programs and treatment efficacy. In his literature review, he concluded that although treatment programs with batterers appear to have a positive effect in most cases, we must enhance our scientific knowledge of batterers in order to understand the mechanisms by which treatment is effective. His review of program evaluation studies yield an estimate of a 60% to 80% success rate in cessation of physical violence for program completers; however much lower

successful outcome rates are gained when evaluating verbal aggression.

Many public batterer treatment programs use a cognitive-behavioral approach to therapy. Typically these programs use assertiveness training, cognitive restructuring and stress control instruction to decrease the use of violence in the batterer (Gottman , 1997; Saunders and Hanusa, 1986). Although these methods may be effective, consistent scientific investigations of these facets of treatment for batterers are lacking. As more research is conducted in this area, we may find that stronger emphasis in one or more areas of the therapeutic plan will be needed to increase treatment efficacy among different subtypes of batterer.

One line of research which has gained much attention is the development of typologies of batterers. Working on the premise that we must distinguish between different sub-types of batterers to understand the varying presentation of symptoms in batterers, several researchers have proposed various characteristics of batterers which may affect the efficacy of treatment ranging from socio-environmental aspects to personality characteristics (Gondolf, 1988; Sugarman & Hotaling, 1989; Dutton, 1995; Hastings & Hamberger, 1994; Dutton & Starzomski, 1994; and others)

Developing these typologies and exploring the characteristics of batterers gives us valuable tools in enhancing our treatment methods for batterers. Considering that different types of batterers have been identified in the literature, it is likely that effective treatment for one type of batterer may not be as effective for another type (Gondolf, 1988). It may be the case that to enhance treatment outcome, we need to adjust our treatment goals and strategies based on our knowledge of these different types of batterers.

Holtzworth-Munroe and Stuart (1994) proposed three general subtypes of batterers based on their comparison of an extensive number of typologies. The three dimensions they found common in most batterer studies were; Severity of violence, Generality of violence and Psychopathology. In the third category, several researchers have sought to explain battering in a pre-established diagnostic framework. On DSM IV Axis I, Depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Alcoholism and Intermittent Explosive Disorder are the most frequently cited. On Axis II, we find some batterers are diagnosable with Antisocial Personality Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder. The primary problem with these explanations for battering behavior is one of social context discrimination: the restraint exhibited by batterers

when interacting with certain individuals and where the interaction occurs. In all of these diagnosable disorders social context discrimination is assumed to be absent. One would presume that because a mate spends the most time with a batterer that there would be a greater chance of some unpredictable outburst linked to these disorders occurring with the mate present simply as a function of exposure time. However in many cases the mate is the only focus of the batterer's aggression and we observe that social context discrimination is present.

We know from research and clinical reports that the initial act of deciding to batter depends on social context; namely, who the perceived antagonist is, and where this perceived slight occurs. For example, the typical batterer does not physically attack a police officer when outraged at receiving a speeding ticket. Likewise the batterer does not attack the local grocery clerk when short-changed at the check-out stand. The intimates of the batterer, however, are much less fortunate. We also observe that the intimate is not always attacked immediately when the batterer perceives some slight. The batterer will not openly attack his intimate in an openly forbidden setting such as a restaurant. However, behind closed doors the batterer will attack with all abandon (Walker, 1979, pp. 57, 61).

These observations demonstrate two necessary facets to the analysis of this violent behavior: 1) The attack behavior is limited to certain persons and not others; and 2) the attack behavior is controlled in certain settings. Most importantly, this demonstrates something very useful to us as researchers and clinicians; the batterer appears to control his aggression when he needs to.

Recently Gottman et al. (1995) reviewed several works (Dutton, 1988; Gondolf, 1988; Holtzworth-Munroe & Stuart, 1994; La Taillade, Waltz, Jacobson & Gottman, 1992), concluding from this review that two primary categories of batterer are prominent, based on their generality of violence; Type 1 batterers who are generally violent not only to their intimates, but to non-family persons as well, and Type 2 batterers who are only violent within the immediate family. In their research they found what appears to be a physiological basis of distinguishing between these two types of batterer.

Married couples were observed in a laboratory setting and asked to discuss areas of conflict within their marriage. While the couples interacted, the investigators monitored cardiac interbeat interval, finger-pulse transmission time, finger pulse amplitude, skin conductance and general somatic activity levels. They discovered that

Type 1 batterers' heart rates decreased during a controlled conflict situation in the laboratory, while Type 2 batterers' heart rates increased. In general, they observed that Type 1 batterers began the session angry and after approximately five minutes, began to calm and lowered their heart rates. They hypothesized that this could be the batterer focusing his attention on his mate during the conflict. Type 2 batterers by contrast began the session calmly and became increasingly angry as the session progressed. In the criminal justice literature, researchers have found that violent criminals have lower heart rate reactivity than other types of offenders. This lower heart rate is theorized to be related to "thrill seeking" type persons, and these individuals become calm when others become excited. In a related study of adolescent boys, Perry (1995) found that among boys who were severely physically abused and living in a residential treatment setting, there appeared to emerge a "predatory" subset of boys. He discovered that unlike most of the boys, this subset had normalized their reactive heart rates and had decreases in heart rate reactivity when discussing their predatory behaviors in an interview. These "predatory" boys reported a soothing, calming feeling when "stalking" a potential victim. This may relate to Gottman et al's findings with



Type 1 batterers. With a propensity towards more generalized violence, these batterers may have decided on a violent course of action and this results in a lowering of heart rate, however this has yet to be shown in a controlled study.

For investigations of domestic assault, researchers focus on whether the batterer assaults primarily family members or others. However, a perplexing question arises. In general, violent criminals do not batter family members and most are violent for economic reasons (i.e. to obtain money or items of worth). Apparently, Type 1 batterers (still criminals but for other reasons) do not discriminate between assaulting strangers and intimates and the motivation for their assaultiveness is very different. These subtle differences in motivation when used for application in treatment could significantly influence treatment outcome.

Differing behavior of individuals according to social context has been well established in the social psychology field. When examining a batterer's violent behavior in a cognitive-behavioral context, several factors become necessary to understanding this behavior.

In a conflict situation, a batterer must attend to and interpret social cues in order to decide on a course of action (or inaction). It would appear from many reports that

batterers are hyper-vigilant to negative cues in these situations. Researchers report that some batterers appear to interpret many social situations as hostile even where no hostility exists (Dutton, 1995<sub>A</sub>). This observation suggests that due to salient past experiences, the batterer encodes certain social information in a negatively biased manner.

In attribution theory, researchers have discovered that, in general, we focus upon negative information about others more than positive information and tend to attribute these negative reasons for behavior to internal traits, rather than external or circumstantial evidence (Heider, 1958; Ross, 1977). In addition, we tend to attribute negativity to out-group individuals more than our in-groups (Pettigrew, 1979). And the perceptual salience of the actor to the observer also increases causal attributions, whether positive or negative (Taylor and Fiske, 1975; 1978). From our current knowledge of the batterer, we can surmise that for some reason, batterers do not follow this pattern of responding more negatively to out-groups and more positively to in-group members. Paradoxically, instead of only attributing hostile intent to strangers, batterers may also attribute hostile intent to their intimates as well.

Dutton (1995<sub>A</sub>) discusses this phenomenon extensively, referring to an internal mechanism which sets the batterer's

cognitions and outward aggressiveness into motion. The intimates of these men relate that sometimes there is no known cause as to why the batterer suddenly becomes violent. We must remember that the external stimuli to a batterer may not elicit the same response in a non-battering male. It is the perception of the stimulus and the meaning the batterer casts onto that stimuli that matter most. Dutton presents a chilling case illustration where a batterer in treatment finds a key at his home which has two letters on it. This batterer then interprets that to mean that his mate is cheating on him and the key has the initials of her lover. As Dutton discovered, the key simply had the initials of the local key shop on it and was unrelated to any single person. This case demonstrates how a batterer can take seemingly neutral stimuli (the key) and cast a negative bias onto the information received.

After this negatively biased information is processed, the batterer must decide on a course of action. If the social information is already biased toward a hostile interpretation, the batterer will find an appropriate response to the perceived hostile act. From a multitude of available responses ranging from passive to aggressive, the batterer will choose a response most salient and one which has been demonstrated in the past to be effective. We know

that for batterers (unfortunately) that this response is usually an aggressive one. Whether through vicarious learning or first-hand experience, batterers have learned that violence is a powerful and direct coping method when used in family conflict situations.

In addition to aggression being the most salient coping response for a batterer, he has also learned either vicariously or personally that using violence is reinforcing in some way (whether it be relief of stress, or obtaining control in a stressful situation) and additionally, that the failure to use violence to retaliate may be unpleasant or punishing (Peterson, 1980; Sugarman and Hotaling, 1989). With these cognitions at work, and particularly after several trials, the batterer also begins to predict positive or desirable situational outcomes when violence is used.

