

There is limited research available on children's involvement in incidents of adult domestic violence. This study collected direct reports on real-life events and went beyond earlier research by eliciting information on a larger array of family and contextual factors that may account for variation in children's responses. Anonymous telephone interviews with 114 battered mothers in four metropolitan areas elicited detailed information from women on their children's responses to the violence being committed against the mothers. One quarter of the mothers reported that their children were physically involved in the events. In addition, mothers with less stable financial, social, and living situations at the time of the interview reported their children to have intervened more during the past violent incidents. The article concludes with recommendations for a greater emphasis on careful assessment of children's involvement in domestic violence incidents and on assisting mothers to achieve economic stability as well as safety.

How Children Are Involved in Adult Domestic Violence Results From a Four-City Telephone Survey

**JEFFREY L. EDLESON
LYUNGAI F. MBILINYI
SANDRA K. BEEMAN
ANNELIES K. HAGEMEISTER**
University of Minnesota

Children's exposure to adult domestic violence and our society's response to it have become major policy and practice debates in recent years. Although evidence of children's exposure to and involvement in adult domestic violence has long existed, only recently have state legislatures taken action to revise their definitions of maltreatment to include childhood exposure (see Minn. State Ann. 626.556) or to make such exposure a separate chargeable offense (Utah Code Ann. 76-5-109.1).

Authors' Note: The David & Lucile Packard Foundation and the Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Station (MIN-55-019) funded this research. The authors wish to thank the staff of the Domestic Abuse Project, Inc., in Minneapolis, La Oportunidad in St. Paul, the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, the Support Network for Battered Women in Mountain View, CA, and the Family Place in Dallas for their collaboration in this study. Reprint requests may be sent to the Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse, University of Minnesota, 105 Peters Hall, 1404 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108; phone: 612-624-0721; e-mail: mincava@umn.edu.

JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE, Vol. 18 No. 1, January 2003 18-32
DOI: 10.1177/0886260502238538
© 2003 Sage Publications

These initiatives respond to mounting evidence that child maltreatment and adult domestic violence co-occur. More than 30 studies reveal a link between child maltreatment and adult domestic violence, showing a 40% median co-occurrence in families studied (Appel & Holden, 1998), with the majority of studies ranging from a 30% to 60% overlap depending on the families studied (Edleson, 1999a). Separately, some children are not directly maltreated but are exposed to adult domestic violence in their homes. Overall, existing studies reveal that some children exposed to adult domestic violence show a host of greater behavioral, emotional, attitudinal, and cognitive difficulties when compared to those not so exposed (see Edleson, 1999b; Fantuzzo & Mohr, 1999; Margolin, 1998; Rossman, Hughes, & Rosenberg, 2000). These problems are also thought to continue into early adulthood for some exposed children (Silvern et al., 1995).

Children's presence during domestic violence incidents, even when they were not themselves abused, has been less studied than either the co-occurrence or the impact of exposure. For example, Hughes (1988) found that all 40 child witnesses she studied were "either present in the same room and saw the fighting or were in an adjacent room and heard the physical conflict" (p. 80). In another study, even when one or both parents reported that their children had not seen the violence, approximately 21% of their children reported seeing it (O'Brien, John, Margolin, & Erel, 1994).

How do children immediately respond when they observe marital conflict or violent incidents between parents? A number of studies have found that children respond in a variety of ways to real and simulated violent conflict between their parents. Children's involvement in violent situations has been shown to vary from their becoming actively involved in the conflict, to distracting themselves and their parents, or to distancing themselves by leaving the room (Garcia O'Hearn, Margolin, & John, 1997; Peled, 1998). Children in homes in which violence was occurring were eight times more likely to verbally or physically intervene in parental conflicts than comparison children from homes in which no violence occurred (Adamson & Thompson, 1998). Children's responses to violent events appear to vary as they grow older (Cummings, Pellegrini, Notarius, & Cummings, 1989), but even children ages 1 to 2 1/2 years respond to angry conflict that includes physical attacks with negative emotions and efforts to become actively involved in the conflicts (Cummings, Zahn-Waxler, & Radke-Yarrow, 1981).

