

Background

The aim of the Kentucky Intimate Partner Violence Surveillance Project is to develop a comprehensive picture of intimate partner violence (IPV) among adult women in the state. This includes quantifying the magnitude of the problem, characterizing the nature of the violence and measuring injuries sustained as a result of IPV. Surveillance information is needed to establish baseline data, and may be used to focus legislative policy, to shape program planning for public and private agencies in Kentucky, and to develop prevention and intervention strategies.

The IPVS project consists of two objectives. The first is to compile existing statewide data residing in institutions most likely to have encounters with abused women and to keep records: law enforcement, adult protective services, the administrative office of the courts, hospitals, mental health services and vital statistics registries. Together, these data comprise a statewide surveillance system for monitoring the incidence and prevalence of intimate partner violence.

The second objective is to conduct an annual telephone survey of adult women in Kentucky. The survey complements surveillance data by providing detailed information on the nature and prevalence of abuse between intimate partners. It also reaches women who may suffer abuse, but who may not use public services for help. Although men are also at risk of IPV, only women are interviewed for the survey, due to a limited budget and because 85% of IPV victims are women¹.

This report presents the results of the first annual survey, conducted in 2000. The survey included questions about physical abuse, threats, sexual assaults, and emotional abuse. Victim risk factors, batterer risk factors, injuries resulting from physical abuse by a

partner, and the utilization of medical, legal, shelter, counseling, and other services for IPV victims were also covered. Respondents were asked about IPV in current and former intimate relationships. This report describes the characteristics of IPV in current and former relationships, and estimates the percent of women in Kentucky who ever experienced IPV and who experienced IPV in the past 12 months.

2000 IPV Survey Methodology

Definitions

IPV researchers differ in their opinion of what constitutes violence and who to considered an intimate partner. The *Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements for Intimate Partner Violence*², developed by an expert panel under the auspices of CDC, was used as a guideline for definitions and in questionnaire development. The Kentucky IPV survey defines “intimate partner” as current and former spouses, boyfriends/girlfriends, cohabiting partners, and dates. This definition includes same sex and opposite sex couples. The IPV survey includes emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or stalking in its definition of IPV.

Emotional abuse included one or more of the following behaviors by an intimate partner: insults; accusations of the respondent’s infidelity; extreme jealousy concerning the respondent; controlling the respondent’s daily activities; forbidding the respondent to have contact with her family and friends; and making the respondent feel uncomfortable during sex. Extreme emotional abuse included stealing or damaging the respondent’s property, making the respondent afraid or uncomfortable during sex, and harming and/or killing a family pet. According to this definition, a respondent who answered *yes* when asked whether a current or abusive

former partner had committed one or more of these behaviors suffered emotional abuse by that partner.

Physical abuse included one or more of the following behaviors by an intimate partner: pushing, grabbing or shoving the respondent; hitting, slapping, kicking or biting the respondent; or throwing objects at the respondent. Physical abuse also included threats to hit the respondent or threats with a gun or knife. Actual use of weapons, such as a knife, gun, bottle, blunt instrument, electric cord, rope or scarf, was also considered physical abuse. Separate questions were asked about injuries caused by physical abuse. Not all physically abusive behaviors resulted in injury. Thus, a woman could be considered an IPV victim if physically abused, even if the abuse did not cause injuries

Sexual Abuse included the following behaviors on the part of an intimate partner: any threat to sexually assault, or coercing the respondent to have sex.

In the analysis of the data, physical abuse and sexual abuse were combined in a category called “physical abuse and/or sexual abuse”. A respondent who answered *yes* when asked whether an intimate partner had committed one or more behavior in any of these categories was considered to have suffered physical abuse and/or sexual abuse by her intimate partner.

Stalking included one or more of the following behaviors by an intimate partner: making unwanted phone calls to the respondent, spying on or following the respondent, showing up unexpectedly at places the respondent went to, sending unwanted correspondence to the respondent, harassing the respondent at work or at school and sending unwanted items to the respondent.

Questionnaire

Survey content was guided by the *Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements for Intimate Partner Violence* developed by CDC, who provided scientific oversight for the design of the survey. The questionnaire captured information comparable to the *National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey*³, co-sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some questions were taken directly from the NVAW Survey, other questions were taken from the *Statistics Canada Violence Against Women survey*⁴, the *Conflict Tactics Scale II*⁵, and *Violence in the Lives of Michigan Women*⁶ conducted by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Demographic information (age, education, income, and current marital status) was collected for each respondent. If the respondent had never married, or was widowed, divorced or separated, she was asked whether she had a current intimate partner. Current intimate partners included a spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend (same-sex partners), live-in partner, or a person the respondent was currently dating. All women with current intimate partners were asked whether they were currently living with that person. Next, they were asked about IPV by their current partner. Questions were grouped into the following categories: *emotional abuse*; *physical abuse and/or sexual abuse*; and *stalking*. Respondents were also asked about the use of weapons to threaten or hurt them, injuries resulting from violent episodes with their partners, help-seeking from community agencies, and screening by health care providers. Some questions were asked in reference to two different time frames (e.g., “have you *ever* experienced...” and “have you experienced in the *past 12 months*...”).

Similar questions regarding emotional, physical, and sexual abuse were then asked in reference to the most recent abusive former partner. Former intimate partners included a former spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, dates or a live-in partner who was not the same as their current intimate partner⁷.

Prevalence and annual prevalence were calculated for each type of abuse committed by current and abusive former intimate partners. Prevalence was calculated as the percentage of women who reported that abuse ever occurred at some time during the course of an intimate relationship; annual prevalence as the percentage of women who reported abuse by a current or abusive former partner within the past 12 months.

Precautions were taken to ensure safety and preserve the anonymity of respondents. As the risks were deemed minimal, the study received Institutional Review Board approval through the University of Kentucky (IRB protocol number 99-55352: *Intimate Partner Violence Survey Study*) prior to data collection. The survey also received approval from the Office for Human Research Protections, Department of Health and Human Services (Assurance number S-016055-02).

Implementation

Two thousand and three women from the adult female population in Kentucky were interviewed. Only non-institutionalized subjects greater than or equal to 18 (≥ 18) years of age were eligible. The survey sample was selected using a modified, statewide version of the list-assisted Waksberg Random-Digit Dialing method. Non-working telephone banks and known businesses were filtered out of the universe of possible choices prior to sample selection. Fifty three counties with household phone densities below 85% were over-sampled to ensure proportionate

representation from these counties. This technique gave each household telephone in Kentucky an equal probability of being selected. The resulting sample was geographically representative of women in the state, based on Census data for 1990 and 1999 projections.

Given the nature of the topic and the target population of the survey, only female interviewers with experience in conducting interviews on sensitive topics were employed for this study. Interviewers received additional IPV awareness training. Once the interviewer reached a private household, an adult woman of the household was asked to participate. If more than one eligible woman was present in the household, the woman with the most recent birthday was selected to interview. On average, interviews required 20 minutes to complete.

Analysis

Electronic files containing survey data were prepared by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center. SPSS version 10.0 for Windows was used for data analysis.

Since the survey relies on a simple random sample of adult women in Kentucky, rather than a poll of 100% of the adult female population in the state, results presented in this report are *estimates* of true population proportions. In order to compensate for the errors associated with sampling, tabled percents include 95% confidence intervals. The 95% confidence interval represents the range within which we are 95% “confident” that the true population percentage lies. The confidence interval is also used to calculate a numerical range for the estimated number of adult women in Kentucky who suffer various types of IPV.

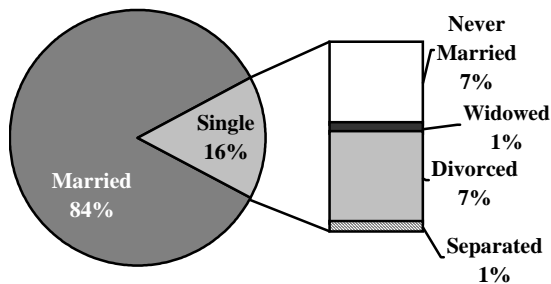
In cases where fewer than 5 respondents answered a question in the affirmative, it was not possible to make statistically reliable estimates of the true population proportion. These cases are indicated with an asterisk (*) in the text.

Results

Characteristics of the Sample

Women in the sample ranged from 18 to 93 years of age (average age, 46 years). Table 1 gives an overview of selected demographic characteristics of the sample, compared to the Kentucky Census. Appendix 1 presents more details of sample demographics.