In summary, there emerges three main phases in the batterer's use of violence. First is the perception of a slight due to negatively biased framing of information. Secondly upon perceiving this slight, the batterer selects a salient, effective and proven response. Lastly the batterer weighs the benefits and rewards of the decision to aggress based on past experience or perceived situational outcome desirability.

If we assume that the committing of intimate violence

is not an innate trait, we must assume that it is learned. Determining the intricacies of this learning process is difficult. Violence in the family of origin appears to be a powerful correlate of committing violence in a batterer's own family. Carter, Stacey and Shupe (1988) found that the extent of familial violence a batterer was exposed to as a child was significantly related to the severity of violence perpetrated by the batterer as an adult. Although programs for treatment of batterers and their victims have greatly improved over the last few decades, it is difficult to estimate the collateral harm that domestic violence causes with extended family, the community and our society as a whole. The information gathered thus far in our research does not yet enable us to state definitively that early exposure to aggression is necessary to promote later use of violence in the family, but it may be sufficient.

The children of violent households need not be personally assaulted for them to learn violent patterns of behavior. Bandura's theory of vicarious learning has shown consistently that children can learn negative behavior without necessarily experiencing physical violence themselves (Bandura, Ross and Ross, 1963; Bandura, 1973). Other researchers have discovered that verbal aggression between adults in the presence of children without physical

assault, can also elicit aggressive responses from children. (Cummings, 1987; Cummings, Iannotti and Zahn-Waxler, 1985; Cummings, Zahn-Waxler and Radke-Yarrow, 1981; Davies and Cummings, 1994).

Hotzworth-Munroe and Stuart (1994) in their review of the current literature concerning batterers observed that most studies find a link between childhood exposure to parental violence and later aggression towards intimates. They concluded that when examining family-only batterers (Type 2) to generally aggressive batterers (Type 1) that all the batterers appear to become more aggressive as adults when exposed to more aggression between parents in their families of origin.

It would appear from the information above that when viewing batterers in the context of typologies, that stimulus generalization has occurred with some batterers and not others. In Type 2 batterers who assault only family members, we would surmise that the batterer discriminates between social contexts of conflict situations. In other words, in the cognitions of batterers, the assault of an intimate is very different than assaulting a stranger outside the family context. Conversely, Type 1 batterers appear to have somehow generalized their aggressive encoding and responses to include most conflict situations, not

limited in social context to only the family, but including distal members of their social groups.

If these generalized (Type 1) batterers assault not only their intimates, but strangers as well, does this generalization of violence also apply to children?

There is little doubt that a child's exposure to domestic violence places these children at serious risk for several developmental problems (Cummings, 1987; Widom, 1989 and others ). Many reports claim that batterers, although violent to mates, are not necessarily physically assaultive to the children of the household. Indices of batterers abusing children estimate that in approximately 30-70% of domestic violence cases, there is also child physical and sexual abuse present, perpetrated by the batterer, the mother or both (Hughes, 1982; Pagelow, 1989; Straus et al., 1980).

A study by Hinchey and Gavelek (1982) explored the effects of domestic violence on children's "empathic responsiveness." Thirty-two children and their mothers were selected into two groups. One group of mothers reported that domestic violence had been present in the household, and the other group where no domestic violence was present acted as a control. The groups were matched on age and gender of child. One measure used was the Home Climate Questionnaire

which was completed by the mothers. From the mothers' reports they found that batterers were just as likely to be verbally abusive to their children as they were to their spouses. Batterers and control group fathers did not differ in frequency of physically abusing their children.

No study to date has investigated the frequency of child physical abuse among Type 1 and Type 2 batterers. If generalized batterers assault individuals outside the home as well as intimates, we could expect to find that these batterers would assault the children of the home more frequently than Type 2 batterers.

One distinction between Type 1 and Type 2 batterers is whether the batterer assaults individuals other than mates. Gottman et.al. (1995) noted in their findings that Type 1 batterers reported being more physically violent during conflicts with friends, coworkers/bosses and strangers than were Type 2 batterers.

If social context discrimination is a factor which differentiates Type 1 batterers, Type 2 batterers and non-violent controls, then given hypothetical vignettes involving conflict situations where the social role of the target varies and the intent of the target is unclear, several differences between Type 1 batterers (T1), Type 2 batterers (T2) and non-violent Control subjects (C) should



be observed.

### Experimental Measures

It was hypothesized that given four hypothetical conflict situations where the social context of the target varied in degrees from proximal to distal (mate, child, friend and stranger), the response differences to these targets could be evaluated. The cognitions of the three groups of men (T1, T2 and C) for each of the four targets were assessed in three ways: 1) hostile intent attributed to the target, 2) preference for a passive (PAS), assertive (AST) and aggressive (AGR) response to each target, and 3) rating of situation outcome desirability using each of the three different response types (PAS, AST and AGR).

### Attributed Hostile Intent

It was predicted that Type 1 batterers should attribute hostile intent to all targets regardless of social distance and relationship, thus Type 1 batterers should attribute significantly more hostile intent to all the targets than Type 2 batterers and Controls. Non-violent controls should attribute hostile intent to strangers more than the other three targets.

### Response Preference

For the response preference variables, no differences between groups were expected on ratings of the passive

responses across all target conditions.

The assertive response would be rated higher by controls, and lower by the batterer groups in the family-only target conditions (mate, child). In the other conditions (friend, stranger) no differences were predicted between the groups across both conditions.

Lastly it was predicted that T1 and C subjects would rate the aggressive response higher with the stranger target than T2 subjects. Among the family targets (mate and child) both T1 and T2 subjects would prefer the aggressive response more than C subjects.

#### Predictors of Aggression

The second focus on this study was to evaluate the importance of hostile attribution and situation outcome desirability in predicting an aggressive response to each target. Each batterer groups' hostile attribution score and situation outcome score's prediction of aggressive response was evaluated.

#### Childhood Predictors of Adult Aggression

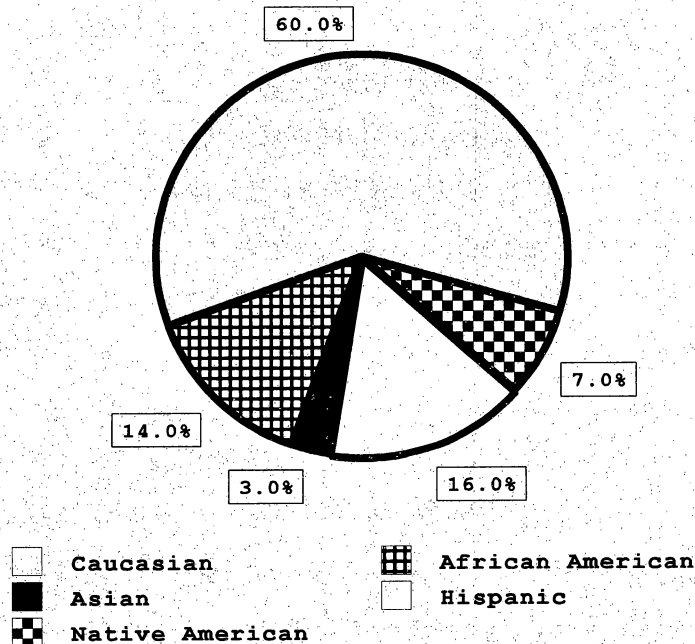
The third focus of this investigation was the predictive value of childhood exposure to violence, both observed and experienced on the report of adult violence committed against others.

## METHODS

### Participants

The participants in this study were all males over the age of 18 and had a mean age of 35 years ( $SD=11.91$ ) old ( $N=58$ ). The ethnic distribution of the sample is displayed in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.**  
**Ethnic Distribution of the Sample (N=58)**



Participants in the batterer groups consisted of men attending court-mandated counseling for domestic assault in the Inland Empire. To avoid any confounds of treatment effects, only men who had attended counseling for four sessions or less were accepted into the study. Participants

in this group were further divided into two groups. Men who had assaulted only family members ( $n=20$ ), and men who had assaulted both family members and non family members ( $n=17$ ). Two measures were used to distinguish Type 1 batterers from Type 2 batterers: 1) participants were asked to list all arrests for crimes after age 18, and asked to identify if the victim was family or not. If the batterer listed an arrest for any violent crime involving physical harm to another who was not a family member, the participant was classified as Type 1. Further, another item asked participants if they had been involved in any injurious physical fights with non-family members since age 18. Any batterer who indicated that he had been involved in more than two injurious physical fights with non-family members was classified as Type 1.

Participants in the control group were recruited from men's drug/alcohol addiction groups also in the Inland Empire area ( $n=21$ ). These men had either one or two drug or alcohol offenses and were attending mandatory drug counseling as a condition of probation.

