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REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON
DOMESTIC HOMICIDE

NO. 1990-14

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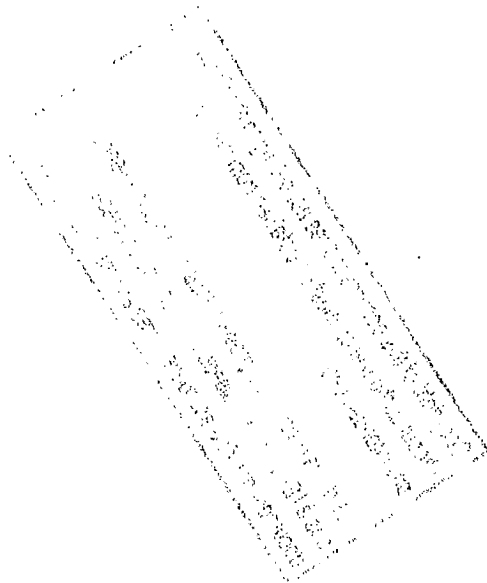
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REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON
DOMESTIC HOMICIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The object of this research project was to conduct a literature review on the subject of "spousal homicide." This annotated bibliography presents the findings of our review. The material collected deals specifically with the subject of homicide between spouses. Literature concerning other types of intra-family homicide were not retained.

We began our search at the Solicitor General's library, where a computer search was performed. This search was not limited to a specific time frame. Using the DIALOG Information Retrieval Service, the following databases were searched: the database of educational materials collected by the Educational Resources Information Center of the U.S. (ERIC); the database produced by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), an international multidisciplinary index to the literature of the social, behavioural, and related sciences; the Psycinfo database which covers the world's literature in psychology and related disciplines in the behavioural sciences; the Sociological Abstracts; the Child Abuse and Neglect database; the Mental Health Abstracts; the PsychAlert database which provides current and comprehensive coverage of the world's literature in psychology and related behavioural and social sciences; the Family Resources database which provides coverage of the psychological and sociological literature relating to the field of family studies; the NCJRS (National Criminal Justice Reference Service) database which covers all aspects of law enforcement and criminal justice; and finally the Criminal Justice Periodical Index (CJPI), produced by University Microfilm International, a reference guide to leading criminal justice journals.

The keywords used in these searches were: homicide and family violence, homicide and spousal violence, homicide and wife abuse, homicide and battered

women, homicide and domestic violence and murder. The total number of items produced by the search was 101. All 101 items were examined and related documents, articles, etc. were retained. A second computer search of the same nature was undertaken for the period 1986 to the present to ensure that the references produced by the search were current and up-to-date.

Computer searches were also undertaken at the National Victim's Resource Library and the Canadian Police College library. These searches produced a list of the references available at these specific locations on the subject of spousal homicide. We also completed a literature search at the University of Ottawa and contacted the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. Sources examined were cross-referenced to ensure as complete a search as possible.

The literature we found seemed to fall into several categories which were identified as follows:

- ▶ The Study of Homicide and the Dynamics of Family Violence
 - Theories and Explanation.
 - Case Histories
- ▶ Battered Women Who Kill.
- ▶ The Battered Woman Syndrome - Expert Testimony and the Law of Self Defense.
- ▶ Preventive Methods and Homicide.
- ▶ General.

A. THE STUDY OF HOMICIDE AND THE DYNAMICS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

The literature found in this category relates mostly to the theories, explanations and causes of spousal homicides. Some literature using case histories has been included (Blinder 1984; Cormier 1962; Goldney 1977; Hagaman,

Wells, Blair, Wells 1987; McNulty 1980). These studies discuss the dynamics of domestic homicide, identify family situational factors associated with family homicide and examine some aspects of psychopathology and mental illness by studying case histories of marital homicide.

Most of the literature contained in this category is about the social, economic and psychological conditions and process under which inter-spouse homicide occurs (Bard 1971; Bourdouris 1971; Boyd 1988; Chimbos 1978; Hayman 1987). These studies have emphasized the importance of victim/offender relationships. They have shown that you are more likely to be killed by someone you know than by a stranger. Wolfgang's study of homicides in Philadelphia from 1949 through 1952 found that 65% of all victims and offenders were family members, close friends, paramours or homosexual partners, and that 25% of the homicides involved strictly family members (Wolfgang, 1958; 208-213). In a study of homicides in Chicago conducted by Voss and Hepburn, 47% of the victims were slain by a family member or close friend (Voss & Hepburn, 1968: 499-508). Bard and Zacker (1974) reported that close relationships accounted for about 35% to 50% of all homicide. Wilson and Daly's study of spousal homicide found that during the period 1974-1983, 1,060 Canadians were killed by their spouses; 812 wives and 248 husbands were victims.