One limitation in several of these studies is that they have examined only simulated conflicts that are either told in a story or enacted in the laboratory. Another limitation is that very few factors outside simple demographic and parent relationship variables have been examined. Studies that also examine

real-life events and a variety of social-ecological factors at play in these families are needed.

The study reported here aimed to add to this limited literature on children's involvement in incidents of adult domestic violence by examining a larger array of factors in the family and its social ecology that may help to explain variation in children's responses. It also was designed to go beyond earlier research by collecting direct reports from mothers on real-life events. Through anonymous telephone interviews with battered mothers in four large cities across the United States, this study elicited detailed information from women on their children's responses to the violence being committed against the mothers. The study sought to systematically survey a large number of battered mothers concerning the degree and ways in which their children responded to and intervened in the violence they were experiencing. The primary research questions that guided the study included the following:

1. How did children intervene in these violent events?
2. Which family and contextual characteristics statistically predicted the types and degree of children's intervention in these events?

In the sections below, we describe the study methods, report the results of data analyses, and discuss their implications for policy and practice.

METHOD

Sample Recruitment

Domestic violence programs in four metropolitan areas assisted in recruiting mothers for this study. The areas included Dallas, Minneapolis/St. Paul, San Jose, and Pittsburgh. Due to the sensitive nature of the interview topic—children's involvement in adult domestic violence—and the different requirements of the child maltreatment reporting laws in each of the states involved in the study, sample recruitment posed ethical dilemmas. Voluntary, anonymous telephone interviews were conducted with mothers, focusing only on incidents of violence that occurred at least 12 months prior to the interview date. All of the women were connected to domestic violence service agencies, which provided crisis and support services to the women and their children. These features of our sampling and recruitment procedures allowed us to interview women about their children's involvement in incidents of adult domestic violence without putting them at risk for a report to child protection

services for an incident that, in some states, could have occurred a decade or more in the past.

To recruit study participants, flyers and brochures describing the project and the interviews were sent to participating agencies. The flyers contained a toll-free number for interested women to call to find out more about the study. A bilingual Spanish-English interviewer was available for selected hours of interviewing. The benefit of this recruitment procedure was that women could participate in the study without revealing their identity. Women who met study criteria and consented to participate in the interview were given a code number so that if the interview was interrupted, they could call back to complete the interview and still maintain their anonymity. Upon completion of the interview, women were given a second code number. This code number was faxed to the participating agency at the end of the interview so that the agency could release a \$20 payment to the participant.

Sample Description

Anonymous telephone interviews were completed with 114 battered women using the methods described above. Information on the woman's job status, income, transitional housing, and education were all reported for the time of the interview, which was at least 12 months after the violent incidents she described during the interview. Other independent variables, such as the woman's relationship to her abuser, her experience of physical and emotional abuse, and its effects on her and her children, were only reported retrospectively for the period during which abuse was occurring. These differences in reporting periods are important to keep in mind when interpreting the results of the study. We cannot determine, for example, if a woman's current economic status at the time of the interview reflected her economic status at the time the abuse was occurring.

The average age of the women at the time of the interview was 34 years ($sd = 7.7$) and at the onset of abuse was 25 years ($sd = 6.0$). Caucasian women made up 45.6% ($n = 52$) of the sample, African American women 33.3% ($n = 38$), Latina women 11.4% ($n = 13$), and other groups (Native American, Asian, and biracial/multiracial) made up 9.6% of the sample ($n = 11$). At the time of the interview, 44% of the women ($n = 50$) reported completion of high school or GED as their highest education level, 40% ($n = 46$) had received vocational training or some college, and the remaining 9% ($n = 10$) had completed a college degree or higher.