Several exclusion measures were used to ensure proper grouping of the men as non-violent, Type 1 or Type 2 batterers. If a batterer in treatment indicated on the instrument that he had never hit his mate, the participant

was excluded. Likewise, if a non-violent control indicated that he had physically hit his mate or had been involved in more than one injurious physical fight with a non-family member since age 18 the participant was excluded. The protocol for the ethical treatment of participants in this study was approved by the CSUSB Institutional Review Board (ID: H-97S-26). In addition, all participants were treated in accordance with the APA's Ethical Guidelines for Research (Section 6, APA Principles, and Code of Conduct, APA, 1992).

#### Survey Instrument

A 10 page, 51 question survey was constructed to collect data on demographics, childhood history of physical abuse, adult history of physical abuse, and to evaluate attributions and cognitions in ambiguous conflict situations (see Appendix A: Survey Instrument).

The experimental measure consisted of a total of 4 situational vignettes. The basic design of this measure was adapted from Dodge, Bates and Pettit's (1990) study of aggressive children's attribution biases when given an ambiguous conflict situation.

The survey presented 4 different hypothetical social situations where a target person physically injures the protagonist; however, the intent of the target was ambiguous. The identity of the targets ranged from proximal

to distal and were labeled as Mate, Child, Friend and Stranger. The hypothetical conflict situation was defined as the condition where an individual is placed in a conflict situation and the intent of the target is unclear. In creating the situations one concern was that the subjects might differ on their ratings of the importance of the conflict portrayed in each situation. Dodge et al. (1990) used two different vignettes, then averaged the two scores to compensate for individual differences in rating the significance of the conflict. Holtzworth-Munroe (1994) added a measure of valence to her vignettes to statistically compare the importance ratings of each conflict. Considering that men differ widely as to their perceptions of psychological or emotional harm, we created each situation so that the protagonist was physically injured in each vignette. Participants were asked to imagine that they were the protagonist in each vignette, experiencing the situation portrayed. In creating the situation vignettes another concern was the possibility of subjects varying the importance of the conflict situation portrayed by each target and the perceived cause of the conflict. To ensure the conflict in each vignette was given equal weight by the subjects, the target clearly causes physical harm to the individual in each situation. However, the intent of the

target was intentionally made unclear in order to measure the subjects attribution of the target's intent. The gender of the targets were also made ambiguous so that this measure might be used in the future with different genders of subjects. The presentation order of the vignettes was systematically varied to eliminate any order effects.

After presentation of each situation vignette, participants were asked to respond to each situation in three ways: 1) attributed hostile intent to the target, 2) response preference to a passive, an assertive and an aggressive response statement and 3) perceived situation outcome using each response. The attributed hostile intent measure presented a statement that the target had wanted to hurt the protagonist. Participants were asked how much they agreed with the statement on a six-point scale ranging from Greatly Agree to Greatly Disagree. Next the participants were presented a passive, assertive and an aggressive response to the situation vignette. Participants were asked to rate how much they agreed with each response on a six-point scale ranging from Greatly Agree to Greatly Disagree. They were then asked to rate how well the situation would turn out for the protagonist using each response on a six-point scale ranging from Very Good to Very Bad.

Among the life experiences of violence section of the

survey, it is important to note that the definition of abuse used in this study was measurement of incidents of injury. An "injury" was defined for the participants as ranging from at least a bruise to broken bones and/or more severe physical trauma. All questions concerning violence were phrased as incidents of injury. Although physical trauma can certainly exist without exhibiting external signs of injury, and many other forms of injury exist (i.e. severe psychological torture), it was desired that our measure of both adult and childhood violent experiences would not be confounded by interpretation or subjective evaluation of psychological harm. The violent experiences measures asked for frequency of childhood abuse to others (including family and non-family), observed physical violence among family members, experienced abuse from family members and adult frequency of abusing ones' mate, non-family persons and children. The violent experience measures asked the participant to write in numerical form "how many times you were injured" by the various family members and "how many times you have injured" others both within and outside the family. Although it is acknowledged that the measure would surely exclude some instances of violence, the data should be conservative in nature as apposed to inflated using this definition.



A few participants gave very high estimates of instances of abuse to convey the level of abuse they experiences as children. These responses took two forms; numerical (i.e. "2,000+") and textual (i.e. "almost every week"). Although these responses were certainly valid experiences of the men and should not be ignored, to prevent extreme inflation of the results, these extreme responses were coded as 20 injuries. Again, this was done to ensure that the estimates of violent experiences and the results were conservative rather than inflated.

#### Procedure

After being given informed consent, all participants were surveyed in a quiet area, with the experimenter present, to ensure that the questions were answered at one sitting, and with no outside assistance or interference. The identity of the participants was not obtained in any form to secure anonymity and to promote truthful responses. After completion of the survey, participants were debriefed, concluding the procedure.

## RESULTS

### Demographic Measures

A series of One-way ANOVAs were performed to evaluate any differences in demographics between the groups. The combined results of these analyses are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1.

#### Oneway ANOVAs for Demographic Factors

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Age	Between	171.85	2	85.93	.59
	Error	7919.87	55	143.99	
Education	Between	3.28	2	1.64	.54
	Error	166.73	55	3.03	
No. children	Between	15.14	2	7.57	3.78*
	Error	110.26	55	2.01	

No significant differences were observed between the groups for age and education level. A significant difference between the groups was found on number of children,  $F(2,55)=3.78$ ,  $p < .05$ . Post-hoc analysis (Tukey's test) showed that among the groups, T2 (family only batterer) participants ( $M=2.2$ ,  $SD=1.5$ ) had significantly more children than Controls ( $M=1.0$ ,  $SD=1.2$ ), Tukey  $a$ ,  $p < .05$ .

To evaluate any differences between groups among the nominal demographic variables a series of Chi square analyses were performed. No significant differences were

observed between the groups on childhood income level, adult income level, birth order and ethnicity.

### Experimental Measures

A series of seven mixed design 3x4 (Group x Target) ANOVAs were conducted to examine the experimental factors.

#### Attribution of Hostile Intent

The first ANOVA was conducted to examine the participants' attribution of hostile intent to the targets. The results are presented in Table 2. There was a

Table 2.

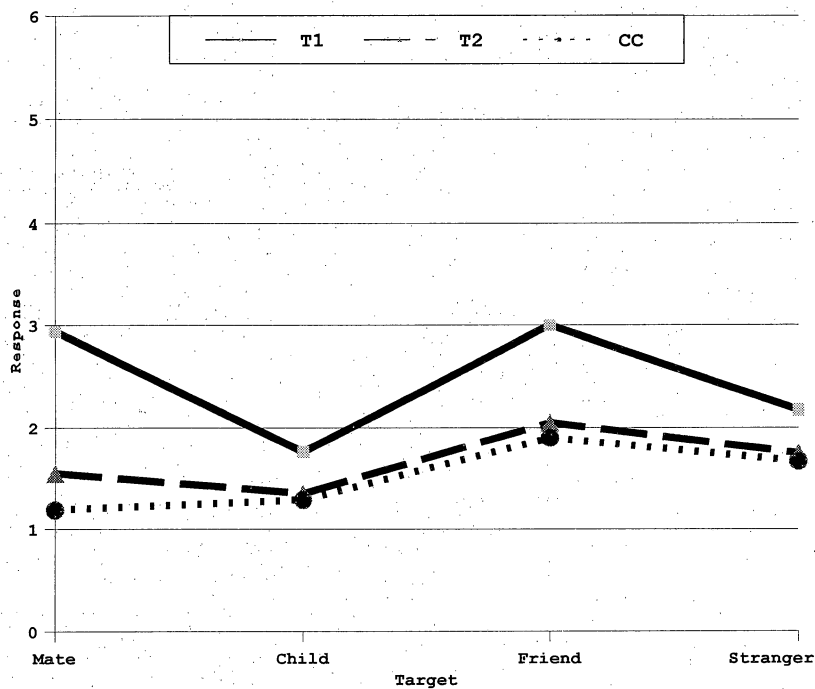
#### Mixed ANOVA for Attribution of Hostile Intent

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	38.241	2	19.12	6.98**
	Error	150.73	55	2.74	
	Target	20.89	3	6.96	8.71***
	T X G	10.89	6	1.82	2.27*
Within	Error	131.94	165	.80	
	Total	352.69	231		

\* =  $p < .05$     \*\* =  $p < .01$     \*\*\* =  $p < .001$

significant effect for Targets, Groups and the interaction of Group x Target. The marginal means (with standard error in parens) for the T1, T2 and Controls were 2.47 (.201), 1.67 (.185) and 1.51 (.181) respectively. As illustrated in Figure 2, the T1 participants rated hostile attribution

**Figure 2**  
**Attribution of Hostile Intent**



highest among the groups across all targets, followed by T2s and lastly the Controls.