Studies also show that women are more likely than men to be the victims of spousal homicide and that men are more likely to kill for no apparent reason (Fields, 1978; Kratcoski, 1988; Wilson and Daly, 1987). Women are less likely to commit homicides than are men but when women kill, they are most likely to kill a member of their family, the husband being the most likely victim (Palmer, Humphrey 1982). These women often kill out of self defense (Wolfgang 1958, Mass and Strauss 1987; Browne 1981, 86, 87; Kuhl 1986; Browne and Williams 1988).

Explanations of violence as manifested inside the family unit have included stress theory, systems theory, exchange/social control theory and social learning theory (Kratcoski, 1987). The evolutionary psychology theory is also discussed

(Daly and Wilson 1987). Other explanations include the fact that family members are close at hand, and are a main source of our pleasure and hurt. Family relations are the breeding ground of both love and hostility, of selfless devotion and of destructive violence (Goode, 1969; Kratcoski, 1987; Straus, Hotaling, 180)

Studies have shown a link between long-term abusive relationships and homicide (Browne and Williams, 1988; Edwards, 1985). Interspousal homicide are seen as being at one end of a continuum of violence (Edward 1985).

Factors associated with lethality in abusive marital relationships are: escalation in the frequency and severity of abuse over time, the presence of weapons in the house, physical or sexual assaults inflicted by the batterer on the children, alcohol and drug abuse, stressful life events, and economic circumstances (Browne, 1981, 1986, 1987; Humphrey Palmer 1987-87; Houts, Marshall 1970; Hafaman, Wells, Theodore, Wells, 1987; Chimbos 19__).

This category also includes literature dealing with the victim's role in the homicide. Some studies suggest that the victim plays an active role in the precipitation of the homicide (Wolfgang 1957; Egger 1982). Also examined are: status competition and the role of male sexual proprietariness (Daly and Wilson 1988) as well the patterns, nature and extent of family conflicts (Swiggert, Farrell, 1976; Strauss 1980). Distinctions are also made between patterns in stranger and non-stranger homicide (Silverman 1987).

B. BATTERED WOMEN WHO KILL

The studies that fall into this category deal mostly with explanations, and causes concerning homicides committed by women involved in relationships. They examine the physical, psychological, economic and social plight of the battered woman and the barriers to seeking help or terminating the battering relationship (Browne 1981). Continuous abuse was seen as the dominant factor in

the murder of husbands (Browne 1981; McCormich 1985). These studies also explore the day to day realities and the developing patterns leading to the tragic consequences of violence in the family (Browne 1988) and provide an overview of characteristics and symptoms associated with battered women who kill their husbands/lovers (Levit 1985). A picture of battered women who kill is presented along with the violence they live with and the pattern of events that leads them to homicide (Browne 1986).

Each year more than 1.5 million women in America are beaten or abused by their marital partners (Browne 1987-88; Jones 1980). Some of these women take an extreme way out, killing their mates (McCormick 1979). These women are described as passive-dependant individuals who are so filled with terror and panic that they see murder as their only escape from a life of constant threats (Levit 1985).

C. THE BATTERED WOMAN SYNDROME - EXPERT TESTIMONY AND THE LAW OF SELF DEFENSE

A number of studies suggest that the increased attention to family violence has led to a growing number of social scientists participating in trials of battered women who have killed their husbands (Blackman, Brickman 1984). Most studies in this category examine the legal response to battered women who kill - expert testimony regarding the battered woman syndrome and self-defense as a legal justification for murdering a spouse.

The role of the psychologist as an expert witness is also discussed (Kantor, Moore and Opel 1982). There seem to be contradictory arguments in the literature concerning the admissibility of expert testimony, and the viability of the defense open to battered women who kill their husbands (Berda, Michael, Butler, Teresa 1985; Blackman, Brickman 1984). Courts seem to be divided over whether the testimony is admissible under various evidentiary standards for

expert scientific testimony (Brown 1985; Walter 1982; Coffee 1986-87). It is thought that courts must adopt a uniform approach in regards to expert testimony (Walter 1982; Rosen 1986).

D. PREVENTIVE METHODS AND HOMICIDE

The preventive methods and homicide category includes literature concerning efforts to stop or prevent intrafamilial violence.

These studies attempt to demonstrate the importance of police understanding of dangerous situations such as spousal assaults. They examine the effectiveness of intervention programs and the training received by police officers to better prepare them for intervening in spousal assault cases (Bard, Zacker 1974; Fields 1978).

Police preventive functions with regards to battering require further development (Fields 1978; Mitchell 1978). Studies have shown that police lack relevant training. Seldom are they trained to mediate family disputes without causing further trouble between the spouses (Bard, Zacker 1974). Consequently they are often unable to provide the kind of preventive measures that are desired or needed.

Research has demonstrated the need for better alternatives for battered women (Browne, Williams 1988) including resources that allow women to escape or be protected from violent situations. Researchers, the criminal justice system and community service agencies, must address the problem of intra-family violence and determine their roles in helping to resolve the problem (Steinmetz, Straus 1974).

The proposed prevention approach for homicide and spouse abuse involves complex social prevention (broad changes in an overall approach to interpersonal

violence), primary prevention (intervention in cases of potential violence), and secondary prevention (minimization of the consequences of spouse abuse) (Rosenberg, Starks, Zahn 1986; McNab 1987-88).