Figure 1. Marital Status of Women in a Current Intimate Relationship



The response rate was 50.8%, calculated using methods recommended by the Council of Applied Survey Research Organization (CASRO).⁸

I. Violence by Current Intimate Partners

Out of the 2,003 adult women surveyed, 1515 (75.6%) were currently involved in an intimate relationship. Most women (1279, or 84.4% of all women in current relationships) were married to their intimate partner. For 949 women, this was their first marriage. Of the remaining 239 single women in current partners, 133 were divorced, widowed or separated, and 103 had never been married

(Figure 1). One hundred-twelve of 239 (46.9%) single women in current intimate relationships were living with their partner as part of an unmarried couple

Table 1. Selected Demographic Characteristics

	Survey Sample (%)	Kentucky (%)
Age	≥18 years	≥18 years
18-24	7.7	12.5
25-34	17.8	17.9
35-44	22.3	20.5
45-54	21.6	17.9
55-64	14.1	12.2
65+	16.2	19.0
Race	≥18 years	≥18 years
Black	4.7	6.8
Hispanic	0.5	1.0
White	93.1	90.5
Other	1.4	2.0
Education	≥18 years	≥18 years
< HS	17.9	35.0
HS	35.0	33.0
Some	26.2	19.8
College	11.5	7.1
BS Degree	9.2	5.1
Grad Degree		
Employment	≥18 years	≥16 years
Unemployed	18.9	3.2
Employed	57.5	51.6
Work at home or retired	23.5	45.2
Marital Status	≥18 years	≥15 years
Never	10.6	19.2
Married	64.0	55.5
Married	1.7	2.1
Separated	13.2	11.5
Divorced	10.3	11.7
Widowed		
Household Income		
< \$10,000	7.3	13.7
\$10,000-49,999	58.4	55.4
>\$50,000	34.2	30.9

Kentucky data are from the Year 2000 census, with the exception of data on education, which is from the Year 1990 census.

Women in current intimate relationships were asked, “*Would you describe your current intimate relationship as abusive in any way? By abusive, I mean not only physical and/or sexual violence, but also anger, threats, insults, harassing or controlling behavior.*” In

response, only 76 of the 1515 women answered “yes” (5%). However, when women were asked detailed questions about specific behaviors, a much higher proportion of women said they had experienced emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse by a current intimate partner.

Emotional Abuse by Current Partners

Of the 1515 respondents in a current intimate relationship, 591 (39.0%) reported some type of emotional abuse that had occurred during the course of their current relationship. One in 4 women in current intimate relationships said their partner insulted them; 1 in 5 said their partner acted in a jealous manner, and about 1 in 8 said their partner accused them of infidelity (Table 2). When asked how often

Table 2. Emotional Abuse by a Current Partner

Type of Abuse	Ever (%)	95%CI
Put down, insult	25.2	(23.0, 27.4)
Extremely jealous	21.1	(19.1, 23.2)
Accuse her of infidelity	13.0	(11.3, 14.7)
Control her daily activities	8.6	(7.2, 10.0)
Isolate her	6.5	(5.3, 7.7)
Make afraid during sex	3.6	(2.7, 4.5)
Steal, damage property	5.1	(4.0, 6.2)
Make afraid for her safety	5.1	(4.0, 6.2)
Harm/kill family pet	0.5	(0.1, 0.9)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 1515 women in the sample with current partners.

these behaviors occurred, most women reported that their partner exhibited these three emotionally abusive behaviors “some of the time,” as opposed to “all of the time” or “hardly ever”.

About 1 in 20 (77 out of 1515) women in current intimate relationships reported more extreme forms of emotional abuse during the course of the relationship, such as damaging property or making the respondent fear for her safety. Only a few respondents said their partner ever harmed or killed a family pet.

Physical Abuse by Current Partners

Though only 5% of respondents characterized their current intimate relationship as abusive, 219 (14.5%) women experienced behaviors during the course of their current relationship that were physically and/or sexually abusive (Table 3).

Table 3. Physical & Sexual IPV by Current Partner

Type of Abuse	Ever (%)	95% CI
Sexual Violence	2	(1.3, 2.7)
Sexual threats	0.9	(0.4, 1.4)
Force sexual activity	1.8	(1.1, 2.5)
Physical Violence	13.4	(11.7, 15.1)
Threats to hit	6.2	(5.0, 7.4)
Push/grab/shove	12.1	(10.5, 13.7)
Throw things	4.9	(3.8, 6.0)
Slap/kick/bite/hit	4.5	(3.5, 5.5)
Threats with gun or knife	1.2	(0.7, 1.8)
Use a gun or knife	0.5	(0.1, 0.9)
Strike with an object	0.7	(0.3, 1.1)
Cord/scarf used to choke	*	

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 1515 women in the sample with current partners.

Of all women in current intimate relationships, 1 in 8 said their partner had pushed, grabbed or shoved them during the course of the relationship, and 1 in 16 said their partner threatened to hit them. About 1 woman in 20 said their partner threw something and/or hit, slapped or kicked them. Only 1 in 50 women disclosed threats of sexual assault or forced sexual activity to survey interviewers. Less than 2% of respondents with a current intimate partner said their partner threatened them with a lethal weapon or that their partner used a gun or knife to hurt them during a violent episode.

Patterns of IPV in Current Relationships

For the majority of women in current abusive relationships, violent behavior emerged early in the relationship. Forty percent of women with a current partner who had ever been abusive said the violence began within the first

year of the relationship; an additional 33.3% said that violence began 1 to 4 years into the relationship.

When asked about IPV over time, nearly two-thirds of women in current abusive relationships said the violence had become less frequent (62.9%) and less severe (61.9%) over time. Fewer reported an increase in the frequency (11.4%) or the severity (8.7%) of violence⁹.

IPV During Pregnancy by a Current Partner

One hundred thirty-five out of 219 (61.8%) women who reported any kind of physical abuse and/or sexual abuse from their current partner said they had been pregnant by that partner¹⁰. Of these, 21 (15.6%) said their partner abused them physically or sexually during pregnancy.

IPV-Related Injuries by a Current Partner

Only the 219 women who reported some type of physical and/or sexual abuse were asked about injuries received as a result of fights with their current intimate partner (Table 4). Injuries included bumps, bruises, cuts, wounds, a black eye, sprain, swelling, fractured or broken bones or other injury.

When asked about specific injuries resulting from fights with their current partner, 40% of abused women reported one or more type of injury. The injury most frequently reported was physical pain lasting for more than an hour, followed by injury to the arm or leg,

Table 4. Injuries Inflicted by a Current Partner

Type of Injury	Ever (%)	95% CI
Injury from a fight	40.0	(33.5, 46.5)
Physical pain	23.3	(17.7, 28.9)
Arm/leg injury	21.9	(16.4, 27.4)
Face/neck injury	20.1	(14.8,25.4)
Head injury	16.0	(11.1,20.9)
Stomach/chest/back injury	13.7	(9.2, 18.3)

Fractured/broken bones	2.7	(0.6, 4.9)
Medical treatment	7.3	(3.9, 10.8)
Treatment for stress	25.6	(19.8, 31.4)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by 219 women in the sample with a current abusive partner.

injury to the face or neck, and head injury. Only a small percentage of women reporting physical abuse said they had a fracture as a result of a fight or argument with an intimate partner. Less than 7.3% of physically abused women received medical treatment for injuries that resulted from a fight with their partner. However, 25.6% said they received “medical treatment for stress” resulting from violent fights, where the definition of “stress” was left up to the interpretation of the respondent. In addition, 43 (19.8%) women said they had sustained an injury during a violent episode with their current partner that warranted medical attention, yet they did not seek it¹¹.

Safety Planning

Out of 219 women in current abusive relationships, 168 (76.7%) reported taking steps in preparation to leave a current partner who was abusive (Table 5). Most frequently,

Table 5. Safety Precautions Taken, Current Abusive Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Hide money	66.2%	(59.9, 72.5)
Hide extra house/car keys	25.6%	(19.8, 31.4)
Hide extra clothing	10.5%	(6.4, 14.6)
Ask a friend to call police	8.7%	(5.0, 12.4)
Establish code with a friend for danger	6.4%	(3.2, 9.6)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by 219 women in the sample with a current abusive partner.

women said that they hid extra money (66.2%) or an extra set of house or car keys (25.6%).

Eighty-six out of 219 (39.3%) women who reported physical or sexual abuse said they left their current partner at some time during the relationship because of the violence. About three-quarters of these women said they had

taken some safety precautions in preparation for leaving.

Stalking by a Current Partner

Of 1515 women in current intimate relationships, 3.4% (7.7, 8.9) reported two or more types of stalking behavior by a current partner. Seventy women (4.6%) reported at least one type of stalking partner also reported some type of physical and/or sexual abuse. Table 6 presents stalking reported by women at some time during the course of their current intimate relationship by type of behavior.

Table 6. Stalking by a Current Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Spied on or followed	4.4	(3.4, 5.5)
Unwanted phone calls	2.0	(1.8, 3.4)
Unexpected appearances	2.8	(2.0, 3.6)
Other communication	2.6	(1.8, 3.4)
Stood outside work, school	2.0	(1.3, 2.7)
Unwanted items given	1.3	(0.7, 1.9)
Written correspondence	0.9	(0.4, 1.3)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 1515 women in the sample with a current intimate partner

Victim Risk Factors

Table 7 displays the relationship between IPV by a current partner and childhood experiences with abuse, such as witnessing IPV between their caretakers or being a victim of physical abuse. One hundred thirteen out of 391 women with childhood experiences of abuse experienced IPV with a current partner (28.9%). In comparison, 104 out of 1122 who did not report childhood experiences of abuse experienced IPV with a current partner (9.3%). Thus, women who witnessed or experienced abuse in childhood were 3 times more likely to experience IPV by a current intimate partner than women who had not (Table 7).

Table 7. Experiences of Abuse in Childhood and Risk of IPV in Current Relationship

Experience or Witness Abuse in	IPV by Current	No IPV by Current
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Childhood	Partner	Partner	Total
Yes	113	278	391
No	104	1018	1122
Total	217	1296	1513

R.R. = 3.12, p<.0001

Help-Seeking for IPV by Current Partners

Few women who experienced physical abuse and/or sexual abuse actively sought assistance from helping agencies. Twenty-six out of 219 (11.8%) women who were physically or sexually abused by a current partner said she had sought help from a health or other state service. Reasons for not seeking help are listed in Table 8.

