

It's Time to Tell the Truth About Partner Abuse

Partner Violence: An Equal Opportunity Problem

What is the truth about intimate partner aggression? Nearly 200 scientific studies point to this simple conclusion: **Women are at least as likely as men to engage in partner aggression.**

This is what leading researchers say:

“Research indicates that women can be just as violent as their partners.” – Irene Hanson Frieze, Psychology of Women’s Quarterly, 2005

“Differences were observed in the rates of male and female partner violence, with female violence occurring more frequently.” – Renee McDonald, Journal of Family Psychology, 2006

“A recent meta-analysis found that a woman’s perpetration of violence was the strongest predictor of her being a victim of partner violence.” – Daniel Whitaker, American Journal of Public Health, 2007

“Several studies, including large and nationally representative sample, have found that the most prevalent pattern is mutual violence.” – Murray Straus, Prevention of Partner Violence, 2008

What Does the Latest Research Say?

- A national survey of married and co-habiting partners found that 8% of women engaged in severe partner violence, while only 4% of men were involved in severe violence. *Renee McDonald, Journal of Family Psychology, March 2006. www.smu.edu/experts/study-documents/family-violence-study-may2006.pdf*

- An international study of over 13,000 university students in dating relationships in 32 countries found that 11% of couples had experienced severe violence in the past year. Among those couples, 29% had female-only violence, 16% had male-only violence, and in 55% of couples both persons were violent. *Murray Straus, Children and Youth Services Review, 2007*

Men are often injured by their wives or girlfriends. According to a 2000 meta-analysis by John Archer, PhD, men suffer 38% of all injuries arising from partner aggression. But men often don’t report the incident, so they endure their pain in silence.

As a result, the media often presents a one-sided view of domestic violence.

What's Wrong with Making False Claims?

Domestic violence industry advocates often make claims such as “men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of partner violence” and “95% of DV victims are women.”

These false statements only make the problem worse because:

- Service providers refuse to help male victims.
- False allegations of abuse escalate partner conflict and sever parent-child bonds.
- Abusive women can’t get the help they need.
- Domestic violence laws promote overly-aggressive and harmful prosecution efforts.

Warren Moon was the first Black quarterback to be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. One evening Warren Moon got into a fight with his wife. The police were called and Mr. Moon was arrested. Against Mrs. Moon’s wishes, the case went to trial.

Placed on the witness stand, Mrs. Moon admitted that she was the one who had started the fight by throwing a candlestick, and that her husband had only acted in self-defense. Warren Moon was acquitted.

Domestic violence is not a gender-specific problem.



Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting

RADAR is spearheading the VAWA Reform Coalition, a group of organizations around the country that is working to educate the public about VAWA abuse:

www.mediadar.org/docs/VAWA-Reform-Coalition-Declaration.pdf

For more information, contact:

RADAR: Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting

P.O. Box 775, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Internet : www.mediadar.org

E-mail : info@mediadar.org