Domestic disputes have been shown to be the prelude to most spouse murders and serious assaults (Fields 1978). A study conducted by Jolin (1983) which compared domestic and non-domestic homicides in Oregon in 1977 was undertaken to determine the effect of legislation addressing domestic violence, that requires police officers to arrest the assailant in a domestic violence case. The results of this study indicated that domestic homicides showed a 10% decrease (despite only partial implementation of the policy change). Statistically, the findings do not warrant the conclusion that the decrease was caused by the change in police policy, but it is suggested that the steps taken in Oregon have saved lives (Jolin 1983; Fields 1978).

Studies of the same nature were undertaken in Detroit and Kansas City. The goal of the Detroit study was to learn about participants in, and characteristics of, homicides and assaults for prevention purposes. The Kansas City project was to discover if police could intervene effectively before a domestic disturbance became a homicide or assault case. It was found that police can obtain some early warnings of assaults and homicides, as any given arrest is likely to be the culmination of a series of police interventions. In Kansas City, the police were called to the location of an assault or homicide at least once before in about 85% of the cases and five or more time in 50% of the cases (Wilt, Bannon, Breedhove, Sandhler, Michaelson, Fox, Keenish 1977).

These latter studies have shown that police frequently have had prior contact with couples later involved in homicide cases. Police need to understand the potential danger for the victim of spousal assaults and the consequences of their inaction in these cases (Mitchell 1978; (Wilt, Bannon, Breedhove, Sandhler, Michaelson, Fox, Keenish 1977).

E. GENERAL

Included in this category are more general references on the subject of homicide. They provide a broader understanding of the phenomenon which helps to situate the importance of spousal homicide within a larger social context.

The literature provides information concerning the nature of violent crimes and aggression (Smith, Parker 1980; O'Brian 1988). Factors which can account for the recent emergence of studies of intrafamily violence and the emergence of the social problem itself are also examined (Gelles 1974). Trends and patterns of Canadian and American homicides are given (Riedel, Zahn, Mack and Felson 1985; Statistics Canada 1961-__ ; Boyd 1980). Most of these studies, however, break down the categories of murder as follows: family homicide, acquaintance homicide, stranger homicide (Statistics Canada 1961-__, 1976). Statistical studies describe the analysis of the data collected by different sources (such as the Uniform Crime Prevention Program (USA); Browne 1986; O'Brian 1988; Statistics Canada 1961-__, 1976). These studies also provide a statistical portrait of homicide. Some studies describe the extent of missing data and discuss the problem of disaggregating the overall homicide rate into more refined and conceptually meaningful categories (Williams, Flewelling 1988; Jayewardene 1975).

II

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bard, Morton (1971) "The Study and Modification of Intra-Familial Violence" in Singer, Jerome L. (ed.), The Control of Aggression and Violence, New York: Academic Press, 149-154.

In 1965, close family relationships accounted for 35% of homicides in New York City. About 40% of aggravated assaults and rapes take place in the victim's home. A brief account of theories on the origins of human aggression, as seen by disciplines such as psychology, sociology and anthropology is given. A program in police family crisis intervention for a West Harlem community of about 85,000 is described. Selection and training of police, the operational phase of the Family Crisis Unit, functioning with consultative support by staff of the Psychological Center of the city college, and the analysis of data stage of the project are discussed.

Keyword: studies of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories and explanations)

- Bard, M. and Zacker, J. (1974) "The Prevention of Family Violence: Dilemmas of Community Intervention," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 33 (4), 677-682.

Efforts to prevent intrafamilial violence (which accounts for between 35 and 50 percent of all homicides) have been thwarted by the absence of effective intervention programs. The police, limited by civil libertarian considerations and lack of relevant training, cannot generally offer the kind of preventive measures that are desired or needed. Police cannot arrest an individual merely because they suspect that intrafamilial violence will eventually occur, and they are seldom trained to mediate family disputes without causing further friction. The result is that many foreseeable homicides and assaults are not prevented and many intervening police officers are needlessly injured. A program in which 18 police officers serving an inner city received special training from a university psychological center in mediating family disputes resulted, during a 22 month period, in 1,388 interventions involving 962 families. No homicides occurred among the 962 families nor were any police assaulted.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Blackman, Julie and Brickman, Ellen (1984) "The Impact of Expert Testimony on Trials of Battered Women Who Kill Their Husbands," Behavioral Science and the Law, Vol. 2 (4), 413-422.

Increased attention to family violence is reflected, in part, in the growing number of social scientists who have applied the results of their work in trials of battered women who have killed their husbands. Acting as expert witnesses, these individuals detail their knowledge and offer opinions in order to educate jurors about the social and psychological consequences of abuse within marital relationships. This article summarizes psychological research on how individuals, including battered women, react to victimization and provides a preliminary theoretical formulation of this problem.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome expert testimony and the law of self-defense

Blinder, Martin G. (1984) "The Domestic Homicide," Family Therapy, Vol. 11 (3), 185-198.