Post-Hoc (Tukey's) Tests were performed to evaluate the significant effects. In the Mate Target condition, Type 1 batterers ( $\underline{M}=2.9$ ,  $\underline{SD}=1.9$ ) attributed significantly more negative intent to the target than did Type 2s ( $\underline{M}=1.6$ ,  $\underline{SD}=1.1$ ) and Controls ( $\underline{M}=1.2$ ,  $\underline{SD}=0.4$ ). However, there were no significant differences between the T2 and CC participants. In the Friend Target condition, Type 1 batterers ( $\underline{M}=3.0$ ,  $\underline{SD}=1.5$ ) attributed significantly more negative intent to the target as compared to Controls ( $\underline{M}=1.9$ ,  $\underline{SD}=1.1$ ). No significant differences were observed between the Control

and T2 ( $M=2.1$ ,  $SD=1.3$ ) group responses in the Child and Stranger conditions.

### Aggressive Response

A mixed design ANOVA was conducted to evaluate the respondents' aggressive response preference among the four target conditions. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3.

#### Mixed ANOVA for Aggressive Response Preference

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	25.95	2	12.97	5.23**
	Error	136.40	55	2.48	
	Target	59.77	3	19.92	16.43***
	T X G	5.07	6	.85	.69
Within	Error	200.07	165	1.21	
	Total	427.26	231		

\* =  $p < .05$     \*\* =  $p < .01$     \*\*\* =  $p < .001$

Significant differences between groups and among target conditions were observed. No significant interaction effect was found. The marginal means (with standard error in parentheses) for the Group main effect were T1 2.29 (.191), T2 1.59 (.176) and Controls 1.54 (.172).

Post-Hoc (Tukey's) Tests were performed to examine the general between groups differences in response.

Under the Target Mate condition T1 batterers ( $M=2.1$ ,

SD=1.6) preferred a more aggressive response to the target than both T2 (M=1.2, SD=.37) and Control participants (M=1.2, SD=.22).

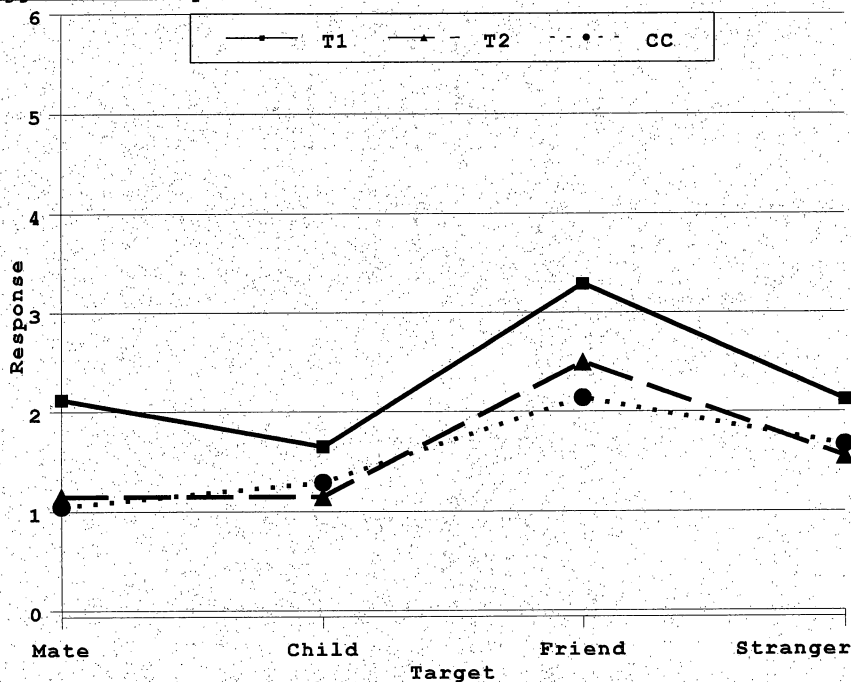
To further examine the Target main effect, Post-hoc (Tukey's) tests were performed to evaluate the significant target effects between the Mate (M=1.44, SE=.12), Child (M=1.36, SE=.12), Friend (M=2.65, SE=.22) and Stranger (M=1.78, SE=.164) conditions. The participants rated the aggressive response to the Friend target significantly higher than to the Mate, Child and Stranger targets, Tukey a, p < .05. They also rated the aggressive response to the Stranger target significantly higher than to the Child target, Tukey a, p < .05. The patterns of response across the targets are displayed in Figure 3.

A planned comparison was conducted to examine the differences between T1 batterers combined with Controls versus T2 batterers under the Stranger target condition (T1 + CC vs. T2). The results showed no significant difference between the groupings, t (55) = .49, p > .05.

A set of planned comparisons were conducted to evaluate the differences between the combined batterer groups (T1 + T2) and the Control group under the Mate and Child conditions. Under the Mate condition the T1 and T2 (M = 1.6, SD = 1.2) group rated the aggressive response significantly

higher than the Control group ( $M = 1.1$ ,  $SD = .22$ ),  $t(55) = 2.36$ ,  $p < .05$ . Under the Child target condition, no

**Figure 3**  
**Aggressive Response Preference**



significant differences were observed,  $t(55) = .45$ ,  $p > .05$ .

The Aggressive outcome desirability was examined using a mixed design ANOVA. The results are presented in Table 4. No significant between groups differences were found; however, a significant target effect was found. The marginal means (with standard error in parentheses) for the targets Mate, Child, Friend and Stranger were 2.5 (.28), 2.7 (.29), 3.4 (.25) and 2.6 (.25) respectively.

Table 4.

Mixed ANOVA for Aggressive Outcome Desirability

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	4.99	2	2.50	.23
	Error	594.38	55	10.81	
	Target	24.18	3	8.06	4.40**
	T X G	13.05	6	2.17	1.19
Within	Error	302.47	165	1.83	
	Total	939.07	231		

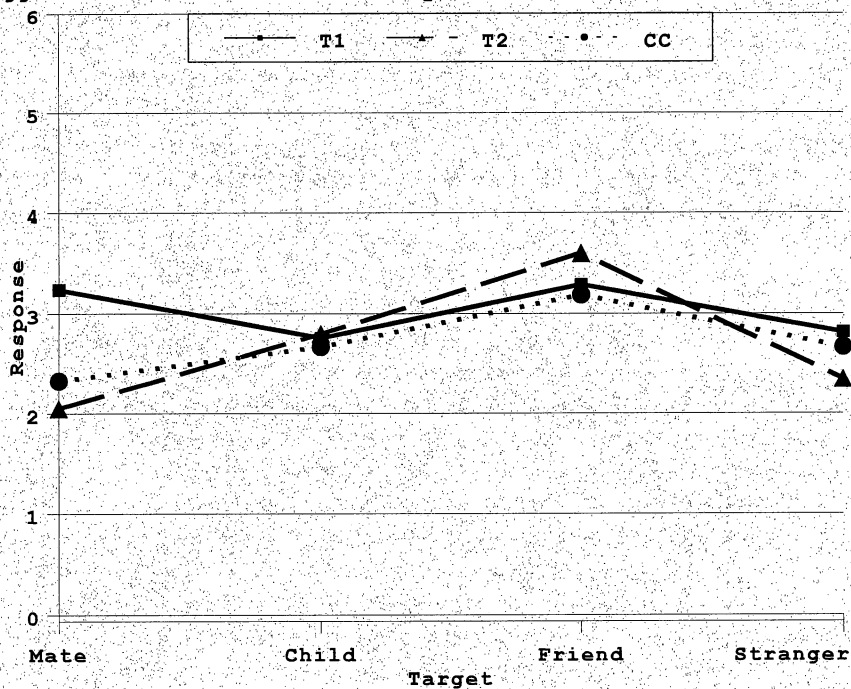
\*\* =  $p < .01$

Post-hoc analysis (Tukey's) of Aggressive Outcome Desirability between the target conditions found that the Friend condition was rated significantly higher (aggression was predicted as producing a more desirable outcome) than in the Mate, Child and Stranger conditions (Tukey  $\underline{a}$ ,  $\underline{p} < .05$ ). The men rated the Aggressive Outcome in the Child condition significantly higher than in the Mate and Stranger target conditions (Tukey  $\underline{a}$ ,  $\underline{p} < .05$ ). Lastly, the Stranger condition was rated significantly higher than to the Mate condition (Tukey  $\underline{a}$ ,  $\underline{p} < .05$ ).

The pattern of responses for the Aggressive Outcome Desirability ratings across Targets is displayed in Figure 4.



**Figure 4**  
**Aggressive Outcome Desirability**



### Assertive Response

A mixed ANOVA was also performed to examine the differences between the groups when rating an assertive response. No significant differences were found between the groups; however, a significant target effect was observed (see Table 5). The marginal means for the Groups T1, T2 and CC were 4.88 (.15), 5.12 (.14) and 4.76 (.14) respectively. The marginal means for Targets (with standard error in parentheses) were Mate 4.57 (.20), Child 5.45 (.09), Friend 5.11 (.12) and Stranger 4.57 (.16). No further analyses were conducted to evaluate the Target main effects due to these

Table 5.