Fifty-four percent ($n = 62$) of the women were in transitional housing (shelter, other temporary housing, or living with family/friends) and 46% ($n =$

52) were renting or owned an apartment or home. Forty-five percent ($n = 51$) of the women identified their abuser as their former or current spouse and 39% ($n = 44$) identified him as a former or current boyfriend. Seventy-seven percent ($n = 88$) of the women lived with their abuser at the time of the abuse, whereas 23% ($n = 26$) did not. Out of the 114 women, 12.7% ($n = 14$) had one child, 47.3% ($n = 52$) had two children, and 24.5% ($n = 27$) had three or more children, with a total of 285 children in the 114 households.

Data Collection Methods

The interview guide focused on the development and interaction of violence in a family with children, along with the responses of formal services and informal networks that may become engaged with families involved in domestic violence. The first set of questions gathered data on the duration, frequency, and severity of abuse to the mother. Questions about emotional abuse to the mother were drawn from the short version of Tolman's (1989, 1999) Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory (PMWI). The two subscales of the 14-item PMWI short version have shown strong reliability (D/I, $\alpha = .88$; V/E, $\alpha = .92$) and have shown to be consistent with both the longer version of the scale and in discriminating among battered, distressed, and nondistressed groups (Tolman, 1999). Physical violence questions were modeled after the Statistics Canada Violence Against Women Survey—Sections J and L (see Johnson & Sacco, 1995). In addition, the Conflict Tactic Scales 2 (CTS2) Injury Scale (Straus, Hamby, Boney-McCoy, & Sugarman, 1996) was used to develop questions about the physical effects of abuse on the women. The CTS2 Injury Scale has been reported to have the highest internal consistency ($\alpha = .95$) among the five scales of the CTS2. In addition, Straus and his colleagues have reported that the Injury Scale has shown a high correlation with violence by men ($r = .87$) and with sexual coercion by men ($r = .87$), leading them to conclude that the scale has high construct validity.

Whereas content and item order for this area of the survey were similar to the content and order of the above-cited instruments, administration and scaling of items were altered for this study. For consistency of response categories, we used the same 5-point Likert-type scale, which was anchored with 5 (*very frequently*) and 1 (*never*), for all items in this section. Two questions in this segment of the survey asked about frequency of alcohol and drug use when abusive incidents occurred. A six-item scale concerning impact of abuse on the women's relationships and daily functioning were also included. The next section of the survey included 37 items to assess the women's perception of the impact the abuse had on her children. Finally, demographic

data were collected from each woman.¹ The survey interviews lasted an average of 75 minutes each.

Data Analyses

Statistical analyses progressed in several phases. A scale titled “children intervened” was developed by recoding conceptually related variables in the original data set and was subsequently used as the dependent variable in this study. The Children Intervened scale was constructed using the following items:

1. “How often did any of the children holler or yell something from a different room during an incident?”
2. “How often did any of the children holler or yell at you or your partner while in the same room during an incident?”
3. “How often did any of the children call someone else for help during an incident?”
4. “How often did any of the children get physically involved in an incident?”

Most demographic variables were originally provided in ordinal form and recoded into dichotomous variables to be used in multiple regression analyses. A woman with a job at the time of the interview was given a value of 1 for bivariate and multivariate analyses, and one without a job was given a value of 0. The woman’s highest level of education achieved was recoded to be 1 if she had at least some college, a degree, or above; and 0 if she had high school or GED as her highest education level. A woman residing in a shelter or living with friends would be assigned a value of 1 for the variable “transitional housing,” whereas a woman renting or owning a home would be assigned a 0 for this variable. Furthermore, a woman with an income of more than \$10,000 a year received a value of 1, and those with incomes less than \$10,000 were given a value of 0 in the analyses. A woman’s relationship to abuser was recoded into a value of 1 if she was married to him and a value of 0 if she was not married to him. In addition, if the children were biologically related to the participant or to the abuser, they were given a value of 1, and they were given a value of 0 if they were not biologically related to him. The women’s, children’s, or abusers’ racial groups remained categorical, as did the children’s living situation at the time of the abuse.