Illustrates the dynamics of domestic homicide by presenting forensic interviews of (1) a man who killed his wife while in a dissociative state - an essentially unconscious, psychological splitting mechanism to defend against emotional distress; and (2) a 15 year old female who killed her oppressive father because of unbearable feelings of depression and helplessness.

Keyword: study of homicides and dynamics of family violence (case history)

Blinder, Martin G. (1984) "The Domestic Homicide: II," Family Therapy, Vol. 12 (1), 1-24.

Discusses the dynamics of domestic homicide by presenting forensic interviews and court transcripts for 2 murder cases: a college student who killed his girlfriend and a 24 year old housewife who killed her husband. It is suggested that the 2 killers were driven to homicide when their unmet dependent needs, enhanced by the deprivation inherent in their tragic relationships, exceeded the strength of their ego structures.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence (case history)

Bourdouris, James, (1971) "Homicide in the Family," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 33, 664-676.

In an analysis of 6,389 homicides occurring in the city of Detroit during 1926-1968, a classification of homicides based on social interaction was

proposed. In this paper the data dealing with the largest category of homicides, those involving "family relations," are summarized. The proportion of all homicides involving family relations, and age-race-sex specific rates for the defendants and victims of these homicides are presented. It is proposed that homicides involving family members represent problems in family interaction and maladjustment, and that the proper training of persons in family counseling and crisis intervention may help reduce the homicide rate.

Keyword: general

Boyd, Neil (1988) The Last Dance: Murder in Canada, Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice-Hall Canada Inc.

This book is an attempt to combine academic analysis with popular culture to describe killings in a way that will both interest and inform the reader. For the most part, the author talks about people who kill family, about people who kill their friends and so on. This book attempts to place Canada's killings within a global context. To cover the range of killings in Canada, the author has chosen to look at: killing and its history, killing family, killing acquaintances, killing for money, killing for sex, etc. All these titles reflect the empirical reality of murder in Canada.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories and explanations)

Brown, C. (1985) "Expert Testimony on Battered Woman Syndrome - Its Admissibility in Spousal Homicide Cases," Suffolk University Law Review, Vol. 19 (4), 877-905.

Expert testimony on the battered woman syndrome should be admissible in spousal homicide cases under certain conditions. The battered woman syndrome is a recently developed profile of abused women derived from case studies conducted by clinical psychologists. Attorneys representing battered women charged with spousal homicide have begun to introduce expert testimony on this syndrome to show that the defendant's actions compare with the legal requirements for a self-defence claim. Courts are divided over whether the testimony is admissible under various evidentiary standards for expert scientific testimony. Expert testimony on the battered woman syndrome does comply with evidentiary requirements and should be admissible, provided there is sufficient evidence of an abusive relationship and of circumstances under which the defendant may have held a reasonable belief in the need to use deadly force in self-defence.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome expert testimony and the law of self-defense

Browne, A. (1981) Lethal Incidents in Battering Relationships Between Adult Intimates, United States, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Institute of Mental Health.

This paper identifies factors which seem to increase the potential for lethality in abusive marital relationships. Interviews with 400 battered women showed that most believed that the batterer would kill them and over half felt that they could possibly kill him under some circumstances. Certain high risk factors have emerged from interviews with women who were charged with the death of their batterers. Threats made by the batterer or the battered woman are one indication that homicide could occur. Other factors include an escalation in the frequency and severity of abuse over time, the presence of weapons in the home, and physical or sexual assault inflicted by the batterer on the children.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories and explanations)

Browne, Angela (1986) "Assault and Homicide at Home: When Battered Women Kill," in Saks M.J. and Saxe L. (eds.), Advance in Applied Social Psychology, Vol. 3, 57-79.

This chapter presents a picture of battered women who kill, the violence they live with and the pattern of events that leads them to homicide. Data is based on information drawn from the author's study of 42 women who were facing charges for murder or attempted murder in the death or serious injury of their mates. The dynamics in the relationships of these women are compared to those of a group of women who had been involved in abusive relationships in which no lethal incidents had occurred, resulting in the identification of factors that indicate high risk of a lethal incident perpetrated by the victim.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Browne, Angela (1987) When Battered Women Kill, London: Collier Macmillan Publishers.

Each year, more than 1.5 million women in America are beaten or abused by their marital partners. Some of these women take an extreme way out: killing their mates. In this book Angela Browne draws upon interviews with 250 physically abused women - including 42 who made the drastic shift from victim to killer - to explore the day-to-day realities, developing patterns, and tragic consequences of violence in families. Browne brings together her own findings with an up-to-date, thorough examination of other research to form a conclusion with far-reaching psychological and legal implications. Comparing the stories of women who suffered abuse without taking lethal action with those who fatally turned the violence

against their mates, she finds that there are few differences between the two groups of women. The difference is in their men.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Browne, A. (1988) "Family Homicide: When Victimized Women," in Browne, A. (ed.), Handbook of Family Violence, New York: Phenum Press, 271-289.