Table 8. Reasons for Not Seeking Help for IPV by a Current Abusive Partner

	Number (%)
Partner Prevented Seeking Help	11 (25.6%)
Too Scared to Ask for Help	17 (39.5%)
Were Unable to Afford Help	12 (27.9%)
Didn't Think It Would Do Any Good	14 (32.5%)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 43 who said they were injured due to IPV by a current partner.

Interviewers noted other explanations for not seeking help, such as: “no place to get help”, “didn’t want partner to get in trouble,” “I felt I could handle the situation,” “apathy,” “afraid of losing face,” “felt naïve or confused,” “my partner apologized,” “didn’t want anyone to know,” and “didn’t want to upset the children.”

When asked whether they had ever sought help from the *specific* sources listed in Table 9, 42.9% of women who reported physical and/or sexual abuse said they asked someone for help¹². The most frequently cited sources of help ever sought were neighbors, friends, or relatives (28.6%), mental health counselors (20.3%), family doctors (17.0%) or law enforcement officers (14.3%). A few women also mentioned talking about abuse by their

current intimate partner to a minister, a crisis hotline or Alcoholics Anonymous.

Table 9. Sources of Help Sought by Women Reporting Abuse by a Current Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Neighbor, Family, Friend	28.6	(22.6, 34.6)
Mental Health Counselor	20.3	(15.0, 25.6)
Family Doctor	17.0	(12.0, 22.0)
Law Enforcement Officer	14.3	(9.7, 18.9)
Courts or Lawyer	12.0	(7.7, 16.3)
Spouse Abuse Shelter	6.0	(2.8, 9.2)
Emergency Room	6.9	(3.5, 10.3)
Social Services	5.1	(2.2, 8.0)
Hospital Outpatient Clinic	*	*
Substance Abuse Treatment	*	*
Adult Clinic	*	*
Rape Crisis Center	0	0

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 219 women in the sample with current abusive partners.

Thirty-six women out of 219 women in current abusive relationships (16.4%) said they had been screened by a health professional for IPV¹³. Thirteen out of the 36 (36.1%) said they disclosed the abuse to the health provider; 7 (19.4%) denied the abuse and 5 (13.9%) refused to answer the question asked by the provider. The remaining 11 (30.6%) did not respond to this question when asked by the interviewer.

II. Violence by Former Intimate Partners

Out of the 2003 women surveyed, 582 (29%) said they had a previous relationship that was abusive. Of these women, 436 (75%) said that only one previous relationship was abusive, 18.2% said two previous relationships were abusive, and the remaining 6.2% said three or more previous intimate relationships were abusive. Subsequent questions referred to the most recent former partner who was abusive (known hereafter as “*the abusive former partner*”). When asked to describe their abusive former partner, the majority of women said this person was someone they were involved with at the time the abuse occurred,

either a husband (52.1%) or boyfriend (24.1%). Few women reported that the person was an ex-partner at the time the abuse occurred, such as an ex-husband (9.5%) or ex-boyfriend (6.7%). In 79.8% of former abusive relationships, the respondent co-habited, either as a spouse or as part of an unmarried couple.

IPV in former abusive relationships was strongly associated with co-habiting, whether or not the couple was married. In 72.3% of abusive former relationships, violence occurred only after the couple started living together. To a lesser extent, IPV occurred both before and during the time that the couple co-habited (22.9%) or only before living together (4.8%). Whether living together or not, 254 (43.6%) of women said that their partner continued to be abusive after the relationship ended. Eighty eight (34.6%) of these women said that abuse escalated after the relationship ended.

Emotional Abuse by the Abusive Former Partner

Nearly all women (97.9%) with a former abusive relationship reported some type of emotional abuse, ranging from mild to extreme in type. Over 80% said their abusive former partner insulted them, accused them of infidelity although it was not true, or acted in a jealous manner (Table 10). When asked how often these behaviors occurred, 38.6% of the women reported that their partner was jealous “all of the time”, and 23.8% said their partner accused them of infidelity, or insulted them “all of the time”. Controlling daily activities and attempts to isolate the respondent from contact with family and friends was reported by nearly two-thirds of women describing abusive former relationships. Nearly half of women with an abusive former partner said their partner made them uncomfortable or afraid during sex. Some women reported more extreme forms of emotional abuse, such as

damaging property, harming family pets or making her fear for her safety. Table 10 includes the prevalence of these extreme behaviors.

Table 10. Emotional Abuse by the Abusive Former Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Put down, insult	87.3%	(84.6, 90.0)
Extremely jealous	87.3%	(84.6, 90.0)
Accuse of infidelity	84.1%	(81.1, 87.1)
Control daily activities	66.6%	(62.8, 70.4)
Keep from seeing people	60.8%	(62.6, 70.6)
Make afraid during sex	49.9%	(56.7, 64.9)
Steal, damage property	69.8%	(46.2, 53.6)
Make afraid for her safety	54.1%	(65.8, 73.9)
Harm/kill family pet	12.5%	(9.8, 15.2)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 582 women in the sample with former abusive partners.

Physical and/or Sexual IPV by the Abusive Former Partner

Of 582 women with any abusive former partner, 91% reported some type of physical abuse. Eighty percent reported that their partner had pushed, grabbed or shoved them at some point during the relationship (Table 11). Seventy-five percent said that their partner threatened to hit them, and 62.5% said their partner hit, slapped or kicked them. Thirty-one percent said that their partner forced them to engage in sexual activity; 22.9% said their partner threatened sexual assault. More than a third said their partner threatened them with a lethal weapon and more than one-fourth said their partner used gun or knife to hurt them during a violent episode.

Table 11. Physical and/or Sexual IPV by the Abusive Former Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Push, grab, or shove	83.3	(80.3, 86.3)
Threats to hit	75.1	(71.6, 78.6)
Slap, kick, bite or hit	62.5	(58.6, 66.4)
Throw things	52.9	(48.8, 57.0)
Threats with gun/ knife	36.3	(32.4, 40.2)
Force sexual activity	31.8	(28.0, 35.6)
Use a gun or knife	26.3	(22.7, 29.9)

Sexual threats	22.9	(19.5, 26.3)
Strike with object	22.6	(19.2, 26.0)
Cord/scarf used to choke	1.1	(0.3, 2.0)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 582 women in the sample with abusive former partners

IPV During Pregnancy by the Abusive Former Partner

Two hundred and ninety women (49.8% of those who had abusive former partners) had been pregnant by that partner at least once. Of these, 139 (47.8%) who had been pregnant said their partner abused them during pregnancy.

Injuries Inflicted by the Abusive Former Partner

Seventy percent of women reporting abusive former relationships said that they received some type of injury as a result of fights with their partner (Table 12). The most frequently reported injury was physical pain lasting for more than an hour, followed by injury to the face or neck and injury to the arm or leg. More than 33% of women who had an abusive former partner reported an injury to the head and 12.5% said they had a fracture as a result of a fight with the abusive former partner. Only 22% of women ever received medical treatment for their injuries; 35.4% received medical treatment for stress resulting from a fight with their abusive former partner. Two hundred fifty three (41.8%) women said that although they had been injured as a result of their abusive former partner’s violence, they did not seek medical treatment.

Table 12. Injuries by the Abusive Former Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Any Injury	70.6	(66.9, 74.3)
Physical Pain	53.6	(49.6, 57.7)
Face/neck Injury	45.2	(41.2, 49.2)
Arm/leg Injury	44.7	(40.7, 48.7)
Head Injury	33.5	(29.7, 37.3)

Stomach/chest/back Injury	31.6	(27.8, 35.4)
Fractured/broken Bones	12.5	(9.8, 15.2)
Medical Treatment for Stress	35.4	(19.3, 26.1)
Medical Treatment for Injuries	22.7	(31.5, 39.3)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 582 women in the sample with former abusive partners

Stalking by the Abusive Former Partner

Three hundred fifty one (60.3%) women said their abusive former partner engaged in two or more stalking behaviors (Table 13). More than half of these women reported unwanted

Table 13. Stalking by the Abusive Former Partner

	Ever (%)	95% CI
Other communication	32.6	(28.7, 36.4)
Unwanted phone calls	54.3	(50.3, 58.4)
Unwanted items given	14.1	(11.3, 16.9)
Unexpected appearances	45.9	(41.9, 49.9)
Stood outside work, school	39.3	(35.5, 43.3)
Written correspondence	21.3	(18.0, 24.6)
Spied on or followed	52.9	(48.8, 56.9)

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by the 582 women in the sample with a former abusive partner

phone calls, being followed or spied upon after the relationship had ended. Women also reported abusive former partners “showing up” at their workplace or school (39.3%) or other places when they had no reason to be there (45.9%).

Help-Seeking for IPV by the Abusive Former Partner

One hundred ten out of 582 (18.9%) women said that they had “sought help from a health or other public/private agency” for abuse by their abusive former partner.

Of those who had an abusive former partner, 18.9% said that a health provider had screened then for IPV during the period when the abuse occurred. When asked by their provider about IPV, 53.6% abused women said yes, they were being abused; 28.2% said no, they were not

being abused; and 16.4% refused to answer the provider.