Comparisons were carried out within different groupings of demographic variables (e.g., relationships between women’s demographic variables, relationships between men’s demographic variables, relationships among children’s demographic variables). In addition, bivariate analyses were conducted between groupings of demographic variables (e.g., women’s educa-

tion with children's ages). Finally, comparisons of these demographic variables with dependent variables were conducted (e.g., comparing women's, men's, and children's demographics to children's physical involvement).

The latter bivariate analyses (*t* tests, ANOVA, and chi-squares) were reviewed to determine variables that were independently associated ($p < .15$) with types and levels of children's involvement following Hosmer and Lemeshow's (1989) suggestion to be more liberal with bivariate significance levels of predictor variables to be included in later multivariate modeling. Finally, the associated variables were included in multiple regression analyses to determine which elements statistically predicted variance in the multiple ways that children became involved with abuse inflicted on their mothers.

RESULTS

The results discussed below describe our findings with regard to children's intervention in incidents of violence. We present univariate descriptive statistics followed by the results of bivariate and multivariate analyses.

Children's Intervention in Violence

Mothers reported a range of intervention by their children. For example, 52% ($n = 59$) of the mothers reported that their children yelled at least occasionally from another room during abuse toward her, 53% ($n = 60$) reported that their children at least occasionally yelled while in the same room, and 21% ($n = 24$) reported that their children called someone else for help during the abuse at least occasionally. Finally, 23% ($n = 26$) of the mothers reported that their children became physically involved during an abusive incident involving the mother at least occasionally. Table 1 presents more detail on the range of responses reported.

Bivariate analyses focused on relationships between children's, mothers', and abusers' demographics and how often children were physically involved with the violence toward their mothers. Children whose mothers were not employed at the time of the interview intervened significantly more at the time of the abuse than those whose mothers were employed ($t = -1.709$, $p = .090$). In addition, children of mothers married at the time of the abuse intervened significantly less ($t = 2.067$, $p = .041$) than children of unmarried mothers. Children whose mothers were more educated intervened less than those whose mothers were less educated ($t = 1.771$, $p = .079$). Furthermore, children of women in transitional housing at the time of the interview intervened significantly more ($t = 3.561$, $p = .001$) than children of mothers who rented

TABLE 1: Descriptive Statistics of Variables Within Children's Intervention in Violence (N = 114)

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>
How often did the children yell something from a different room?			
Never	31	27.2	27.9
Rarely	21	18.4	18.9
Occasionally	19	16.7	17.1
Frequently	27	23.7	24.3
Very frequently	13	11.4	11.7
No data	3	2.6	Missing
How often did the children yell at your partner while in the same room?			
Never	26	22.8	23.4
Rarely	25	21.9	22.5
Occasionally	29	25.4	26.1
Frequently	24	21.1	21.6
Very frequently	7	6.1	6.3
No data	3	2.6	Missing
How often did the children call for help during an incident?			
Never	65	57.0	58.6
Rarely	22	19.3	19.8
Occasionally	11	9.6	9.9
Frequently	7	6.1	6.3
Very frequently	6	5.3	5.4
No data	3	2.6	Missing
How often did the children physically intervene?			
Never	51	44.7	45.9
Rarely	34	29.8	30.6
Occasionally	14	12.3	12.6
Frequently	9	7.9	8.1
Very frequently	3	2.6	2.7
No data	3	2.6	Missing

or owned housing. Children who were biologically related to the abuser intervened significantly less than those not biologically related to the abuser ($t = 3.093, p = .003$), and children living with the mother alone during the abuse or with the mother and abuser intervened significantly more than children who did not live with either the abuser or the mother ($F = 2.207, p = .115$). Finally, the abuser's age was significantly related to how often children physically intervened ($r = .315, p = .001$): The older the abuser, the more the child intervened.