In this chapter, the author reviews her findings on homicides committed by women involved in severely abusive relationships. The author relates the occurrence of homicide by an abused woman to increasingly severe episodes of abuse within the context of the woman's perceptions of the potential danger and the survival alternatives available to her.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Browne, A. and Flewelling, R. (1986) "Women as Victims or Perpetrators of Homicide", Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology annual meeting, Atlanta, GA.

This study describes situational characteristics of women's involvement in criminal homicide, especially with regard to departures from the overall patterns. The analysis is based on 82,797 one-on-one criminal homicide events, as reported by Uniform Crime Reports Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) for 1980 through 1984. Although the examination is limited to the situational variables provided in the SHR, several distinctive trends in women's involvement are identified. These trends are then examined in the light of previous research and current thinking on women's involvement in homicide.

Keyword: general

Browne, Angela and Williams, Kirk R. (1988) "Resource Availability for Women at Risk and Partner Homicide", Law and Society Review, in press, 1989.

Most studies of gender differences in homicide have found that female perpetrated partner homicides are much more likely to be in self-defense, than are homicides perpetrated by men. Given this finding and that women are much less likely overall to commit homicide, the authors conducted an exploratory analysis to determine whether the availability of resources that allow women to escape or be protected from violent situations with partners is associated with a lower likelihood that women will become involved in partner homicides. If such an association exists, this should be reflected by a measurable reduction in the rates of female perpetrated partner homicide in areas in which legal and extra-legal alternatives to a partner's violence are available.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Buda, Micheal A. and Butler, Teresa L. (1985) "The Battered Wife Syndrome: A Backdoor Assault on Domestic Violence, Social Action and the Law, Vol. 10 (3), 63-71.

Examines the viability of the defense open to battered women charged with the murder of their husbands. It is argued that defense attorneys attempting to either reduce a murder charge to manslaughter or win an acquittal with a plea of self-defense should be able to appeal to a "reasonable battered woman" standard rather than the traditional "reasonable man" standard. It is suggested that the Judiciary's reluctance to accept the defense as a distinctly separate option for battered women parallels its reluctance to depart from the intentionalist model of criminal behavior. It is hoped that the battered wife syndrome defense will spur changes in the legal network's reverence for the doctrines of marital privacy and self-defense as well as the indifference that results in escalating violence.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome - expert testimony and the law of self defense

Campbell, Jacquelyn C. (1986) "Nursing Assessment for Risk of Homicide with Battered Women", Advances in Nursing Science, Vol. 8 (4), 36-51.

Reports the development of the Danger Assessment (DA), a clinical research instrument to help battered women assess the danger of homicide in a violent relationship. The reliability and validity of the DA, assessed by administering it to 79 battered women, are discussed. DA items assess the frequency and severity of the battering, the presence of firearms, sexual abuse, substance abuse and indicators of potential for lethal violence.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Chimbos, Peter D. (1978) Marital Violence: A Study of Interspouse Homicide, San Francisco: R & E Research Associates.

This study was confined to interspouse homicide, the intentional killing of one spouse by another. The aim was to go beyond existing explanations and seek to determine more precisely other social conditions and processes under which interspouse homicide is likely to occur. The study provides information not only on violent behavior, but also on the influence of various social and socio-psychological factors on family behavior. The author attempted to investigate the survivor's life experiences, his or her family's processes, and the situational pressures surrounding the homicide. Additionally, certain epidemiological attributes of interspouse homicides in Canada were examined and some basic demographic aspects of the present sample provided. An examination of the above factors provides a more complete overview of the phenomenon under study.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence (theories - explanations)

Coffee, Cynthia L. (1986-87) "A Trend Emerges: A State Survey on the Admissibility of Expert Testimony Concerning the Battered Women Syndrome", Journal of Family Law, Vol. 25 (2), 373-396.

Reports the results of a survey of States that have addressed the question of the admissibility of expert testimony on the battered woman syndrome. Prerequisites to the admissibility of evidence and of expert testimony are described.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome expert testimony and the law of self defense

Cormier, Bruno (1962) "Psychodynamics of Homicide Committed in a Marital Relationship", Corrective Psychiatry and Journal of Social Therapy, Vol. 8, 187-194.

Some aspects of the psychopathology of eight cases of men who killed a woman in marriage or in an equivalent relationship, are discussed. A pattern of strong initial attachment, quarrels and an inability either to continue with the given situation, or to part from it, is generally seen in those who murder their wives.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence (case history)

Daly, Liam (1975) "Family Violence: a Psychiatric Perspective", Journal of the Irish Medical Association, Vol. 68, 450-453.

Forensic psychiatrists are concerned with three areas of family violence, homicide, infanticide and child or wife battering. Within the community, a specialized team, consisting of a psychiatrist, social worker, psychologist, community nurse, and others such as clergy, police and the courts, could provide services.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Daly, Martin and Wilson, Margo (1988) "Evolutionary Social Psychology and Family Homicide", Science, Vol. 242, (4878), 519-524.