Mixed ANOVA for Assertive Response Preference

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	5.56	2	2.78	1.81
	Error	84.55	55	1.54	
	Target	32.67	3	10.89	9.13***
	T X G	10.25	6	1.71	1.43
Within	Error	196.71	165	1.19	
	Total	329.74	231		

\*\*\* =  $p < .001$

figures not being germane to this study (see Figure 5).

A planned comparison was performed to examine the assertive response differences comparing both batterer groups (T1 + T2) and Controls under the Mate and Child target conditions. No significant differences were found in both the Mate ( $t(55) = 1.5, p > .05$ ) and the Child ( $t(55) = 1.6, p > .05$ ) conditions.

The results of a mixed ANOVA evaluating the group response differences rating Assertive Outcome Desirability are shown in Table 6. No significant differences between the groups were found. The marginal means for Groups T1, T2 and CC (with standard error in parentheses) were 4.57 (.66),

**Figure 5**  
**Assertive Response Preference**

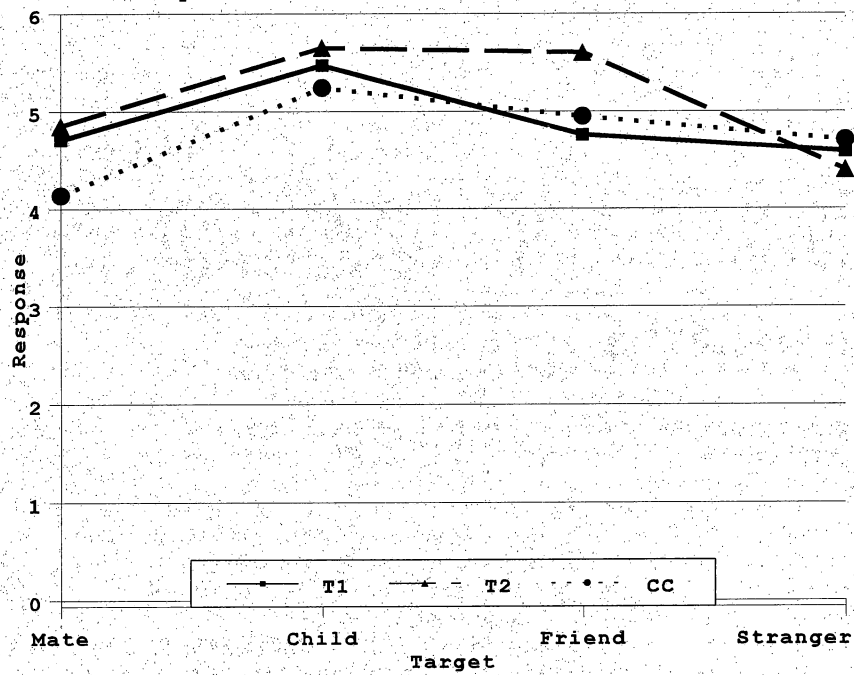


Table 6.

Mixed ANOVA for Assertive Outcome Desirability

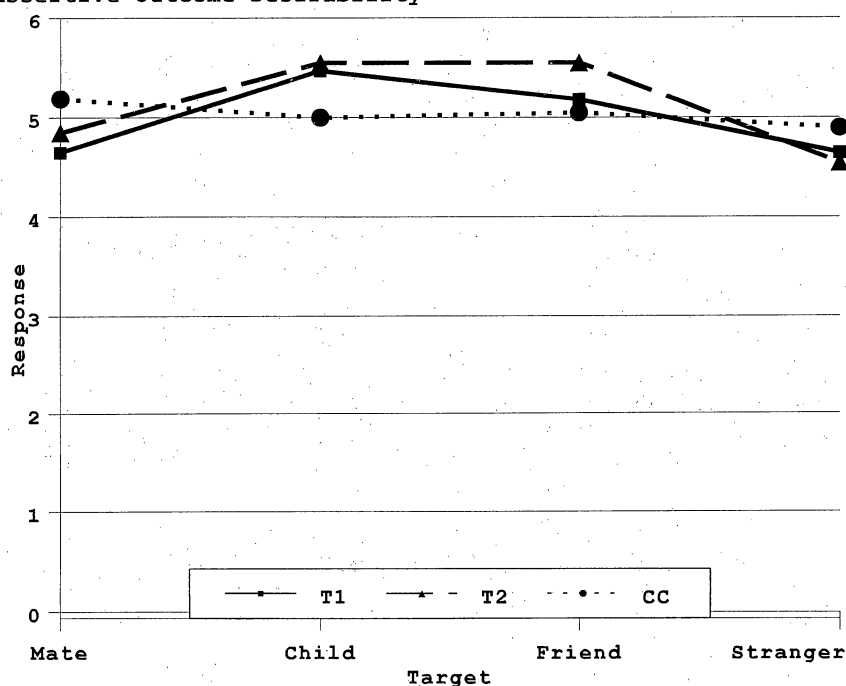
	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	.75	2	.38	.32
	Error	64.63	55	1.18	
	Target	15.72	3	5.24	6.3***
	T X G	9.86	6	1.64	1.98
Within	Error	137.24	165	.83	
	Total	228.20	231		

\*\*\* =  $p < .001$

4.77 (.15) and 4.68 (.15) respectively. A significant effect for target was observed; however no analyses were performed as these target differences were not a focus of this study. The marginal means for Target (with standard error in parentheses) were Mate 5.32 (.14), Child 5.81 (.06), Friend 2.65 (.22) and Stranger 4.94 (.15). The pattern of scores for the assertive response across targets is displayed in Figure 6.

Passive Response

**Figure 6**  
**Assertive Outcome Desirability**



The final pair of mixed ANOVAs were conducted to

examine the differences between groups under the Passive Response and Passive Outcome Desirability conditions (see Table 7 and 8). For the Passive Response Scores, no Table 7.

Mixed ANOVA for Passive Response Preference

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	1.49	2	.75	.40
	Error	102.91	55	1.87	
	Target	338.03	3	112.68	89.44***
	T X G	12.24	6	2.04	1.62
Within	Error	207.88	165	1.26	
	Total	662.53	231		

\*\*\* =  $p < .001$

significant differences between the groups were found under the Passive Response condition. The marginal means for the T1, T2 and CC Groups (with standard error in parens) were 4.57 (.17), 4.77 (.15) and 4.68 (.14) respectively. The target main effect and the Group x Target interaction were also non-significant. The marginal means (with standard error in parentheses) for the targets Mate, Child, Friend and Stranger were 5.3 (.14), 5.81 (.06), 2.7(.22) and 4.9 (.15) respectively. No further analyses were performed as these target differences were not a focus of this study.

Table 8.

Mixed ANOVA for Passive Outcome Desirability

	Source	SS	df	MS	F
Between	Group	2.12	2	1.06	.66
	Error	88.16	55	1.61	
	Target	119.91	3	39.97	38.61***
	T X G	2.31	6	.38	.37
Within	Error	170.82	165	1.04	
	Total	383.32	231		

\*\*\* =  $p < .001$

Under the Passive Outcome Desirability condition, no significant differences between the groups were found (see Table 8). The marginal means for the T1, T2 and CC Groups (with standard error in parentheses) were 5.16 (.15), 5.11 (.14) and 4.94 (.14) respectively. The target main effect and the Group x Target interaction were also non-significant. The marginal means (with standard error in parentheses) for the targets Mate, Child, Friend and Stranger were 5.6 (.10), 5.63 (.08), 3.84(.23) and 5.26 (.12) respectively.

Since the Aggressive Response factor was of particular interest in the practical application of these results, a series of bivariate correlations were conducted (using only the batterer groups' scores) comparing the Attribution of

Hostile Intent score and the Aggressive Outcome Desirability scores to the Aggressive Response Preference ratings (see Table 9). Although across all targets both the Attribution of Hostile Intent and the Aggressive Outcome Desirability scores were significantly correlated with the Aggressive Response Preference score (except in the Mate target condition). When comparing the correlations, the Attribution of Hostile Intent score consistently yielded greater correlations with the Aggressive Response Preference across conditions than the Aggressive Outcome Desirability scores.

For a further comparison of these conditions using the batterers' scores only, a series of four, stepwise multiple regression analyses were conducted to evaluate the predictive value of the Hostile Attribution of Intent and the Aggressive Outcome Desirability ratings. Using the aggressive response preference rating as the predicted variable, both the attribution of hostile intent rating and the aggressive response outcome desirability rating were entered as predictors for each of the targets separately.