Bivariate analyses were also carried out between the mother's type of abuse experienced, its effects on her life, and children's intervention in the violence to determine if the severity of the mother's abuse and its effects on her were related to the intensity of children's physical involvement (see the Appendix for detailed definitions of scaled items). The higher the level of mothers' emotional abuse ($r = .305, p = .001$), physical abuse ($r = .542, p < .001$), physical effects ($r = .575, p < .001$), and emotional effects ($r = .247, p = .075$), the more children were reported to be physically involved in violent incidents.

The dependent variable for this multiple regression analysis was "how often children intervened in abuse directed toward their mother" or "children intervened" (see Table 2). In the first step, emotional abuse and physical abuse were entered alone because of our interest in the variability in children's intervention that could be accounted for by the mother's direct experience with emotional and physical abuse. In the second step of this regression, the following independent variables were entered: (a) "children's living situation at the time of the abuse," (b) "abuser's age at onset of abuse," (c) "woman's job status at the time of the interview," and (d) "children's relationship to abuser." A set of dichotomous dummy variables was created for children's living situation to indicate with whom the child was living, using the child living with both the mother and abuser as the reference group (e.g., child living with mother only: 1 = yes, 0 = no).

Table 2 reveals that 29% of the observed variability in children's intervention was explained by emotional abuse and physical violence directed at their mothers. Adding abuser's age at onset of abuse, woman's job status, children's relationship to abuser, children's living situation, and woman's relationship to abuser increased the percentage to 45%. In the final step, physical effects on participant and woman's emotional effects increased the statistical prediction to 47%. Overall, all independent variables accounted for 47% of the variability in children's intervention.

A mother being employed was associated with a decrease in the predicted value of children's intervention (positive β value). In addition, abuser's age at onset of abuse was positively associated with increased values of the dependent or outcome variable (positive β value). Children who were biologically related to the abuser, a woman who was married to her abuser, and children living with either their mother only or with neither the mother nor the father (compared to living with both) were all associated with a decrease in children's intervention in violent events (negative β value).

In the first step of the model, only physical abuse significantly contributed to the model ($p < .001$). Emotional abuse did not significantly contribute to the model ($p = .501$), although it was significantly related to children's

TABLE 2: Multiple Regression Analyses for Variables Predicting Children's Physical Involvement in Their Mother's Abuse (N = 100)

Variable	B	SE B	β	p
Step 1				
Emotional and verbal abuse	0.023	0.035	.069	.501
Physical violence	0.199	0.041	.498	.000**
Step 2				
Emotional and verbal abuse	0.012	0.032	.035	.713
Physical violence	0.176	0.039	.438	.000**
Abuser's age at onset of abuse	0.142	0.042	.280	.001**
Job status	0.008	0.597	.001	.989
Children's relationship to abuser	-1.619	0.681	-.235	.020*
Children living with woman (yes = 1/no = 0)	0.398	1.035	.034	.701
Children living with neither the woman nor abuser (yes = 1/no = 0)	-2.574	0.911	-.241	.006**
Woman's relationship to abuser	-0.043	0.682	-.006	.950
Step 3				
Emotional and verbal abuse	-0.005	0.044	-.014	.914
Physical violence	0.127	0.050	.317	.012*
Abuser's age at onset of abuse	0.131	0.043	.258	.003**
Job status	-0.138	0.599	-.020	.818
Children's relationship to abuser	-1.439	0.685	-.209	.039*
Children living with woman	0.033	1.054	.003	.975
Children living with "other"	-2.798	0.915	-.261	.003**
Woman's relationship to abuser	-0.110	0.685	-.016	.873
Physical effects on participant	0.153	0.101	.187	.132*
Woman's emotional effects	0.061	0.117	.065	.600

NOTE: $R^2 = .29$ for Step 1; $R^2 = .45$ for Step 2; $R^2 = .47$ for Step 3 ($p < .01$).