Homicide is an extreme manifestation of interpersonal conflict with minimal reporting bias and can thus be used as a conflict "assay." Evolutionary models of social motives predict that genetic relationships will be associated with mitigation of conflict, and various analyses of homicide data support this prediction. Most "family" homicides are spousal homicides, fueled by male sexual proprietariness.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence (theories - explanations)

Daly, M., and Wilson, M. (1988) Homicide, United States, Aldine Publishing Co.

Hypotheses about homicide - infanticides and parricides, lethal bar room disputes among acquaintances, marital strife and collaborative killing - use evolutionary psychology theory to explain why some individuals kill to resolve interpersonal conflicts. The book also examines violent altercations that arise from status competition and reasons why they involve men far more often than women. The role of male sexual proprietariness in homicidal violence is explored in the chapter on spousal killings. Other subjects discussed include the insanity defense, sentencing practices and cultural variations in homicide.

Keyword: study of homicides and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Daniel, Anasseril E. and Holcomb, William R. (1985) "A Comparison Between Men Charged with Domestic and Non-Domestic Homicide", Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Vol. 13 (3), 233-241.

Two hundred and thirty-one males charged with murder and who received pretrial psychiatric evaluations were divided into domestic murders (DMs) and nondomestic murders (NDMs) and compared on demographic information, developmental and family background measures, prior criminal records, victim characteristics and psychiatric status at the time of the crime. Findings support the hypothesis that DMs have distinctive features when contrasted with NDMs. DMs tended to be older and have a more stable adjustment in the community but have more evidence of early childhood behavioral problems and were more likely to have committed prior crimes against persons. Victims of DMs were more often female and victims of NDMs were more often male.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Duncan, J.W. and Duncan, G.M. (1978) "Murder in the Family", in Kutash, I.L. (ed.), Violence: Perspectives on Murder and Aggression, San Francisco, California: Jossey-Bass Inc., 171-186.

A review of the literature on various types of murder within the family and associated interpersonal relationships is presented. The topics covered include child murder by parents, murder by siblings, matricide, patricide, husband-wife homicides, control of destructive aggressiveness, a process of murder in the family and treatment of the offender.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Eber, L.P. (1981) "Battered Wife's Dilemma - To Kill or to be Killed", Hastings Law Journal, Vol. 32 (4), 895-931.

The law of self-defense must recognize the impact of sex discrimination and traditional views regarding marital privacy on the battered wife's perception of her options when she kills her husband. Sociological and legal acceptance of wife beating must be considered in cases where battered women charged with killing their husbands plead self-defense.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome - expert testimony and the law of self defense

Edwards, S.S.M. (1985) "Socio-Legal Evaluation of Gender Ideologies in Domestic Violence Assault and Spousal Homicide", Victimology, Vol. 10, 1-4, 186-205.

Domestic violence assault and spousal homicide are often one and the same event, along a continuum of violence distinguished only by inter alia the force and the number of blows, or where the knife plunged or bullet embedded. This paper identifies the common features as guided by gender role stereotypes in so far as typical rhymes and reasons, explanations and justifications, invoked in cases of assault and homicide, neutralize and often legitimize the action of the male perpetrator whilst making the female assailed responsible for her own demise. In penetrating these everyday characterizations of gender, the author examines the extent of their codification in civil and criminal remedies, so called in the ideologies guiding discretion and in the very legal constitution of provocation as a partial excuse to murder, which in practice is frequently accessible to husbands who kill a wife, but only occasionally to the wife who kills a brutally violent husband.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence (theories - explanations)

Egger, S.J. (1982) "Victims of Women Homicide in New South Wales", from The National Symposium on Victimology - Proceedings, 153-169.

New South Wales studies of homicides committed by women and the dynamics of domestic violence show a pattern of spousal violence and husband-victim precipitation in a high percentage of homicides committed by females. New South Wales police homicide files are examined to establish the relationship between the victim and the offender. In order of frequency, the victims of the women were their husbands, their children and other family members. Spousal homicides by women appear to be a symptom of a serious social problem that is not being adequately addressed by social services and the criminal justice system.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Ewing, Charles Patrick (1987) Battered Women Who Kill: Psychological Self-Defense as Legal Justification, Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Books.

This book examines the physical and psychological plight of the battered woman and the barriers to seeking help or terminating the battering relationship. It also examines the works of L. Walker, Angela Browne and Ann Jones as sources of data regarding battered women who kill. Furthermore, the book takes a look at the legal response to battered women who kill, expert testimony regarding the battered woman syndrome, why battered women kill (a theory of psychological self-defense) and psychological self-defense as a legal justification.

Keyword: battered women syndrom - expert testimony and the law of self defense

Ewing, Charles P. and Aubrey, Moss (1987) "Battered Women and Public Opinion; Some Realities About the Myths", Journal of Family Violence, Vol. 2 (3), 257-264.