Table 9

Bivariate Correlations: Predictors of  
Aggressive Response Preference (N=37)

	Aggressive Response Preference
<u>Mate Target</u>	
Hostile Attribution	r=.577***
Outcome Desirability	r=.174
<u>Child Target</u>	
Hostile Attribution	r=.352**
Outcome Desirability	r=.326**
<u>Friend Target</u>	
Hostile Attribution	r=.485***
Outcome Desirability	r=.356**
<u>Stranger Target</u>	
Hostile Attribution	r=.673***
Outcome Desirability	r=.229*
* = $p < .05$ ** = $p < .01$ *** = $p < .001$	

In the Mate, Friend and Stranger conditions, Attribution of Intent significantly predicted the Aggressive Response Preference rating. The Aggressive Outcome



Desirability rating did not significantly predict the Aggressive Response Preference (see Tables 10,12 and 13).

Table 10.

Multiple Regression: Predictors of Mate Aggression (N=37)

Variable	B	SE B	$\beta$
Attributed Intent	.398	.105	.540**
Aggressive Outcome Pref	.020	-	

Note. A dash (-) denotes items not calculated

R=.540    R<sup>2</sup>=.292     $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.292

Table 11.

Multiple Regression: Predictors of Child Aggression (N=37)

Variable	B	SE B	$\beta$
Step 1.			
Attributed Intent	.379	.135	.352**
Step 2.			
Attributed Intent	.310	.136	.288*
Aggressive Outcome Pref	.109	.054	.253*

Note. A dash (-) denotes items not calculated

Model 1. R=.386    R<sup>2</sup>=.149     $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.149

Model 2. R=.429    R<sup>2</sup>=.184

\* =  $p < .05$     \*\* =  $p < .01$

Table 12.

Multiple Regression: Predictors of Friend Aggression

(N=37)

Variable	B	SE B	$\beta$
Attributed Intent	.619	.149	.485***
Aggressive Outcome Pref	.229	-	-

Note: "-" denotes items not calculated

R=.485    R<sup>2</sup>=.235     $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.208

The results for the Child target condition showed that both measures significantly predicted the Aggressive Response Preference rating, the Attribution of Intent rating significantly predicted the aggressive response alone

Table 13.

Multiple Regression: Predictors of Stranger Aggression

(N=37)

Variable	B	SE B	$\beta$
Attributed Intent	.759	.112	.673***
Aggressive Outcome Pref	.229	-	-

Note. A dash (-) denotes items not calculated

R=.673    R<sup>2</sup>=.452     $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.542

whereas the Outcome Desirability rating did not.

Childhood Predictors of Adult Violence

The violent life experiences of childhood and after the age of 18 among batterers (excluding Control participants) were statistically analyzed using three multiple regression analyses.

Table 14.

Violent Life Experience Variables

Predictor Variables (Childhood)	Predicted Variables (Adult)
injured by siblings	adult injury to non-family
injured by female adult	adult injury to mate
injured by male adult	adult injury to child
inflicted injury on non-family	
inflicted injury on siblings	
observed siblings injure each other	
observed parents injure each other	
observed male adult injure siblings	
observed female adult injure siblings	

Table 15.

Multiple Regression: Predictors of Child Abuse (N=37)

Variable	B	SE B	$\beta$
Step 1.			
Injured by Female	.051	.010	.657***
Step 2.			
Injured by Female	.045	.008	.565***
Obs Sibs Injure	.099	.002	.460***
Step 3.			
Injured by Female	.032	.008	.409***
Obs Sibs Injure	.101	.002	.468***
Obs Fem Injure Sibs	.028	.007	.375***
Step 4.			
Injured by Female	.026	.007	.336**
Obs Sibs Injure	.013	.002	.476***
Obs Fem Injure Sibs	.022	.007	.286**
Obs Parents Fight	.039	.001	.260*

Note. A dash (-) denotes items not calculated

Model 1. R=.657 R<sup>2</sup>=.432  $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.432

Model 2. R=.797 R<sup>2</sup>=.635  $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.203

Model 3. R=.867 R<sup>2</sup>=.751  $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.117

Model 4. R=.895 R<sup>2</sup>=.776  $\Delta$ R<sup>2</sup>=.050

\*\*\* = p<.001 \*\* = p<.01 \* = p<.05

The reported frequency of the adult factors of injuring mate, injuring other non-family adults and injuring children

were examined as predicted factors. All childhood violence factors were entered stepwise into the regression models (see Table 14). The results for the multiple regression model using "injury to child" as the predicted variable are displayed in Table 15. Step four revealed four significant predictive factors: Injury by female, observed siblings injure each other, observed female injure siblings and observed parents injure each other, (Step 4)  $F(1,32)=7.97, p<.01$ .

Using the "adult injury to mate" response as the predicted variable, no childhood experience variables significantly predicted causing injury to one's mate,  $F(1,56)=2.37, p > .05$ .

The final multiple regression analysis used the "adult injury to non-family" response as the predicted variable and all childhood violent factors were entered stepwise as predictors. The results of the regression are shown in Table 16. Three childhood variables significantly predicted the adult injury of non-family persons: inflicted injury on siblings, injury to non-family as a child and injured by female adult, (Step 3)  $F(1,33)=6.52, p<.05$ .

Table 16.

Multiple Regression: Predictors of Injury to Non-family  
(N=37)

Variable	B	SE B	$\beta$
<u>Step 1.</u>			
Injury to Sibs	.255	.053	.628***
<u>Step 2.</u>			
Injury to Sibs	.254	.048	.624***
Injury to non-family	.106	.036	.352**
<u>Step 3.</u>			
Injury to Sibs	.261	.045	.642***
Injury to non-family	.107	.033	.354**
Injured by Female Parent	.779	.305	.282*
Note. A dash (-) denotes items not calculated			
Model 1.	R=.628	R <sup>2</sup> =.394	$\Delta R^2$ =.394
Model 2.	R=.720	R <sup>2</sup> =.518	$\Delta R^2$ =.124
Model 3.	R=.773	R <sup>2</sup> =.598	$\Delta R^2$ =.079
*** = $p < .001$ ** = $p < .01$ * = $p < .05$			

## DISCUSSION

### Experimental Measures

The results in the attribution measure across targets, and the significant results between groups were only present under the Mate and Friend target conditions. These results show that under the Mate target condition T1 batterers attributed significantly more hostile intent to the target than the T2 and Control groups. A similar pattern of response was present under the Friend target condition. In light of these differences it appears that negative perception of intent, although not necessarily a factor in a T2 and Control subject's decision to aggress, is a feature to note when assessing a T1 batterer's cognitions and behavior.

It should be noted that the T1 group's significantly greater attribution of hostile intent was not necessarily a concrete endorsement of the hostile intent scale. Rather, the T1 group's ratings equated to a response of "slightly disagree" whereas the other groups' responses equated to a response of "greatly disagree." Therefore the significant results cannot be presented as a rating of agreement with the statement, but rather the T1 group did not disagree with the statement to the same extent as the other groups. This trend was repeated in the aggressive response preference

scores for the groups (see Figure 3). T1 batterers rated the aggressive response as "slightly disagree" whereas the other groups rated the response as "greatly disagree."

These results were likely influenced by social desirability responding. Although the men were given informed consent ensuring their anonymity some men refused to answer some of the questions, at times remarking about their distrust of the survey. Although respondents who omitted survey answers were removed from the sample, some men wrote phrases such as, "no way" and "only a sucker would answer this" on the survey. In addition to refusing to answer some questions, the batterer subjects were recruited from men's anger management groups where all the men were attending mandated group therapy as a condition of probation. Due to these men's exposure to the justice system, they also may have minimized their responses to questions regarding arrest, crime and battering incidents from fear of jeopardizing their probation. A recommendation of many of the group facilitators who have years of experience with these men was that future investigations should not only include informed consent, but also a "legal" agreement signed by the investigators declaring that they are legally bound to keep the responses anonymous, much like a confidentiality agreement signed at the beginning of



therapy. It was suggested that since the men were familiar with the legal protections afforded by the therapeutic relationship, a similar agreement between participant and investigator might promote more truthful responses.

In relation to the predictions regarding the hostile attribution of intent, the hypothesis that T1 batterers would attribute significantly more hostile intent across all targets was confirmed. However, the prediction that there would be no differences among the targets was disconfirmed (see Figure 2). Holtzworth-Munroe (1998) has demonstrated significant differences between T1 and T2 batterers and Controls when comparing attributed hostile intent of a mate target alone. It is possible that the results deviate from this previous finding because the conflict situation involved physical pain whereas Holtzworth-Munroe's vignettes only involved emotional conflict situations with a mate.

The hypothesis predicting higher levels of attributed hostile intent to the Mate target by T2 batterers was not confirmed. In addition, the prediction that Control subjects would attribute significantly more hostile intent to the Stranger target was also not confirmed.

In light of these results, it appears that for T1 batterers, the attribution of hostile intent could be a significant factor in choosing to aggress against others.