* $p < .15$. ** $p < .01$.

intervention in the bivariate analyses. In the second step, job status, woman's relationship to abuser, and emotional abuse did not significantly contribute to the model. In the final step (when physical effects and interference were entered), emotional abuse, job status, woman's relationship to abuser, and woman's physical effects did not significantly contribute to the model. Variables that remained significant contributors to the model were physical violence ($p = .012$), physical effects ($p = .132$), children's living situation ($p = .003$), abuser's age at onset of abuse ($p = .003$), and children's relationship to abuser ($p = .039$).

These data reveal a cluster of variables that appear to partially predict children's involvement in violent events. It appears that the greater the violence and its effects on their mothers, the more likely children are reported to intervene. Also, the older the abuser, the more likely the children are reported to

intervene. And finally, children living with neither the abuser nor their mother were, not surprisingly, less likely to be reported to have intervened in the violence, whereas children not biologically related to the abuser were more likely to have intervened.

DISCUSSION

This study used some unique data collection methods that investigated urgently needed knowledge of battered women and their children's experiences with domestic violence. This study is one of few to have systematically gathered detailed information from mothers about the nature of their children's involvement in incidents of adult domestic assault. Slightly less than one quarter of the mothers reported that their children called someone for help during the abuse, and one quarter reported that their children were physically involved in the abuse directed at her. We also found that, in general, the more the mother was being abused and the more the abuse interfered with her life and her physical health, the more she reported that her children intervened in the violence.

These findings have important implications for domestic violence programs, child protection agencies, and the criminal justice system. First, the level of physical involvement by some children in violent events raises serious concerns for their safety and that of their mothers. Much greater attention must be given to the safety of both adult victims and children in the home. Second, family stability was a major factor in predicting a child's involvement in violent incidents. Children whose mothers were married, more educated, and not living in transitional housing at the time of the interview were reported to have intervened in the violence significantly less often than children whose mothers were not married, less educated, and living in transitional housing. The particular sample recruited for this study may have resulted in a disproportionate number of women who required economic assistance. Almost half the women in the study (45%) were resident in a battered women's shelter at the time of the interview, with another 8% living in a subsidized apartment. This high proportion of shelter residents is most likely due to the fact that local battered women's programs facilitated recruitment. Although our only data on many of these variables were obtained at the point of interview, it does seem that providing services that increase these battered mothers' stability may have both indirect and direct links to lessening children's involvement in violent incidents. This points to the possible need for much greater attention to economic assistance for mothers as a way of providing greater stability and, we hope, safety to their children.

Children who were biologically related to the abuser were reported by their mothers to have intervened significantly less often than children not biologically related to the abuser. This finding may be supported by prior studies that have reported the presence of children fathered by previous male partners put women at greater risk of being abused (Daly, Singh, & Wilson, 1993) and the presence of a stepparent put children at greater risk of being abused (Wilson & Daly, 1987). Children and abusive men may both have more of an investment in maintaining their relationships when there is a longer term tie to each other.

This study had several limitations. First, most of the women who called our toll-free number were either in a shelter or affiliated with one. Therefore, the sample represents women and children who have most likely escaped severe violence and are probably faced with multiple other stresses during this relocation. Second, mothers—not the children themselves—reported on children's exposure and interventions. Previous studies have found that mothers' reports of their children's exposures to her abuse are underreported when compared to their children's reports (see O'Brien et al., 1994). Women in our sample admitted child intervention and recognized the impact of violence. Finally, this study asked the women about their economic and housing status at the time of the interview, while asking them about abuse that occurred in the past (at least 1 year prior to the interview). Future research on this subject should be careful to assess women's income, education, and housing status at both the time of the abuse and after the abuse had ended. It should also attempt to determine if these factors persist over time, from the period of abuse to the period after the mother is no longer in a relationship with the abuser.

