

The Partner Abuse State of Knowledge Project
Project Editor: John Hamel, LCSW

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Introduction

Nature and Purpose of the Project

Over the years, research on partner abuse has become unnecessarily fragmented and politicized. The purpose of this project is to bring together, in a rigorously evidence-based, transparent and methodical manner, existing knowledge about partner abuse, with reliable, up-to-date research that can easily be accessed both by researchers and the general public. PASK is grounded in the premises that everyone is entitled to their opinion, but not to their own facts; that these facts should be available to everyone, and that domestic violence intervention and policy ought to be based upon these facts rather than ideology and special interests. We seek to promote clarity over obfuscation, inclusion over exclusion, consensus over antagonism.

In March, 2010, the Senior Editor of *Partner Abuse* recruited 42 family violence scholars from 22 universities and research institutions in the United States, Canada and the U.K. to conduct an extensive and thorough review of the empirical literature, in 17 broad topic areas. Researchers were selected based on their areas of expertise to catalogue and summarize all known research studies relevant to each major topic, and its sub-topics. They were asked to draw upon their own existing knowledge; to conduct a formal search for additional published, peer-reviewed studies through standard, widely-used search programs; and to share with project colleagues references they might find useful.

Study Summaries and Tables

In the interest of thoroughness and transparency, the researchers agreed to summarize all quantitative studies published in peer-reviewed journals after 1990, and to clearly specify exclusion criteria. Included studies appear in extended tables, each table containing summaries of studies relevant to its particular sub-topics, and are organized both according to publication date and by sample type (large population surveys, smaller community studies, university samples, clinical and legal samples).

Manuscripts

The authors spent up to 30 months researching their topics, and writing the results. Approximately 12,000 studies were considered, and more than 1,700 were eventually summarized and organized into tables. The 17 manuscripts provide an overview of findings on each of the topics, for a total of 2,657 pages, including tables. They appear in five consecutive special issues of *Partner Abuse*, between April, 2012 and April, 2013. In addition to summarizing what is known about the topic, each author was asked to indicate what is not known, and to make suggestions for future research. All conclusions, including the extent to which the research evidence supports or undermines current theories, are based strictly on the data collected, with due consideration for the size and type of sample (e.g., large representative sample versus small clinical sample).

To access the full manuscripts, please go to the Partner Abuse website, at www.springerpub.com/pa, and click on the “subscriptions” link.

Partner Abuse State of Knowledge Project Online

Given the large volume of summarized studies and the page limitations on the published manuscripts, all the tables have been made available online. This online document is a unique and important contribution to domestic violence research, intervention and policy, providing the most comprehensive single data set on domestic violence available in one convenient location, free of charge to the public. It is not intended to be a fixed document, but will later be updated, to reflect new and evolving research. To access it, go to the Table of Contents. For each topic, you will find an introductory summary of the research, information about the author(s), and the various tables, one for each of the subtopics.

PASK Editors

John Hamel, LCSW, acquired both his B.A. in Psychology (1986) and Masters in Social Welfare (1988) from the University of California at Los Angeles, and was licensed as an LCSW (LCS 15194) in November, 1989. Since 1991, he has been Director of John Hamel & Associates, with offices in Walnut Creek, Berkeley and San Rafael, California. Mr. Hamel and his associates provide a wide range of clinical, consultation and training services. His areas of expertise are in the assessment and treatment of anger management and family violence, as well as substance abuse and co-dependency. Specialized clinical services include a substance abuse relapse prevention group, family violence assessments (including specialized assessments in disputed-child custody cases), victim services and advocacy (including victim support groups), and treatment programs for angry and violent men, women, couples, parents and teens. Although many of his clients are voluntary participants, many are referred from Family Court or Child Protective Services, or mandated by the courts to participate in either a batterer treatment program, or a parenting program.

Mr. Hamel has provided consultation and training for mental health professionals, batterer intervention providers, shelter workers and victim advocates, court mediators and evaluators, teachers, attorneys and law enforcement; and has spoken on family violence at a number of events. He is a pioneer in the development of the gender-inclusive approach to domestic violence, a newly-emerging, empirically-based model of research and treatment. His trainings been praised both for their innovative look at theory and policy, as well as their abundance of practical, hands-on intervention tools. Mr. Hamel has also served as an expert court witness on the subject of family violence, and has testified before the California Legislature on domestic violence public policy. His first book, *Gender-Inclusive Treatment of Intimate Partner Abuse: A Comprehensive Approach*, was published in 2005 by Springer Publishing. His second book, co-edited with Tonia Nicholls, PhD, is *Family Interventions in Domestic Violence: A Handbook of Gender-Inclusive Theory and Treatment* (Springer, 2007), and includes contributions from the most respected experts in the field. His most recent book, *Intimate partner and family abuse: A casebook of gender-inclusive therapy* (Springer, 2008), includes chapters by clinicians from the United States and several other countries, and is the first domestic violence casebook to include extensive case studies of both male and female perpetrators and victims.

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