

Dynamics of Domestic Violence

Incest and Domestic Violence

Incest mothers victims of domestic violence

73%

(Truesdell, McNeil, & Deschner, 1986)

Severely Violent Couples

	N of Couples
Battering group	63
Some violence	27
Unhappy, not married	33
Happily married	20

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Battering Group

Degree of Violence	W/in Last Year
Low Level (Pushing or slapping)	6 or more
Severe (Kicking or hitting w/ fist)	2
Potentially lethal (Beaten up, use of weapon)	1

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Battering Group

Wives required medical attention

80%

Low Level

Did Not Escalate

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Battering for a Reason

Control

Intimidate

Subjugate

Battering Group

Always emotional abuse

Method

Interviewed separately

Physiological measures

Heart rate

Blood reading periphery

How fast blood moving

How much moving

How much sweating

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Types of Batterers

Cobras vs Pit Bulls

Cobras

20%

More aggressive instantly

More threatened or used weapon

More severe violence

Decrease in heart rate as verbal aggression increased

Calmer than when relaxed

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Pit Bulls

80%

Slow Burn

Wives less intimidated

Wives argued back

Insecure

Feared abandonment

Intrusive and controlling

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Cobras

Distanced from intimacy

Dangerous when wives want more

Do not fear abandonment

Will not be controlled

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Cobras

Often anti-social

Drug and alcohol abuse

Severe emotional abuse

Severe physical abuse

Often charismatic

Husbands economically dependent

Wives attached

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Who is More Dangerous?

Cobras

More severe violence

Wives less often leave

Dangerous when wives want something

Can let go and move on

Pit Bulls

Less severe violence

Many wives leave

Dangerous when abandoned

Become obsessed

Pitt Bulls

Beaten w/ closed fist, often strangling	62%
Threatened with knife or gun	4%
Used knife or gun	0
Violent outside marriage	3%

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Cobras

Beaten w/ closed fist, often strangling	91%
Threatened with knife or gun	38%
Stabbed or shot wives	9%
Violent outside marriage	44%

Anti-social

Cobras 90%

Pit Bulls 33%

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Wives of Pit Bulls

More angry

Less fearful

More constantly controlled

Why Batter?

Because it works

Does Treatment Work?

Not Clear

Conning and Manipulating

Prior to Attempted Murder

"In my professional opinion, Roy no longer constitutes a danger to his wife, Helen. He has been a model patient. He has accepted responsibility for being a batterer, has shown no inclination to repeat the violence from the past, and even stands a chance of qualifying for work as a therapist himself."

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Why Not Leave?

Violence Escalates

Risk of homicide increases

(Wilson & Daly, 1993)

Why Not Leave?

Can't afford to

Doesn't believe in self

What Could Woman Do?

Couldn't predict

Couldn't prevent it

Couldn't stop an episode

Couldn't affect the course

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Domineering In Lab

Suppressed

Controlled

Squelched

Excuses and Rationales

"Yeah, I'm a batterer, big fucking deal."

"Not worth remembering"

Leaving w/in two years

Pit Bulls 38%

Cobras 0

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Leaving w/in 5 years

Cobras 25%

(Jacobson & Gottman, 1998)

Gas Lighting

Didn't happen

What Predicted Leaving?

Contempt

Disgust