III. IPV by Current and Abusive Former Partners

Previous sections of this report dealt with abuse by current and abusive former partners separately, since slightly different methods were used to collect the data. For example, since data on current relationship status were obtained for all respondents, it was possible to calculate abusive current relationships as a percentage of all current intimate relationships. In contrast, data on former relationships was limited to information about former intimate relationships that were abusive, not the number of former intimate relationships overall. Thus, it was not possible to determine the percent of *all* former intimate relationships that were abusive.

To compare the prevalence of abuse by current intimate partners to former intimate partners, a common denominator was needed. The denominator used to produce comparable prevalence and annual prevalence estimates for this study was the entire survey sample (n=2003). Table 14 displays the prevalence of abuse as recalculated using the common denominator.

When asked whether their current relationship was abusive, 3.8% of all women surveyed said “yes”. But when asked about *specific* types of abuse, women were much more likely to admit

Table 14. Prevalence of IPV by Abusive Current Partner and Abusive Former Partner

	Current Partner	Abusive Former Partner
Described relationship as “abusive”	3.8%	29.0%
Emotional abuse	29.5%	28.5%
Physical/sexual abuse	10.9%	26.4%
IPV Injuries	4.4%	20.5%
IPV Injuries, but did not seek help	2.1%	12.1%

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by all 2003 women in the sample.

that specific abusive behaviors had occurred at some time with their current partner¹⁴. About 10.9% of women in current relationships said they had experienced some type of physical and/or sexual abuse; nearly three times as many (29.5%) ever experienced emotional abuse as experienced physical abuse.

Among abusive former intimate relationships alone, there was little difference between the percent that described a former relationship as abusive (29%), the percent that said the abusive former partner was *emotionally abusive* (28.5%) and the percent that said the abusive former partner was *physically and/or sexually abusive* (26.4%).

A significantly higher percentage of women described a former relationship as abusive than described a current relationship as abusive (29% compared to 3.8% of the 2003 women surveyed, $p > .001$)¹⁵.

The percent of women reporting emotional abuse by a current partner was similar to that reported for abusive former partner (29.5% and 28.5%, respectively; no statically significant difference). However, more than twice as many women reported physical and/or sexual abuse by the abusive former partner as by their current partner (26.4% and 10.9%, respectively, $p < .001$)¹⁶. Table 15 compares

Table 15. Emotional Abuse by Abusive Current and Abusive Former Partner

	Current Partner	Abusive former partner
Harm/kill family pets	0.4%	3.6%
Make her afraid during sex	2.7%	14.4%
Steal/destroy property	3.9%	15.7%
Isolate her from others	5.0%	17.6%
Make her fear for her safety	4.0%	20.3%
Control her daily activities	6.6%	19.3%
Accuse her of infidelity	9.9%	25.4%

Extremely jealous	16.1%	24.4%
Put down, insult her	19.1%	25.4%

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by all 2003 women in the sample.

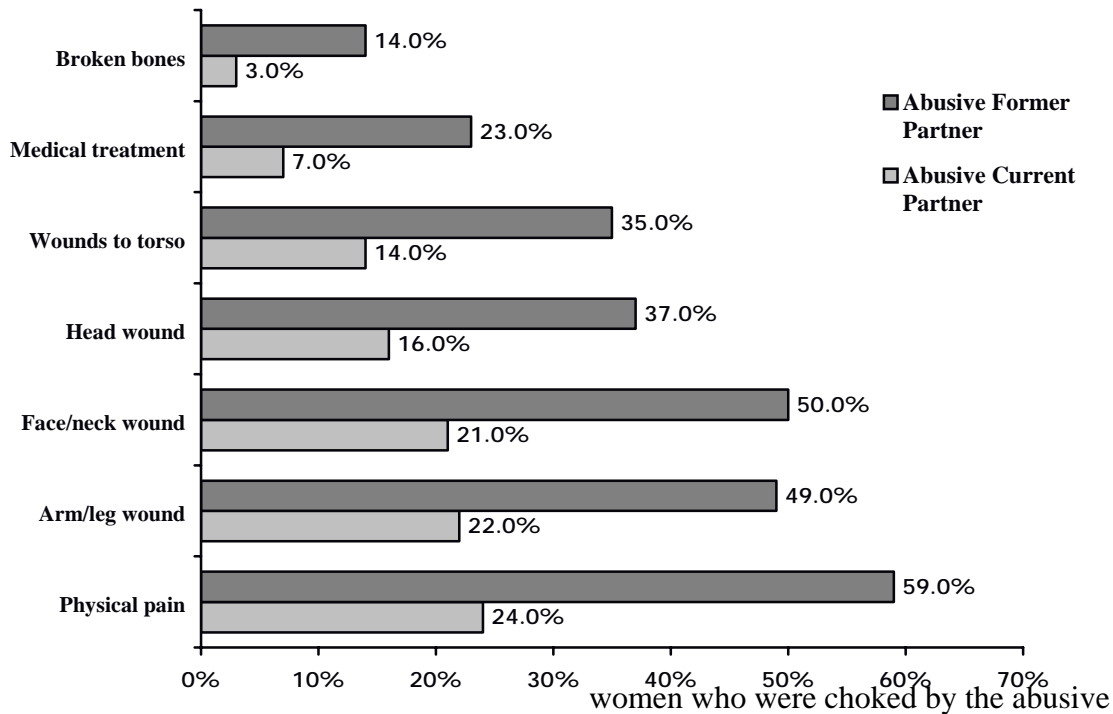
emotionally abusive behaviors perpetrated by current intimate partners and abusive former intimate partners. In each category, a higher percentage of women reported abuse by the abusive former partner than reported abuse by the current partner (in each case, $p < .001$). This gap was especially pronounced for extreme behaviors, such as making the respondent afraid during sex, making her fear for her safety and harming or killing family pets.

Table 16. Physical Abuse by Abusive Current Partner and Abusive Former Partner

	Current Partner	Abusive former partner
Choke with cord, scarf	0.0%	1.1%
Hurt with a gun/knife	0.5%	7.6%
Strike with an object	0.5%	6.4%
Threaten sexually	0.6%	6.6%
Threaten with gun/knife	1.0%	10.5%
Force to have sex	1.4%	9.2%
Slap, hit, kick or bite	3.4%	18.2%
Throw object	3.7%	15.4%
Threaten to hit	4.7%	21.8%
Push, grab, shove	9.2%	24.2%

Percents equal those who said “yes” divided by all 2003 women in the sample.

Figure 2. Injuries by Abusive Current Partner and Abusive Former Partner



Similar disparities exist for reported percents of physically and/or sexually abusive behaviors by abusive former partners compared to current partners (Table 16). Again, for each type of abuse, a higher percentage of women reported abuse by the abusive former partner than reported abuse by the current partner (in each case, $p < .001$).

This gap was most pronounced for severe physical and sexual abuse: forcing the respondent to have sex, threatening to use a knife or gun to harm her, threatening the respondent sexually, striking respondent with an object, and using a knife or gun.

A small proportion of the sample said the abusive former partner choked them with an electric cord, scarf or rope, but none said the abusive current partner had choked them. Though this is a small percent of the sample, when projected to the population of women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years old, this represents 17,400

women who were choked by the abusive former partner.

Figure 2 displays injuries sustained during a fight with an intimate partner. Compared to fights with a current intimate partner, fights with abusive former partners resulted in more than twice the percentage of broken bones and injuries to the arm/leg, face/neck, torso, and head (in each case, $p < .001$).

IV. Batterer Risk Factors

Women in abusive current relationships were asked, “*Did your current partner have a father who physically abused his spouse or other female partner?*” Out of 219 women who reported some form of physical and/or sexual abuse, 55 (25.1%) said yes, 42.9% said no, and 12.3% said they did not know. Two hundred five out of 582 (35.2%) women with abusive former partners said they thought this partner’s father was violent towards his spouse or other intimate partner, 37.1% said they thought he was not, and 27.5% said they did

not know. Women who did not have current or former abusive partners were not asked this question, so comparisons with the partners of women in abuse-free relationships are not possible.

Forty three (19.2%) women said their abusive current partner had been under the influence of alcohol or drugs during violent incidents¹⁷. About half of these 43 said their partner was under the influence during *all* violent episodes; 18.6% said their partner was under the influence during most; and 25.6% said their partner was under the influence during some violent episodes. Three hundred ten (53.3%) out of 582 women said their abusive former partner had been under the influence of alcohol or drugs during violent incidents. Of these 310, 18.5% said their partner was under the influence during all violent episodes; 37.4% said their partner was under the influence during most; and 27.1% said their partner was under the influence during some violent episodes.

V. Population Projections

Emotional Abuse

Of the 2003 Kentucky women surveyed, a

total of 966 (48.2%) respondents said that they had experienced some form of emotional abuse during the course of an intimate relationship, either by a current partner, the most recent abusive former partner, or both. Thus, a woman abused by a current *and* the most recent abusive former partner would be counted only once. Three hundred seventy five (18.7%) survey respondents were emotionally abused by the abusive former partner only; 195 (9.7%) by both a current and former partner; and 396 (19.7%) by a current partner only. Figure 3 shows the number and percent of survey respondents who were emotionally abused, and also shows the overlap between reported emotional abuse for both abusive current and abusive former partners. When projected to the Year 2000 population of women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years of age, an estimated 728,800 to 798,000 women have been emotionally abused by an intimate partner.