Holtzworth-Munroe (1998) found in her preliminary results that T1 batterers exhibit more negative attributed intent than T2 and Control subjects. Another explanation can be found in Gondolf's (1988) results which indicated that T1 batterers tended to blame the victim of their abuse more often than T2 subjects. The question remains whether the T1 batterer justifies his actions by attributing hostile intent, or whether the attribution of negative intent mediates the abuse and the batterer must later attempt to justify his actions.

The results for the aggressive response preference (Figure 4.) appeared to follow the same patterns of the Attribution ratings. T1 batterers preferred the aggressive response significantly more than the T2 and Control groups under the Mate target condition. It was predicted that both T1 and T2 batterers would rate the aggressive response significantly higher than Controls under the Mate and Child target conditions. This hypothesis was confirmed with the planned comparison combining the batterer groups and measured against the Control group under the Mate target condition, but the hypothesis regarding Child target differences was rejected. This confirms the general assertion that T1 and T2 men prefer a more aggressive response to their mates than Controls. From these

differences in Aggressive Response Preference it is confirmed that although these men may be aggressive towards Mates and even Friends, their aggressive response to children can be inhibited.

In the general analyses of between Group factors, the T1 group alone rated the aggressive response significantly higher than the other groups. Although it may be the case that batterers prefer the aggressive response more than Controls, T1 batterers preferred the aggressive response more than T2 batterers and Controls. This confirms the general hypothesis that T1 and T2 batterers exhibit differing levels of preference to using violence in adult intimate relationships.

It was also predicted that T1 and Control subjects would rate the aggressive response to the Stranger target significantly higher than the T2 group. This hypothesis was also rejected.

Surprisingly examination of the Target differences indicated that the groups preferred the aggressive response under the Friend target much higher than under the other target conditions. One possible explanation for this response is that if the respondents assumed the Friend target to be male, they may have responded more aggressively, in general, to a male intimate. This would

appear to elucidate Gottman et al.'s findings that T1 batterers tended to be abusive towards adult peers. It is likely the case that T1 batterers respond indiscriminately with aggression towards adult intimates in general and not only to their mates.

These findings regarding Mate and Friend aggression could also be indicator that the response to the Mate target was inhibited due to socially desirable responding. In both target conditions, T1 batterers significantly preferred the aggressive response more than T2s and Controls. Examination of the significant findings between the Mate and Friend conditions, reveals that under the Mate condition (analogous to the situation they were currently being punished for) their responses equated to "Slightly Disagree" whereas under the Friend target condition their responses equated to "Strongly Agree." Although these differences in stated preference to the aggressive response are suppressed under the Mate target condition, significant Group differences between T1s and the other groups exist. Although not evaluated in the present study, it would be interesting in future studies to vary the gender of the Friend, Child and Stranger targets to measure variations in aggressive response preference.

It was predicted that under the passive response

conditions no significant group differences across conditions would be present. This null hypothesis was supported (see Figure 6). Among the assertive response conditions it was predicted that the Control subjects would rate the Assertive response under the Mate and Child target conditions higher than the batterer groups. This hypothesis was rejected.

The hypothesis was confirmed that no between group differences would be observed among the Friend and Stranger target conditions.

These results do not confirm the findings of Rosenbaum and O'Leary (1981) who found that in general, violent men were not as assertive when interacting with their wives compared to non-violent controls. These results also do not confirm Caesar's (1986) findings that T2 batterers had difficulty with assertiveness where T1 batterers did not. Although these results are dissimilar, these previous researchers did not include measures to rate assertiveness among batterers comparing different targets. It appears that T2 batterers' lower assertiveness ratings may be revealed under emotional conflict situations but not under conflict situations involving physical harm as was investigated in this study.

#### Predictors of Aggression

When the predictive factors of the aggressive response ratings the results are examined, they show convincingly that there is a strong relationship between the attribution of hostile intent and the aggressive response preference. Under all target conditions except the Child target condition, the outcome desirability did not significantly predict the aggressive response preference.

This finding could help explain why many batterers continue to batter even after extensive treatment. It would appear that among batterers, the outcome desirability has little to do with the decision to aggress against adult intimates. It appears from this data that the attribution of hostile intent may be a factor which greatly influences the decision to aggress against others.

#### Childhood Predictors of Adult Violence

Surprisingly among the adult measures of violence; injury of mate, injury of child and injury of non-family adult, no childhood violence variables were significantly correlated with adult injury of mate (spousal abuse). The results for adult injury to non-family adults and children were interesting however.

In the predicting of child targeted violence using incidences of Child Abuse in Step 4, there were four factors which significantly mediated adult injury of one's children.

These results confirm a number of researchers who have found that batterers tend to have a greater incidence of violence in their families (Fagan, et al., 1983; Cadsky and Crawford, 1988; Shields, McCall and Hanneke, 1988; Saunders, 1992 and others). Among these previous studies however, the childhood experiences of violence were typically divided into two categories: exposure to parental violence and physical abuse from parents. Using the present instrument which sub-divided these categories further, we can observe that some childhood experiences of violence weigh more heavily in predicting later adult violence. These results confirm Cadsky and Crawford (1988) who found that observation of parental violence was present in most batterer abuse histories. It is interesting to note that three of the predictive factors involve observation of violence among family members and the only physical abuse factor was being injured by a female parent figure. This confirms previous works by researchers who investigated childhood exposure or observation of familial violence and have found that this exposure elicits aggressive responses in children which could possibly persist into adulthood (Carter, et al., 1988; Cummings, 1987; Cummings, et al., 1985; Cummings, et al., 1981; Davies and Cummings, 1994).

The results from the predicted variable measuring

injury of non-family are revealing as well. The childhood variables which were significantly correlated with adult injury to non-family members were injury to siblings, injury to non-family (child) and injured by female parent figure. The first point of interest is that two of the three variables involved childhood injuring of others. It would appear from these factors that in general, the behavior of injuring others may be established early in childhood and persists throughout the life span as a primary coping method. This would seem to preclude assertions that the social learning of aggression among peers in adolescence is a primary factor in the formation of an aggressive coping style. Secondly we observe that the abuse from a female parent figure factors into both regression models as a significant variable correlated with both the abuse of children and the injury of non-family members as an adult. It is possible that childhood abuse from a female parent figure has more psychological impact on children than abuse perpetrated by a male parent figure. Future studies may establish whether this variable is consistently important in predicting later adult violence to children and non-family individuals.

#### General Conclusions

It appears from this study that domestic batterers



discriminate between targets and responses to conflict similar to non-violent controls. The variables affecting hostile attribution of intent and outcome prediction in relation to the decision to aggress against various targets needs to be further explored.

Although researchers have been exploring the relationships between childhood exposure to violence and later abuse of others, there appears to be several unexplored variables which could greatly enhance scientific knowledge of the batterer and the intergenerational transmission of violence.

Among the batterer groups a significant relationship between attribution of hostile intent and aggressive response desirability was demonstrated, whereas the outcome desirability measure did not predict aggression. Of course having strict punishments in our society for domestic abuse is important; without it we would surely see rates of abuse sky-rocket. Severe punishments not only identify and restrict those who commit these crimes, but they also serve as deterrents for some men who will avoid adopting violence as a interpersonal coping method. In light of these findings from a therapeutic strategy perspective it may be the case that with chronic abusers, particularly T1 batterers, more emphasis on cognitions and attributions of intent could

improve treatment outcome as opposed to a focus on consequences of abuse. It is apparent from these findings that batterers evaluate the consequences of violence in similar ways as non-violent controls.

From the findings among the experimental factors it could be the case that a fundamental difference between T1 and T2 batterers is attribution of hostile intent. Gottman (1997) listed assertiveness and cognitive restructuring as two primary goals of batterer treatment. It appears that T1 batterers may require more therapeutic focus on negative attribution of intent against their adult intimates to lower aggression. In this study, across the target conditions, T2 batterers were mostly indistinguishable from Controls. As this study rated responses to physical injury, it may be the case that T2 batterers respond aggressively and attribute hostile intent only to emotional conflict situations.

In the study of batterers and aggression in general, many researchers have attempted to find the "causes" of aggression. Our field has seen many look to victim variables, societal influence and economic factors which "cause" violence in our society. Aggression is in-part a valuable survival tool from our ancestors which has become the bane of civilization and peaceable living. It must be remembered that in our search for answers it is not factors

which "cause" violence which will help us enhance the living of others. Our problem with the batterer and other violent persons is their lack of inhibition of their aggression in certain situations which is harmful and maladaptive. We must therefore explore not the factors which "provoke" violence but the internal mechanisms by which the batterer fails to inhibit aggression and harms others.

APPENDIX A:  
Survey Instrument

### INFORMED CONSENT

The study in which you are about to participate is designed to investigate differences among men regarding conflict resolution. This study is being conducted by Sean Brannon under the supervision of Dr. Michael Weiss, Professor of Psychology at California State University San Bernardino. This study has been approved by the Psychology Department Human Subject Review Board, California State University San Bernardino (a committee of professionals who investigate and review the legal, ethical, safety, and privacy concerns of research). The University requires that you give your consent before participating in this study.