Overall, one quarter of the mothers in this sample reported that their children were physically involved in the events but intervened less when their mothers' lives at the time of interview were more stable (i.e., stable employment, housing). If this same situation held true during the abusive period reported by mothers, these findings might have resulted from less contact between an employed mother and her abuser, homes with more generous physical space and stable social networks offering children alternatives for finding safety and privacy, or families with fewer other issues (e.g., need for food, shelter, transportation, and housing) complicating their lives.

Ending the violent events in these homes should be our foremost goal. Children and their mothers will be safe if the violence is ended or removed from their environments. But in achieving this goal, the results of this study point to both potential risk factors and interventions to enhance the safety of both children and mothers. First, children's experiences clearly varied a great deal, indicating that some may have been at risk for greater harm whereas

many others may not have been at risk. Second, unlike prior research on children's involvement, factors associated with basic economic need appear to play a larger role than earlier thought. The complexity of children's experiences and the environments in which they respond to violent incidents must be carefully considered and, where possible, corrected. These results point to the need for more careful assessments and a wider variety of services for battered mothers and their children if we are to seriously affect their safety and lessen children's involvement in incidents of adult domestic violence.

APPENDIX
Scale Guide

<i>Scale Item</i>	<i>Types of Questions</i>
Emotional and verbal abuse	How often the abuser called the woman names, swore at her, yelled and screamed at her, treated her like an inferior, monitored her time, used her money or didn't consult with her in making important decisions, was jealous or suspicious of the woman's friends, accused her of having an affair, interfered in her relationships with other family members, tried to keep her from doing things to help herself, blamed her for his problems, restricted use of telephone, or tried to make her feel crazy
Physical abuse	How often the abuser threatened to hit the woman with something, threw anything at her, pushed, grabbed, or shoved her, slapped her, kicked, bit, or hit her with his fist, beat her up, choked her, threatened to use or used a gun or knife, or forced her into any sexual activity she didn't want
Physical effects on the woman	How often the woman had a sprain, bruise, or cut, passed out from being hit on the head, saw a doctor, or had a broken bone from a fight with her abusive partner
Interference with the woman's life	How often the abuse affected the woman's ability to parent the way she would like to, affected her ability to do what was needed around the house, and affected her ability to maintain relationships with family and friends
Children intervened	How often children hollered or yelled from a different room during an incident, yelled from the same room, called for help, or physically intervened in the abuse toward their mom

NOTE

1. Copies of the Interview Guide are available by writing to the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, 105 Peters Hall, 1404 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