Of all women interviewed, a total of 87 (4.3%) suffered *extreme* emotional abuse by a current or the abusive former partner during the 12 months prior to the survey. Extreme emotional abuse included making her fear for her safety, harming or killing a family pet, or destroying her property. (The survey did not

Figure 3. Emotional Abuse Reported by Survey Participants



Total number of women in the survey reporting emotional abuse: 966

ask about the 12-month prevalence of less extreme emotionally abusive behaviors). When projected to the year 2000 population of women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years of age, an estimated 54,600 to 82,800 women suffered extreme emotional abuse in the past year.

Physical and/or Sexual IPV

Of the 2,003 Kentucky women ≥ 18 years old surveyed, 686 (34.2%) suffered some type of physical and/or sexual abuse by an abusive current and/or former partner at some point during the course of the relationship. Sixty-three experienced physical abuse and/or sexual abuse from both an abusive current and a former partner; 156 from a current partner only; and 467 from the abusive former partner and/or former intimate partner only. Projected to the year 2000 female population ≥ 18 years of age in Kentucky, an estimated 509,100 to 574,900 women have experienced physical and/or sexual IPV some time in their lives. In the 12 months prior to the survey, 155 women (7.7%) suffered some type of physical abuse and/or sexual abuse by an abusive current or former partner. Projected to the Year 2000 population of women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years of age, an estimated 104,000 to 141,000 women were threatened, physically or sexually abused in the year prior to the survey.

Injury

Of the 686 women who had **ever** been physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner, 474 (23.7% of all women in the sample) said they had been injured during a fight with a current and/or former partner. Twenty-five were injured by both their current and former partner; 63 by a current partner only; and 386 by an abusive former partner only. When projected to the year 2000 population of women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years of age, an estimated 345,100 to 404,000

women received injuries as a result of intimate partner violence.

In the 12 months prior to the survey, 155 women in the sample were physically or sexually abused by a current or former intimate partner. Of these, 55 (2.7% of all women in the sample) were injured during a fight with that partner. This represents an estimated 32,200 and 54,900 women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years of age injured by an intimate partner in a year.

Help Seeking

When asked where they turned for help, 20.3% of women abused by a current partner said she talked to a mental health counselor at some time during the relationship, while 17% sought help from family physicians. Projected to the year 2000 Kentucky female population, an estimated 24,700 to 45,000 women sought help from mental health counselors for IPV. An estimated 20,700 to 38,600 women sought the help of the family physician at some time.

Overall, 7.2% of respondents said they sought medical treatment for IPV-related injuries in their lifetimes, and 12% sought treatment for stress related to IPV. Thus, an estimated 96,700 to 132,600 adult women in Kentucky sought medical treatment for IPV related injuries and 167,100 to 212,100 sought treatment for IPV-related stress. In the 12 months prior to the survey, 0.5% of women surveyed sought medical treatment, and 2.8% sought treatment for “stress.” Projected to the year 2000 population, an estimated 2,500 to 11,700 women sought medical treatment in the 12 months prior to the survey, and an estimated 33,500 to 56,607 sought help for stress.

Stalking

Of the 2003 women surveyed, 387 (19.3%) said that a current and/or abusive former partner had engaged in two or more stalking behaviors during the course of the relationship¹⁸. Thirty-four women were stalked by both their current and abusive former partner; 69 by a current partner only; and 399 by their abusive former partner only. Projected to the year 2000 population of women in Kentucky ≥ 18 years of age, an estimated 278,500 to 333,200 women who have been stalked by an intimate partner. Of the 582 Kentucky women with former abusive partners, 68 (3.4% of all women surveyed) said that their most recent former intimate partner stalked them in the past 12 months¹⁹. This represents an estimated 41,100 to 66,200 female Kentucky residents who were stalked within a year. Note: this number may under represent stalking because women in current relationships were not asked if their partner had stalked them during the past year.

VI. Conclusions

IPV is a serious problem in Kentucky. An estimated 509,100 to 574,900 women age 18 and over have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by a current or former intimate partner, and an between 728,800 and 798,000 women have experienced emotional abuse by their intimate partner.

The prevalence of IPV in Kentucky is higher than the nation as a whole. According to the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) survey, 24.8% of women ≥ 18 years old have been physically abused by an intimate partner in their lifetime, compared to 34.2% of women in Kentucky. The NVAW survey also found that in the past 12 months, 1.5% of women age 18 and older had experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner, compared to 7.7% of women in Kentucky. (See text box, on page

20, for a fuller discussion of results from the two surveys.)

A number of promising public health strategies have been applied to the problem of intimate partner violence, focused on primary prevention, early intervention, direct services for victims, and accountability for batterers. A concise agenda for the prevention and intervention of IPV has been developed by the U.S. Department of Justice for use on a community level. The *Agenda for the Nation*²⁰, sets forth the following recommendations for the prevention and control of IPV:

1. Ensure that all women experiencing violence have a place to turn.
2. Enhance the health and mental health care systems' response to violence against women.
3. Provide equal and safe access to the justice system and the protections it affords.
4. Increase women's access to meaningful economic options.
5. Invest in prevention and early intervention with children and youth.
6. Identify and eliminate social norms that condone violence against women.

The objectives in the *Agenda for the Nation* provide a useful framework to translate study findings into effective action steps, as follows:

a. Ensure that all women experiencing violence have a place to turn.

In 2000, an estimated 122,493 adult women in Kentucky experienced IPV. Yet according to the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, only 2,339 women were sheltered by spouse abuse shelters in 1999¹. An additional 2,293 IPV victims received counseling and advocacy services, and spouse abuse shelters handled 38,795 information and referral calls related to

¹ In addition, 2161 men and children were housed in these shelters in 1999.

IPV. Thus, assuming that these three categories include females only and do not overlap, only about a third of the estimated number of victims received services in 1999. While not all IPV victims experience the same severity of violence, or feel that they are ready to take action, it is essential that services be sufficiently funded and staffed to meet the potential demand.

b. Enhance the health and mental health care systems' response to violence against women. According to survey results, an estimated 7,100 women per year require medical treatment as a result of IPV and an additional 10,300 abused women sought help from a health care provider. However, these numbers represent only a fraction of the estimated total of abused women. Additional IPV victims could be identified and referred for appropriate services if medical professionals knew how to recognize, screen, treat and refer victims appropriately. According to survey results, only 16.4% of abused women in current relationships received IPV screening from a health professional. Lack of access to a regular source of care may be a partial explanation of low screening rates. Lack of knowledge and sensitivity on the part of medical providers may provide additional explanations. For example, of the few women screened for IPV, only a third disclosed the abuse. It might help to train physicians to help patients feel more comfortable when discussing a sensitive and personal matter such as IPV.

One in five women abused by their current partner sought help from a mental health counselor. This suggests that mental health service providers are a primary resource for women in abusive relationships. Assuring access to mental health services, particularly low-income or rural women, may provide an important first step to link women to legal, financial, advocacy, law enforcement, and

other services needed to alleviate the abuse. Mental health counselors also should be trained to provide referral to these services, as well as attend to the specific counseling needs of abused women.

Efforts to raise awareness among medical providers concerning IPV are currently underway in Kentucky. These efforts should be supported and expanded. In addition, there may be a need for increased access to medical care, particularly for women in lower income groups or who live in remote areas.

c. Invest in prevention and early intervention with children and youth.

Survey results indicated that women who have witnessed or directly experienced family violence in childhood had a higher risk of IPV in adulthood. This echoes the findings of other studies²¹. Therefore, for families with children, intervention for existing IPV may reduce the risk of IPV in the next generation. Early visitation programs provide further opportunities to intervene by teaching parenting skills to new families.

In addition, educational programs in middle schools and high schools are needed, to inform students about the dynamics of dating violence and teach relationship skills. According to the Kentucky IPV survey, the majority of women in current abusive relationships said that violent behavior was evident early in the relationship. Educational programs for young people would facilitate early identification (and termination) of IPV and would encourage the formation of violence-free intimate relationships, thus eliminating a key risk factor for children born as a result of those relationships.

d. Identify and eliminate social norms that condone violence against women.

Family and friends were at the top of the list of those with whom abused women discussed

their problems. Many attitudes surrounding IPV have changed due to the efforts of advocates for battered women, policy makers and researchers. Still, the individual members of the general public may be uncertain as to how to provide help to the abused women they know. Even if people believe IPV is unacceptable, or know what services are available locally, they may be afraid to intervene, or feel it is none of their business. Media campaigns that communicate support for personal interventions and that give concrete suggestions for how to help victims is another avenue for linking women with services, and provide social support.

Finally, the IPVS project recommends that the collection of accurate and complete data be continued by agencies throughout the Commonwealth who deal with abused women, to supplement survey reports such as this one.

VII. Study Limitations

Sensitive nature of questions

Intimate partner violence is a sensitive topic, due to the social stigma and blame associated with being a victim. Thus, in any survey setting, respondents might be unwilling to give candid answers about abuse that may have happened to them. For current abuse in intimate relationships, the respondent may be unable to report abuse objectively, due to minimization or denial of the problem. Alternatively, a current victim of IPV may refuse to participate in the survey at all, due to shame or embarrassment. If an IPV victim is telephoned while her abuser is present, she may, at the least, feel constrained in answering questions, or be too intimidated to participate at all. Fear of reprisal from her batterer could keep a respondent from participating in the survey regardless of whether her abuser is present.