If you choose to participate in this study you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire which takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. This set of questions is designed to study differences among men regarding their childhood experiences, attitudes towards different methods of general conflict resolution, and personal demographics. This study involves no deception, and there are no hidden purposes behind these questions.

Please be assured that all the information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence. We value your honest answers to these questions therefore your name and any identifying information will not be recorded in this survey. The raw information from these questionnaires will not be shared with any agency, only the researcher will have possession of and view these responses. At the conclusion of this study (in June of 1998), you can receive a copy of the group results by contacting Dr. Michael G. Weiss at (909) 880-5594.

Please understand that your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time without penalty, and to remove any data at any time during this study. Any questions about this study or your participation in this research should be directed to Dr. Michael Weiss to (909) 880-5594. If you have any questions about research participants' rights or in the event of a research related injury, contact the University's Institutional Review Board at (909) 880-5027.

I acknowledge that I have been informed of, and understand, the nature and purpose of this study, and I freely consent to participate. I acknowledge that I am at least 18 years old.  
If you agree to participate in this survey, please place an X in this box     

\_\_\_\_\_  
Researcher's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Situation Responses**

Please imagine that you are the person experiencing the following situations. There are no right or wrong answers to these situations. Many people answer in different ways to different situations.

**Case CD.** Your child is playing with a baseball in the house and throws the ball hitting you in the face, hurting your nose.


☞ In this situation, my child wanted to hurt me.

<input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree
---

Please rate the following responses to this situation as how much you agree with the response


☞ RESPONSE A

Throw the ball at the child and tell the child it better not happen again or else.

<p>☞ How much do you agree with this response?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree		<p>☞ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad
--	---	---


☞ RESPONSE B:

Tell the child not to play ball in the house or else you'll take the ball away.

<p>☞ How much do you agree with this response?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree		<p>☞ How do you think this solution will turn out?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad
--	---	--

☞ RESPONSE C:

Tell the child not to play ball in the house.

<p><b>☞ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☞ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
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☞ **Case SR.** You are walking up to the front of a store and as you get close to the door, a stranger opens the door, hitting you with it, and hurting your knee.


☞ In this situation, the stranger wanted to hurt me.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>
--

Please rate the following responses to this situation as how much you agree with the response

☞ **RESPONSE A:**


Tell the person to watch where they are going and push the door back into them.

<p><b>☞ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☞ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
--	---	---

☞ **RESPONSE B:**


Tell the person to be more careful, and continue walking into the store.



<p><b>☞ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☞ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
--	---	---

**☞ RESPONSE C:**

Say excuse me and continue walking into the store.

<p><b>☞ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☞ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
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☞ **Case FD:** You are helping a friend move and are carrying boxes to a truck. Your friend calls your name and as you turn, your friend throws a box at you and shouts, "think fast!", The heavy box hits you hurting your ankle.


☞ In this situation, my friend wanted to hurt me.

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree<br><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree<br><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree<br><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree<br><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree<br><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree |
|---|

Please rate the following responses to this situation as how much you agree with the response


☞ **RESPONSE A:**

Pick up the box and throw it back hard to the friend and ask how he likes it.

<p><b>How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree		<p>☞ <b>How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad
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☞ **RESPONSE B:**

Tell the friend not to do that anymore, or else you may be injured and not be able to help move.

<p>☞ <b>How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree		<p>☞ <b>How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad
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☞ **RESPONSE C:**

Pick up the box and load it into the truck saying nothing.

<p><b>☛ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☛ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
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☛ **Case MT:** You are walking out of your kitchen and your mate slams into you while you are holding a cup of hot coffee. The coffee spills all over you and burns.


☛ In this situation, my mate wanted to hurt me.

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>
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Please rate the following responses to this situation as how much you agree with the response


☛ **RESPONSE A:**

Push your mate to the floor and make your mate clean up the mess.

<p><b>☛ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☛ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
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
☛ **RESPONSE B:**

Tell your mate to be more careful and to help you clean up the mess.

<p><b>☛ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☛ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
--	---	---

**☛ RESPONSE C:**

Tell your mate it's ok and you get a rag to wipe up the mess.

<p><b>☛ How much do you agree with this response?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Agree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Disagree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Greatly Disagree</p>		<p><b>☛ How do you think this response would turn out for you?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slightly bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Bad</p>
--	---	---

**General Information**

☛ Age \_\_\_\_

☛ Race/Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

☛ Are you attending therapy or group therapy for domestic violence, or anger problems?

<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> If yes, for how long? How many times per week _____ How many weeks? _____
-----------------------------	--

☛ Marital Status

Married     Divorced     Widowed     Never married

☛ In what order were you born in your family?

1st born     2nd born     3rd born     Other \_\_\_\_\_

☛ What was your family's income level when you were a child?

Poor     Lower Middle Class     Middle Class     Upper Middle Class     Upper class

☛ What is your current income level?

Poor     Lower Middle Class     Middle Class     Upper Middle Class     Upper class

☛ Please list criminal convictions (other than common traffic tickets).

If you have no criminal convictions please write no in the first space

	Crime Committed	Age You Were	Punishment Received
Conviction 1			
Conviction 2			
Conviction 3			
Conviction 4			
Conviction 5			
Conviction 6			
Conviction 7			

**Life Experiences Section**

**Instructions:**

This section asks questions about physical fights and injuries you may have experienced, or have watched others experience.

An INJURY means any injury which was NOT accidental. An injury could range from a simple bruise to broken bones or more severe injuries.

A PHYSICAL FIGHT includes beatings where the victim could not fight back. But does not mean play fighting or horseplay.

**When you were under the age of 18 did you:**

☞ Ever get into physical fights with anyone **outside** your family where you or the other person was injured?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following) ↓

How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)
--

---

☞ Ever get into physical fights with brother and/or sisters where **YOU** were injured?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following) ↓

Was this person older than you?
---------------------------------

No  Yes

How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)
--

---

☞ Ever get into physical fights with brothers or sisters where you injured the **OTHER** person?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following) ↓

Was this person older than you?
---------------------------------

No  Yes

How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)
--

---

☞ Ever SEE your brother and/or sisters get into physical fights where one or both was injured?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following) ↓

Was the person who got injured <b>most often</b> younger than the other?
--

No  Yes

How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)
--

☞ Were you ever injured by your Mother? (not including accidents)

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



Between what ages do you remember this happening?

Started age \_\_\_\_\_ Stopped age \_\_\_\_\_

How many older children were in the household at the time?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many times do you remember this happening?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (please use blank)

---

☞ Were you ever injured by your Father or Mother's Boyfriend? (not including accidents)

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



Between what ages do you remember this happening?

Started age \_\_\_\_\_ Stopped age \_\_\_\_\_

How many older children were in the household at the time?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many times do you remember this happening?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (please use blank)

---



☞ Did you ever see your brothers and/or sisters injured by your Mother? (not including accidents)

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



Between what ages do you remember this happening? Started age _____ Stopped age _____
Was this child older than you? _____
How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)

---

☞ Did you ever see your brothers and/or sisters injured by your Father or Mothers' Boyfriend? (not including accidents)

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



Between what ages do you remember this happening? Started age _____ Stopped age _____
Was this child older than you? _____
How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)

Please remember that these answers are confidential and we do not know who you are.

After the age of 18, did you ever:

☞ Ever get into physical fights with anyone **outside** your family where you or the other person was injured?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



How many times do you remember this happening? _____ (please use blank)
--

---

☞ Ever get into physical fights with **your mate**, where your mate was injured?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



How many times do you remember this happening?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (please use blank)

☞ Ever hit any **children** (under age of 18) in your household which caused injury?

NO (please go to next question)

Yes (please answer the following)



How many times do you remember this happening?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (please use blank)

What was the birth order of the child who was hit:

- 1st born
- 2nd born
- 3rd born
- Later

### **DEBRIEFING STATEMENT**

This set of questions was designed to study differences among men regarding their childhood experiences, attitudes towards different methods of general conflict resolution, and personal demographics. This study involves no deception, and there are no hidden purposes behind these questions.

Please be assured that all the information you provided will be held in the strictest confidence. Your name and any identifying information was not recorded in this survey. The raw information from these questionnaires will not be shared with any agency, only the researcher will have possession of and view these responses. At the conclusion of this study (in June of 1998), you can receive a copy of the group results by contacting Dr. Michael G. Weiss at (909) 880-5594.

If you know of others who may be interested in participating please feel free to refer the person to us. If you discuss this survey with others, we ask you to please not reveal the topics of the case situations, this helps ensure that no participants have more knowledge of the questions than others when they respond to our survey.

If you have any questions regarding your participation in this study please feel free to ask the researcher at this time. We thank you for your time and consideration. Through your participation you have shared valuable information which we hope will someday help professionals to greatly improve the lives of men and families in our community.

Thank You

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