REFERENCES

- Adamson, J. L., & Thompson, R. A. (1998). Coping with interparental verbal conflict by children exposed to spouse abuse and children from nonviolent homes. *Journal of Family Violence, 13*, 213-232.
- Appel, A. E., & Holden, G. W. (1998). The co-occurrence of spouse and physical child abuse: A review and appraisal. *Journal of Family Psychology, 12*, 578-599.
- Cummings, E. M., Zahn-Waxler, C., & Radke-Yarrow, M. (1981). Young children's responses to expressions of anger and affection by others in the family. *Child Development, 52*, 1274-1282.
- Cummings, J. S., Pellegrini, D. S., Notarius, C. I., & Cummings, E. M. (1989). Children's responses to angry adult behavior as a function of marital distress and history of interparental hostility. *Child Development, 60*, 1035-1043.
- Daly, M., Singh, L. S., & Wilson, M. (1993). Children fathered by previous partners: A risk factor for violence against women. *Canadian Journal of Public Health, 84*, 209-210.
- Edleson, J. L. (1999a). The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering. *Violence Against Women, 5*(2), 134-154.
- Edleson, J. L. (1999b). Children's witnessing of adult domestic violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 14*(8), 839-870.
- Fantuzzo, J. W., & Mohr, W. K. (1999). Prevalence and effects of child exposure to domestic violence. *The Future of Children, 9*, 21-32.
- Garcia O'Hearn, H., Margolin, G., & John, R. S. (1997). Mothers' and fathers' reports of children's reactions to naturalistic marital conflict. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 36*, 1366-1373.
- Hosmer, D. W., & Lemeshow, S. (1989). *Applied logistic regression*. New York: Wiley.
- Hughes, H. M. (1988). Psychological and behavioral correlates of family violence in child witness and victims. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 58*, 77-90.
- Johnson, H., & Sacco, V. (1995). Researching violence against women: Statistics Canada's national survey. *Canadian Journal of Criminology, 37*, 281-304.
- Margolin, G. (1998). Effects of witnessing violence on children. In P. K. Trickett & C. J. Schellenbach (Eds.), *Violence against children in the family and the community* (pp. 57-101). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Minn. State Ann. 626.556 (repealed 2000).
- O'Brien, M., John, R. S., Margolin, G., & Erel, O. (1994). Reliability and diagnostic efficacy of parents' reports regarding children's exposure to marital aggression. *Violence & Victims, 9*, 45-62.
- Peled, E. (1998). The experience of living with violence for preadolescent children of battered women. *Youth & Society, 29*, 395-430.
- Rossmann, B. B. R., Hughes, H. M., & Rosenberg, M. S. (2000). *Children and interparental violence: The impact of exposure*. Philadelphia, PA: Brunner/Mazel.
- Silvern, L., Karyl, J., Waelde, L., Hodges, W. F., Starek, J., Heidt, E., & Min, K. (1995). Retrospective reports of parental partner abuse: Relationships to depression, trauma symptoms and self-esteem among college students. *Journal of Family Violence, 10*, 177-202.
- Straus, M. A., Hamby, S. L., Boney-McCoy, S., & Sugarman, D. B. (1996). The revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2): Development and preliminary psychometric data. *Journal of Family Issues, 17*, 283-316.

- Tolman, R. M. (1989). The development of a measure of psychological maltreatment of women by their male partners. *Violence and Victims, 4*, 159-177.
- Tolman, R. M. (1999). The validation of the Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory. *Violence & Victims, 14*, 25-35.
- Utah Code Ann. 76-5-109.1.
- Wilson, M., & Daly, M. (1987). Risk of maltreatment of children living with stepparents. In R. J. Gelles & J. B. Lancaster (Eds.), *Child abuse and neglect: Biosocial dimensions* (pp. 215-232). New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

Jeffrey L. Edleson, Ph.D., is a professor in the University of Minnesota School of Social Work and director of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (www.mincava.umn.edu). He is a consultant to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He is an associate editor of the journal Violence Against Women and has served on the editorial boards of several other journals. His most recent books are entitled Domestic Violence in the Lives of Children: The Future of Research, Intervention, and Social Policy (2001, coedited with Sandra Graham-Bermann) and Sourcebook on Violence Against Women (2001, coedited with Claire Renzetti and Raquel Kennedy Bergen).

Lyungai F. Mbilinyi, M.S.W., is a research associate at the Wilder Research Center, working on evaluation projects in the areas of violence prevention and intervention, youth delinquency, and youth development. Her work has been on violence research, violence prevention therapy, the experience of immigrants and refugees in Minnesota, and the relationship between poverty/structural adjustment and HIV infection in Sub-Saharan Africa. A native of Tanzania, she is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Social Work and is completing her master's in public health, both at the University of Minnesota.

Sandra K. Beeman, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the School of Social Work and a faculty associate at the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. She has conducted community and agency-based research in child welfare, child maltreatment, and violence against women. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on child maltreatment, kinship foster care, and collaboration between child protection and battered women.

Annelies K. Hagemester, Ph.D., works at the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse at the University of Minnesota and at the Domestic Abuse Project in Minneapolis. She has practice interests in working with children, child abuse prevention, family studies, prevention education, and crisis intervention. She has taught courses in family social science and social work and lectured to many audiences about children and domestic violence. She is a licensed graduate social worker in Minnesota.