To compensate for the sensitive nature of the topic, questions were carefully chosen based on a demonstrated ability to elicit candid responses. Telephone interviewers had prior experience with sensitive survey topics, and were given additional sensitivity training for domestic violence to put respondents at ease. To ensure victim safety, the anonymity of participants was ensured, and many questions required only “yes/no” or numeric answers. In addition, respondents were told that in the event they needed to terminate the interview suddenly, they could use a code word to alert the interviewer.

Despite these precautions it is still possible that those who agreed to participate in this survey did so because they had never experienced IPV at all, were no longer in a violent relationship, or did not experience the more severe forms of IPV. For this reason, the survey may underestimate the extent and severity of IPV in Kentucky, particularly for women currently in abusive relationships.

Telephone interviews

Telephone surveys have several inherent limitations. One limitation is that only the population with home telephones are eligible for selection into the sample. Thus, some segments of the state population, such as lower income groups, certain racial and ethnic groups, and residents of rural areas, have a lower likelihood of being represented in the results.

Another limitation is the response rate of 50.1%, which may be responsible for underreporting women in certain groups. The survey sample under represented women in the following groups: non-caucasian women, women with less education, women with lower income and women at either end of the age spectrum (ages 18-24 and over age 74). These were groups who might be more likely to live

in households without telephones. Over sampling, the typical remedy used to compensate for low telephone density, was employed in this survey to ensure balanced representation of rural women. However, this did not compensate for lower phone density among the groups mentioned above. Though IPV occurs among all socioeconomic groups, it may be more widespread or severe among groups underrepresented in the survey.

On the other hand, the nature of the telephone survey, combined with the demeanor of trained interviewers for IPV may have prompted very candid responses. Oftentimes respondents are more likely to share information with strangers, particularly if they are questioned in a non-judgmental manner and the respondent's anonymity is assured.

Survey structure

The survey asked about abuse by a current or *most recent* that occurred in the past 12 months, or at any time during the course of the relationship. Because the survey was structured in this way, it is not possible estimate the *lifetime prevalence* of violence in intimate relationships. For example, the respondent who answered *no* to the question, "Did your *most recent* abusive former intimate partner ever push, grab or shove you?" may have had an intimate partner prior to the most recent one who was physically abusive. However, this information would not be captured. For this reason, the full extent of IPV experienced by adult women cannot be estimated from the survey. This limitation should be kept in mind when comparing estimates from the 2000 Kentucky survey with other surveys, such as the *National Violence Against Women Survey*.

Definitions of abuse

In this survey, the definitions of "emotional abuse," "physical and/or sexual abuse," and "stalking" include specific behaviors.

Comparisons of the results of this survey with surveys other than the NVAW survey should take differences in methods and in definitions into account. Structural changes in the survey have been made for collection of year 2001 data. These changes will permit calculation of lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence, as well as the annual incidence, for comparison with national survey results. Questions regarding the physical and mental health status of all respondents have been included, in order to compare the health of women who are current or former victims with those who are not.

APPENDIX I.
DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

Figure 1 compares the age distribution of the survey sample with the female population in Kentucky age 18 years and over (source: Year 2000 census). The survey sample follows the general pattern of age distribution for the Kentucky female population, with around two-fifths of the population between the ages of 35 and 54. However, the sample slightly under represents women in the 18-24 year age group and women over age 75. It over represents women between the ages of 35 and 64.

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Survey Sample and Kentucky Population

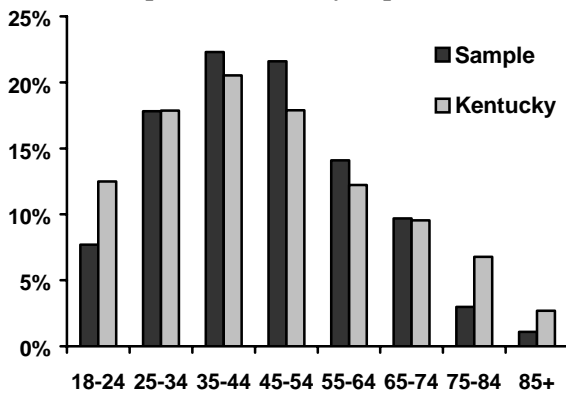


Figure 2 compares the racial distribution of the survey sample with the female population in Kentucky age 18 years and over (source: year 2000 census). White women are slightly over represented in the survey sample, while women of African American, Hispanic, and other races are slightly underrepresented.

Figure 2. Racial Distribution of Survey Sample and Kentucky

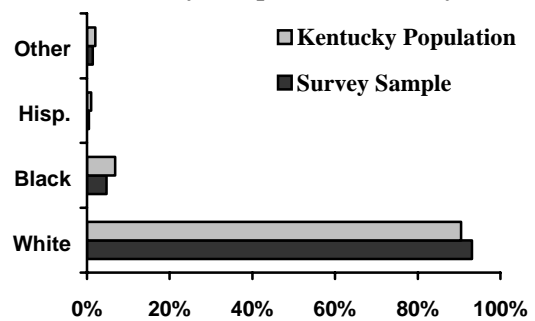


Figure 3 displays the sample distribution by educational attainment. While educational attainment statistics for the year 2000 census have not yet been released, 1990 census statistics for Kentucky revealed a female population that was not as well educated as women in the survey sample. In Kentucky, 35.0% of women age 25 and over did not complete high school, compared to a much lower proportion of the survey sample (17.9%). Compared to women in Kentucky, the survey sample had slightly higher proportions of women with a bachelor's degree (11.5% and 7.1%, respectively), women with some college education (26.2% and 19.8%, respectively), and women with graduate or professional degrees (9.2% and 5.1%, respectively).

Figure 3. Educational Attainment of Survey Sample

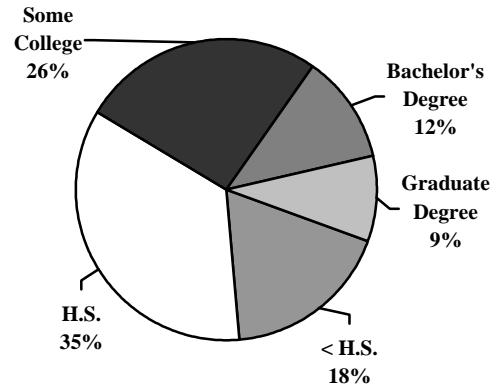


Figure 4 displays the sample distribution by employment status. Compared to the Kentucky population in 1990, more women in the survey sample were employed full time or part-time (57% compared to 47.4%) and more women in the survey were unemployed (19% compared to 3.7%) Compared to the 1990 Kentucky population, fewer women in the survey sample were in the category, “not in the labor force” due to retirement or working at home (22% compared to 48.7%)

Figure 4. Employment Status of Survey Sample

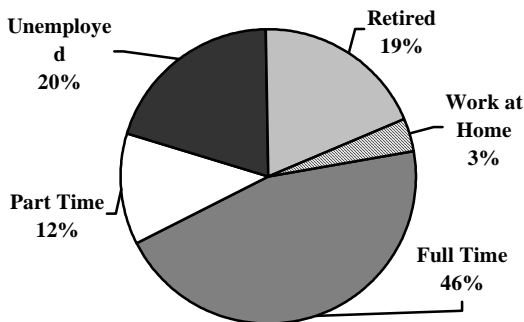


Figure 5. Marital Status of Survey Sample

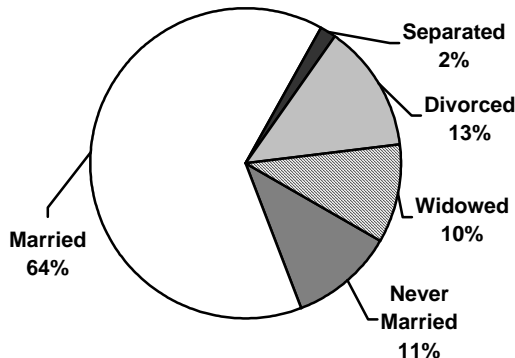
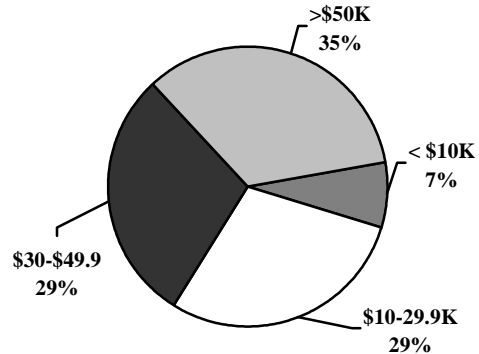


Figure 5 displays the sample distribution by marital status. Compared to statistics from the 1990 census, the survey sample has a higher proportion of married women age 18 and older (64.0% compared to 58.6% for the

state); a lower proportion of women who had never married (10.7% compared to 15.2% for the state); a lower proportion of widowed women (10.3% compared to 13.9% for the state); and a higher proportion of divorced women (13.2% compared to 10.3% for the state). The proportion of separated women age 18 and over was similar for the survey sample and the 1990 state population (1.7% and 2.0%, respectively). According to the 2000 census, there were 29,553 male-female unmarried cohabiting couples (i.e., there were 29,553 women living with 29,553 men). If *all* of these couples involved a woman age 18 years or older, then there would be 29,553 out of 1,582,930 (1.86%) females age 18 and older that were cohabiting. In the 2000 IPVS survey there were 106 male-female couples in current intimate relationship that cohabited (5.3%).