Expert testimony regarding the battered woman syndrome is often presented at trial on behalf of women charged with killing their batterers. Where courts have admitted such testimony into evidence, they have done so on the theory that the testimony is needed to dispel common myths regarding battered women. To date, however, there has been no published empirical evidence that either jurors or members of the public at large hold such erroneous beliefs. The results of this study provide empirical support for the judicial hypothesis. These results suggest that many members of the general public eligible for jury duty do in fact hold erroneous, stereotyped beliefs about battered women.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome expert testimony and the law of self defense

Fields, M.J. (1978) "Family Violence Research and Development Needs", testimony before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology, US Congress House Committee on Science and Technology.

The police prevention function, with regard to battering has not been developed despite the fact that domestic disputes have been shown to be the prelude to most spouse murders and serious assaults. Analysis of spouse murder shows that wives tend to kill husbands who have a history of beating them, although husbands kill wives without provocation. Society has an obligation to make this type of murder unnecessary by providing alternatives of escape to battered women. Meaningful responses will save the lives of men and women.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Frazer, Marilee (1986) "Domestic Violence: A Medical Review", Journal of Forensic Sciences, Vol. 31 (4), 1409-1419.

This paper reviews the recent medical and legal literature in the field of spouse abuse. It also characterizes the cycle of violence battered women encounter. The second section describes much of the recent legislation designed to prevent spouse abuse. Next, this paper addresses the case law utilizing the "Battered Woman Syndrome" as a defense for spousal homicide. The third section of the paper explores the topic of battered men.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Gelles, Richard J. (1974) The Violent Home: A Study of Physical Aggression Between Husbands and Wives, Beverley Hills: Sage Publications.

This book examines some of the factors which can account for the recent emergence of studies of intrafamily violence and the emergence of the "social problem" itself. His findings also provide data on the frequency of husband-wife violence. The main contribution of this study is the rich detail concerning the social meaning of violent acts as felt by the participants; the focus of these events in time and space; the way the family serves as a training ground for violent behaviour; and above all, the demonstration that violence is related to position in the family in the social structure and to the role structure of individual families.

Keyword: general

Goldney, R.D. (1977) "Family Murder Followed by Suicide", Forensic Science, Vol. 9, 219-228.

Four cases of family murders followed by suicide are given, with relevant clinical data from coroner's reports. Three of the offenders suffered from severe depression, and the fourth showed symptoms of morbid jealousy. Mental illness was apparent before the tragedy in all the cases. Such tragedies may never be entirely stopped, but more detection and treatment of mental illness is possible.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(case history)

Goode, Martin (1971) "Force and Violence in the Family", Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 22, 624-625.

The family, like all other social units, is a power system, resting to some degree on force or its threat. This paper examines the deterrent value of

the actual use of force and the implied deterrent of its threat, as well as the outside supports of the use of force in the family which come from the state, the community and so on. The role of force in socialization is discussed and a series of propositions are presented. A final section explores force which emerges into violence as assault, murder and child abuse, from an exchange perspective.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories and explanations)

Goode, William J. (1969) "Violence Among Intimates", in Mulvihill, Donald J. (ed), Crimes of Violence, a staff report submitted to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Vol. 3, 941-977.

Forms of violence among intimates include homicide, assault, murder accompanied by suicide, forcible rape, child abuse, calculated murder or assault, where material advantage is the aim. An explanation of why most murderers and a high percentage of violent acts are aimed at intimates may be simply that family members are close at hand, a main source of our pleasure or frustration and hurt.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Hagaman, J.C., Wells, Captain Gary W., Blau, Theodore H. and Wells, Charles B. (1987) "Psychological Profile on Family Homicide", Police Chief, Vol. 54 (12), 19-25.

Based on three family homicide incidents investigated by the Manatee County, Florida, Sheriff's Office, the authors identify family and situational factors associated with family homicide and identify some possible strategies for preventing family homicides.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Houts, Marshall (1970) They Asked for Death, New York: Cowles.

Nearly 80% of all murders are committed by family, friends or acquaintances of the victim. The victim's conduct and attitudes are as important as those of the killer. The victim may goad the offender until he reaches a breaking point, and commits murder, possibly after years of enduring a bad relationship. Then there are cases where the victim, consciously or unconsciously asks for death. Case materials are given for people who

seem to be natural victims, such as the unfaithful husband or wife with a jealous spouse, the prostitute, the homosexual and the bully.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Humphrey, John A. and Palmer, Stuart (1986-87) "Stressful Life Events and Criminal Homicide", Journal of Death and Dying, Vol. 17 (4), 299-308.

Analyzed stressful life events (SLES) experienced by 270 criminal homicide offenders (CHOs) and 194 nonviolent felonious property offenders, using an expanded Psychiatric Epidemiological Research Interview that included occurrences in childhood. CHOs were divided into primary offenders, whose victims were family members or close friends; and nonprimary offenders, those who killed strangers or acquaintances. Findings indicate that CHOs experienced SLEs in greater number and more consistently than non-violent felons.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Jayewardene, C.H.S. (1975) "The Nature of Homicide: Canada 1961-1970", in Silverman, Robert A. and Teevan, James J. Jr. (eds.), Crime in Canadian Society, Toronto: Butterworth, 279-310.

