

## ***Family Violence***

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- 1.** Family violence does exist. One study estimates that one in 22 women is physically abused by a husband or boyfriend each year. The average battered wife is attacked three times each year. According to the FBI, in 1991 almost half of the murder victims were either related to or acquainted with their assailants.
- 2.** Family violence may be expressive or instrumental.
- 3.** Men administer the majority of family violence. According to the FBI, among all female murder victims in 1991, 28 percent were killed by husbands or boyfriends, while only 4 percent of the male victims were killed by wives or girlfriends.
- 4.** Studies have shown that the police and courts have generally not treated violent acts that occur in homes as serious crimes.
- 5.** Researchers have found that family violence is more likely to occur at certain times of the day and year and in certain locations in the home.
- 6.** Family violence takes many forms, including spanking; yelling and screaming; slapping, kicking, punching, and choking; and using weapons. Some researchers believe that family violence progresses through stages. Acts of violence become increasingly harmful and more frequent. Families differ on their attitudes toward violence.
- 7.** In the history of the Western world, wife battering and child abuse have generally been culturally accepted. In many instances, battering has even been legally approved. Only in the past 100 years have society's attitudes begun to change. In the United States, a husband no longer has the legal right to batter his wife. Although wife battering and child abuse now receive much attention, the problem continues.
- 8.** Some male batterers tend to become violent not only with women but also with children, animals, and physical objects. One study found that the most severe violence is administered by men who feel their actions are justified and who feel no remorse for their actions.
- 9.** Battered women stay in the violent relationship not because they like to be hurt but because they are financially dependent or their male partners have used force or the threat of force to make them stay.
- 10.** Children and adolescents who grow up in violent families are likely to experience severe personal and social problems. Learning coping strategies can help these young people survive emotionally and grow up to be healthy.
- 11.** Several theories attempt to explain the causes of family violence. These theories include the idea that aggression is a normal instinct for men, that violence is a learned behavior, that certain groups condone and encourage violence, and that violence or the threat of violence is necessary to maintain order in families and society.