Figure 6 displays the sample distribution by household income. Compared with state

Figure 6. Household Income of Survey Sample



statistics from the 1990 census, the survey sample has a higher proportion of women with household incomes greater than \$50,000 per year (34.2% compared to 18.5% for the state), and a lower proportion of women with household incomes less than \$10,000 per year (7.3% compared to 23.3% for the state). The proportion of women in the sample with household incomes between

\$10,000 and \$49,999 per year was similar to that of the state (58.4% and 61%, respectively). Unfortunately, the income categories used for the IPV survey did not permit comparison with Census data for smaller subdivisions of income categories

ENDNOTES

¹ Data from National Crime Victimization Surveys conducted between 1992-1996 indicate that in the 1 million incidents of IPV estimated to occur each year the survey was conducted; 85% of the victims were female.

¹ Saltzman, LE, et al, Intimate Partner Violence Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements, Version 1.0, Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 1999.

¹ Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. Prevalence, incidence and consequences of violence against women, Findings from the national violence against women survey. Washington, D.C., National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nov. 1998.

¹ Bunge, VP & Levett, A. Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile. Ottawa Canada, Statistics Canada, 1998, 38 p.

¹ Straus, M. and Hamby, SL, The Conflict Tactics Scale II, Journal of Family Issues, 17(3), 283-316.

¹ Michigan Department of Community Health, Violence in the Lives of Michigan Women: Results of a Statewide Survey, September, 1999, DCH-0774, 15 p.

¹ All 2003 female respondents were asked if they had ever had any previous intimate relationships that were abusive; 582 women had at least one former intimate relationship that was abusive. Respondents were told NOT to include any *current* partners in the category of former intimate relationships that were abusive. Referring to the most recent former abusive partner, respondents were asked what the relationship was *at the time of the abuse* (a spouse, former spouse, live-in partner, former live-in partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, former girlfriend, date, former date, other). Thus, “current intimate partner” and “former abusive intimate partner” are mutually exclusive categories.

¹ The University of Kentucky Survey Research Center calculated a response rate of 50.8 according to a formula developed by the Council of Applied

Survey Research Organizations (CASRO). In comparison, the CASRO response rate for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance survey, conducted by the Kentucky Department of Public Health, was 59.8%. The NVAW survey reported a CASRO response rate of 72%.

¹ Current IPV literature suggests that violence tends to increase in frequency and severity over time. The findings of the Kentucky IPV survey differ from the literature. However, information on patterns of abuse in the Kentucky survey is not sufficiently detailed to explain this difference.

¹ Within the US, estimates of abuse during pregnancy range from 3% to 8.3% among adult women. Some of this variation is likely due to differences in how the questions were asked, how often, and by whom. Gazmararian, J.A., Lazorick, S., Spitz, A.M., Ballard, T.J., Saltzman, L.E., and Marks, J.S. Prevalence of violence against pregnant women. Journal of the American Medical Association, 1996, 275(24): 1915-1920.

¹ Women were asked, “how many times were you ever injured by your current intimate partner when you thought you SHOULD have sought medical treatment but did not?” Interviewers went on to ask “why didn’t you seek help in these instances? Was it because you a) felt you didn’t need help, b) were prevented from doing so by your intimate partner, c) were too scared to ask for help, d) were unable to afford help, e) didn’t think it would do any good or f) some other reason.” For response a (“felt you didn’t need help”, the intention was to find out whether in retrospect, the woman thought she *should* have had medical treatment but did not seek it *at the time*”. However, since this is not the way the question was asked, it is difficult to interpret what women meant when they answered “I felt it wasn’t needed.

¹ Twenty-six out of 219 (11.8%) women who had experienced IPV with a current partner answered ‘yes’ when asked whether they had sought help from a *health or other state service*.” However, when the same group was asked whether they had ever accessed specific sources of help, a total of 94 women (42% of 219) said they had used one or more services. Either the listed sources of help were not health or other state services, or the respondents did not think of them as a health or state service. Thus, the two questions measure different things

¹ Due to time limitations, a woman was asked whether her physician screened for IPV only if she indicated she had experienced abusive behaviors. Though it would have been valuable to know how many women in general were being screened, it is

disheartening to know how few women who need help were actually screened by their physicians.

¹ It may be that women in current abusive intimate relationships do not think of them as “abusive;” One reason may be an acceptance of male-on-female violence as a normal part of intimate relationships. Women may report that abusive behavior occurs, yet not label the relationship abusive overall.

¹ Because respondents were first asked a set of questions about their current partner, followed by a similar set of questions about their most recent former abusive partner, they may have been more likely to recognize and label a former relationship as abusive.

¹ *Violence in the Lives of Michigan Women* also found a higher prevalence of abuse in a former relationship abusive than in a current one. They hypothesized that women removed themselves from former abusive relationships and if they formed new relationships, they were safe ones.

¹ According to Jana Jasinski (*Sourcebook on Violence Against Women* Sage, 2001), “reviews of research on alcohol and wife assaults yield wide ranging estimates suggesting that from 6% to 85% of wife assaults are alcohol involved.” The Kentucky IPV survey asked how many abusive *partners* were under the influence of drugs and alcohol during a fight, not how many *incidents* involved drugs and alcohol. However, a study comparing married male batterers to non-batterers found that “half the maritally violent men reported that drinking accompanied abusive events at least occasionally, while about one-third reported it often or very often accompanied their abuse.”(Fagan, Am J. Drug Alc Abuse, 1988, 13(3) p371-92.) In addition, a 1995 study funded by NIAAA found that only 30-40% of male batterers said that they were drinking at the time of the incident. In the Kentucky IPV survey, 19% of women with current abusive partners and 53% of women with a former abusive partner said their partner was under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the most recent violent fight.

¹ The NVAW lifetime prevalence for women stalked by an intimate partner is 8.2%. However, 19.3% of Kentucky women reported that a current or most recent former abusive partner ever stalked them. Nevertheless, findings from the 2000 KY survey are not comparable to the NVAW survey. Tjaden and Thoennes defined stalking as two or more specific behaviors that caused the respondent to be fearful. The Kentucky IPV survey asked about the same stalking behaviors as the NVAW survey did, but did not include the criteria of causing extreme fear.

¹ Women in current intimate relationships were not asked about stalking by a current partner in the 12 months prior to the survey.

¹ www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/agendaforthenation.htm

²¹ Hotelling & Sugarman, Risk Marker Analysis of Assaulted Wives, *Journal of Family Violence*, 1986, 5, p. 1-13.

Comparisons to the National Violence Against Women Survey

Intimate Partners: The National Violence Against Women (NVAW) survey included current and former dates, spouses, and cohabiting partners in its definition of intimate partners. Both same-sex and opposite-sex couples were included in the definition. The Kentucky IPV survey included current and former spouses, dates, and live-in partners (both same-sex and opposite-sex couples), but limited information on past relationships to that involving the most recent abusive partner.

Violence: The NVAW survey included questions about emotional abuse, physical assault, rape and stalking between intimate partners. The NVAW survey defined physical assault as “behaviors that threaten, attempt or actually inflict physical harm”. To measure physical assaults, a modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale was used to screen respondents for physical assaults experienced as a child at the hands of an adult caretaker and physical assault they experienced as an adult at the hands of another adult. The 2000 Kentucky IPV Survey used some, but not all, of the physical abuse questions from the CTS that appear in the NVAW Survey. Table A compares questions in the NVAW survey with those that are in the IPVS 2000 survey.

Table A. Physical Abuse Questions	
NVAW Survey	Kentucky 2000 IPVS Survey
	Threatened to hit you with their fist or anything else that could hurt you?
Throw something at you that could hurt?	Throw something at you that could hurt?
Push, grab or shove you?	Push, grab or shove you?
Pull your hair?	
Slap or hit you?	Slap, kick or bit you or hit you with their fist?
Kick or bite you?	
Choke or attempt to drown you?	Use an electric cord, scarf or rope to hurt you during a violent episode?
Threaten you with a gun?	Threatened to use a gun or knife to hurt you?
Threaten you with a knife or other weapon?	
Use a gun on you?	Use a gun to hurt you during a violent episode?
Use a knife or other weapon on you?	Use a knife or other sharp instrument like a letter opener or ice pick to hurt you during a violent episode?
Hit you with some object?	Use a belt to hurt you during a violent episode?
	Use a bottle to hurt you during a violent episode?
	Use a blunt instrument like a bat, stick or broom handle to hurt you during a violent episode?
	Has anything else ever been used by your current intimate partner to hurt you during a violent episode? (if yes, respondent was asked to name the other weapon used.)

Though the NVAW definition of physical abuse includes “behaviors that threaten... physical harm,” the NVAW survey did not actually ask about threats to physically hurt the respondent. For purposes of comparison to the NVAW Survey, “physical and/or sexual abuse” prevalence and 12-month prevalence were re-calculated without including the “threat to hit” category in the definition of physical abuse. Only 14 of the 686 women with current or most recent former abusive partners in the “physical and/or sexual abuse” category experienced no other abuse than “threats to hit.” When estimates were recalculated without including “threats to hit” and are compared to estimates from the NVAW survey in Table B, below.

Rape is defined in the NVAW survey as “an event that occurred without the victim’s consent, that involved the use or threat of force to penetrate the victim’s vagina or anus by penis, tongue, fingers or object, or the victim’s mouth by penis. The definition included both attempted and completed rape.” The 2000 Kentucky IPV survey goes into less detail concerning forced sexual activity within the context of an intimate relationship. Questions in the 2000 Kentucky IPV survey regarding sexual abuse were taken from the 1996 statewide survey of violence against Michigan women.

The NVAW survey defined stalking as the occurrence of two or more behaviors (from a selected list) that caused a significant level of fear in the respondent. The Kentucky IPV survey used the same list of stalking behaviors and calculated the the percentage reporting two or more stalking behaviors, but did not ask the respondent whether these behaviors made her feel afraid. This makes it difficult to compare estimates from the two surveys

Determination of When Incident Occurred and Who Was the Perpetrator: The purpose of the NVAW survey was to investigate the nature and extent of violence, particularly that perpetrated by an intimate partner, experienced by adult men and women in the US. The purpose of the IPVS 2000 survey was more specific: to investigate the nature and extent of violence perpetrated by an intimate partner experienced by adult women in Kentucky. Due to the different aims of the two surveys, the survey tools are structured differently.

In the section of the questionnaire entitled, “Physical assault as an adult,” the NVAW survey asked, “Not counting any incidents you have already mentioned, after you became an adult did any other adult, male or female, ever...” and then lists each of the acts listed in Table A. If the respondent answered yes to any of these, they were asked, “how many persons have done this/these things to you as an adult?” followed by “was this person/persons: your current spouse, an ex-spouse, a male live-in partner, a female live-in partner, a relative, someone else you knew, or a stranger?” The interviewer marked all that applied. For each relationship category indicated, the respondent was asked the sex of the partner, and whether this was the current partner, the first partner, your second male partner, etc. A subsequent section of the questionnaire asked how many times the abuse occurred, as well as how many times it occurred in the last 12 months.

The 2000 IPVS survey asked the set of questions about physical abuse “ever” and “in the last 12 months” for current partners, and then asked the same set of questions separately for the most recent former abusive partner only. The survey structure imitated the 1996 statewide survey of violence against Michigan women. However, this format was limited in that only the prevalence of physical and sexual abuse in current and most recent former relationships could be calculated, not the prevalence of abuse over a lifetime. Even the 12-month prevalence may be incomplete because it does not include any former intimate partners beyond the most recent one.

Because respondents were asked about the current and the most recent former intimate partner only, these data are more limited than that of the NVAW survey. Despite this limitation, it appears that the proportion of adult women in Kentucky who have ever experienced physical assault by a current and/or most recent former intimate partner is higher than the proportion of U.S. women who have experienced physical assault by *any* intimate partner.

Comparison of Results: Table B compares the NVAW findings to 2000 Kentucky IPV estimates of the percent of women who experienced rape or physical assault by an intimate partner “ever” and in the last 12 months. Please recall that the NVAW estimates are for lifetime prevalence, while Kentucky IPVS estimates are for “ever by current and/or most recent abusive former partner”. Also, the Kentucky IPVS percents reported in this table are for “forced sex” (does not include threats of sexual assault) and “physical abuse” (not including threats to hit).

	“Ever”		“Last 12 Months”	
	NVAW Survey (In lifetime) ¹	Kentucky 2000 IPVS Survey (By current and/or most recent abusive former partner)	NVAW Survey ²	Kentucky 2000 IPVS Survey
Rape or Forced Sex	7.7%	7.3%	0.2%	0.7%
Physical Assault	22.1%	32.9%	1.3%	6.9%
Rape & physical assault	24.8%	33.5%	1.5%	7.4%

The NVAW lifetime prevalence for stalking of women by an intimate partner was 8.2%, for the Year 2000 Kentucky IPV survey it was 19.3% (note: this is for women ever stalked by a current or most recent former abusive partner, not lifetime prevalence, and does not include the criteria of inciting fear as the NVAW survey does.) The NVAW survey found that in the previous 12 months, 1% of all women were stalked by an intimate partner, while the Kentucky IPV survey found 3.4% of women in the survey were stalked by their most recent former abusive partner.

ENDNOTES

¹ Data from National Crime Victimization Surveys conducted between 1992-1996 indicate that in the 1 million incidents of IPV estimated to occur each year the survey was conducted; 85% of the victims were female.

² Saltzman, LE, et al, Intimate Partner Violence Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements, Version 1.0, Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 1999.

³ Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. Prevalence, incidence and consequences of violence against women, Findings from the national violence against women survey. Washington, D.C., National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nov. 1998.

⁴ Bunge, VP & Levett, A. Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile. Ottawa Canada, Statistics Canada, 1998, 38 p.

⁵ Straus, M. and Hamby, SL, The Conflict Tactics Scale II, Journal of Family Issues, 17(3), 283-316.

⁶ Michigan Department of Community Health, Violence in the Lives of Michigan Women: Results of a Statewide Survey, September, 1999, DCH-0774, 15 p.

⁷ All 2003 female respondents were asked if they had ever had any previous intimate relationships that were abusive; 582 women had at least one former intimate relationship that was abusive. Respondents were told NOT to include any *current* partners in the category of former intimate relationships that were abusive. Referring to the most recent former abusive partner, respondents were asked what the relationship was *at the time of the abuse* (a spouse, former spouse, live-in partner, former live-in partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, former girlfriend, date, former date, other). Thus, “current intimate partner” and “former abusive intimate partner” are mutually exclusive categories.

⁸ The University of Kentucky Survey Research Center calculated a response rate of 50.8 according to a formula developed by the Council of Applied Survey Research Organizations (CASRO). In comparison, the CASRO response rate for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance survey, conducted by the Kentucky Department of Public Health, was 59.8%. The NVAW survey reported a CASRO response rate of 72%.

⁹ Current IPV literature suggests that violence tends to increase in frequency and severity over time. The findings of the Kentucky IPV survey differ from the literature. However, information on patterns of abuse in the Kentucky survey is not sufficiently detailed to explain this difference.

¹⁰ Within the US, estimates of abuse during pregnancy range from 3% to 8.3% among adult women. Some of this variation is likely due to differences in how the questions were asked, how often, and by whom. Gazmararian, J.A., Lazorick, S., Spitz, A.M., Ballard, T.J., Saltzman, L.E., and Marks, J.S. Prevalence of violence against pregnant women. Journal of the American Medical Association, 1996, 275(24): 1915-1920.

¹¹ Women were asked, “how many times were you ever injured by your current intimate partner when you thought you SHOULD have sought medical treatment but did not?” Interviewers went on to ask “why didn’t you seek help in these instances? Was it because you a) felt you didn’t need help, b) were prevented from doing so by your intimate partner, c) were too scared to ask for help, d) were unable to afford help, e) didn’t think it would do any good or f) some other reason.” For response a (“felt you didn’t need help”, the intention was to find out whether in retrospect, the woman thought she *should* have had medical treatment but did not seek it *at the time*”. However, since this is not the way the question was asked, it is difficult to interpret what women meant when they answered “I felt it wasn’t needed.

¹² Twenty-six out of 219 (11.8%) women who had experienced IPV with a current partner answered ‘yes’ when asked whether they had sought help from a *health or other state service*.” However, when the same group was asked whether they had ever accessed specific sources of help, a total of 94 women (42% of 219) said they had used one or more services. Either the listed sources of help were not health or other state services, or the respondents did not think of them as a health or state service. Thus, the two questions measure different things

¹³ Due to time limitations, a woman was asked whether her physician screened for IPV only if she indicated she had experienced abusive behaviors. Though it would have been valuable to know how many women in general were being screened, it is disheartening to know how few women who need help were actually screened by their physicians.

¹⁴ It may be that women in current abusive intimate relationships do not think of them as “abusive;” One reason may be an acceptance of male-on-female violence as a normal part of intimate relationships.

Women may report that abusive behavior occurs, yet not label the relationship abusive overall.

¹⁵ Because respondents were first asked a set of questions about their current partner, followed by a similar set of questions about their most recent former abusive partner, they may have been more likely to recognize and label a former relationship as abusive.

¹⁶ *Violence in the Lives of Michigan Women* also found a higher prevalence of abuse in a former relationship abusive than in a current one. They hypothesized that women removed themselves from former abusive relationships and if they formed new relationships, they were safe ones.

¹⁷ According to Jana Jasinski (*Sourcebook on Violence Against Women* Sage, 2001), “reviews of research on alcohol and wife assaults yield wide ranging estimates suggesting that from 6% to 85% of wife assaults are alcohol involved.” The Kentucky IPV survey asked how many abusive *partners* were under the influence of drugs and alcohol during a fight, not how many *incidents* involved drugs and alcohol. However, a study comparing married male batterers to non-batterers found that “half the maritally violent men reported that drinking accompanied abusive events at least occasionally, while about one-third reported it often or very often accompanied their abuse.” (Fagan, *Am J. Drug Alc Abuse*, 1988, 13(3) p371-92.) In addition, a 1995 study funded by NIAAA found that only 30-40% of male batterers said that they were drinking at the time of the incident. In the Kentucky IPV survey, 19% of women with current abusive partners and 53% of women with a former abusive partner said their partner was under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the most recent violent fight.

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