Homicide often occurs where persons have a close relationship, involving most often an offender who is a young, lower class male, and relatively less educated and intelligent. Until recently, most studies were of the offender only, but now, the importance of the victim-offender relationship is seen. Statistics Canada classification of this relationship is described. There is a discussion of available statistical data on homicide in Canada during the years 1961-1970, published in special studies by Statistics Canada, as well as analysis by other researchers.

Keyword: general

Jolin, Annette (1983) "Domestic Violence Legislation: An Impact Assessment", Journal of Police Science and Administration, Vol. 11 (4), 451-456

Compared domestic and nondomestic homicides in Oregon in 1977 to determine the effect of legislation addressing domestic violence that required policemen to arrest the assailant in a domestic violence case, unless the victim objected. Results show that domestic homicides showed a 10% decrease even though Oregon experienced poor economic conditions that are usually associated with increased domestic homicides. In addition, the decrease occurred despite only partial implementation of the policy change. Statistically, the findings do not warrant the conclusion that the

decrease was caused by the change in police policy, but it is suggested that the steps taken in Oregon have saved lives and will continue to do so.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Jones, Ann (1980) Women who Kill, New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

This book is a social history of women in the United States from colonial times to the present, told through the often tragic or desperate stories of women on the very edge of society - women driven to kill. From crimes of infanticide in colonial times to the battered wives who fight back today, Ann Jones recounts tales of crime and punishment that reveal hard truths about American society and woman's place in it. Some case histories.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Kantor, S.J. Moore, K.M. and Opel, R. (1982) "Family Violence in America - Symposium - Part 2", in Vermont Law Review, Vol. 7 (1), 1-70.

The four articles in part 2 of a symposium on family violence address the psychologist's role as expert witness for women who murdered their abusers, mediation in less severe cases of spousal assault, spousal rape exemptions in State Laws and police arrest powers in domestic situations. In the first paper, psychologists explain the battered woman syndrome and interactions characteristic of abusive relationships. The next paper focuses on relatively mild cases of abuse. Another author investigates the origins of the spousal exemption rule and concludes that marital rape is a serious problem in terms of cases and impact on victims. The final contribution explains why the expansion of police arrest powers may be the key to effective intervention.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome - expert testimony and the law of self defense

Kratcoski, Peter C. (1987) "Families Who Kill", Marriage and Family Review, Vol. 12 (1-2), 47-70.

Those involved in research in family violence have consistently found that the very factors which make family life appealing, including constant interaction, intimate relationships, emotional bonding, interdependency, and the presence of a hierarchy of power relationships can create tensions which result in violent behaviour between family members. This article focuses on that portion of family violence which has resulted in the death of a family member at the hands of another family member. Although such an occurrence might be considered at first examination to be an unusual event, studies of homicide reveal that it is, in fact, a crime which predominantly involves family members, friends, or close acquaintances.

Kuhl, Anna F. (1986) "Implications of Justifiable Homicide Verdicts for Battered Women", Response to the Victimization of Women and Children, Vol. 9 (2), 6-10.

Discusses the implications of the justifiable homicide defense when invoked by battered women. The meaning of self-defense/justifiable homicide, as traditionally understood in the court system, is delineated; and the "battered woman syndrome" defense is critically explored. Policy implications of the acceptance and use of the justifiable homicide defense are discussed, and options for change are suggested.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome - expert testimony and the law of self defense

Levit, Herbert I. (1985) "The Battered Woman", American Journal of Forensic Psychology, Vol. 3 (2), 9-14.

Provides an overview of the characteristics and symptoms associated with battered women who kill their husbands/lovers after repeated abuse, based on clinical experience. The women are described as passive-dependent individuals who are so filled with terror and panic that they see murder as their only escape from a life-threatening situation. The abusive men are described as excessive drinkers who demonstrate a "Jekyll and Hyde" pattern of violently abusive behavior, alternated with profuse apologies and promises of reform. Symptoms following the killing include intense nightmares recreating the act, feelings of acute pain and severe guilt, denial and suicidal tendencies.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Masumura, W.T. (1979) "Wife Abuse and Other Forms of Aggression", Victimology, Vol. 4 (1), 46-59.

This cross-cultural survey employing a world-wide sample of 86 primitive societies, finds physical mistreatment of wives to be significantly correlated with several other forms of violence, such as homicide, suicide, feuding, warfare, personal crime and aggression. Explanatory models are proposed, including the possible rules of violence-proneness and of sexual rivalry.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence (theories - explanations)

MacDonald, John Marshall (1986) The Murderer and His Victim, Springfield, Ill., USA; C. Thomas.

This book examines a wide variety of subjects on homicide such as the problem of murder, the murderer, the methods of murder, victims of homicide and the psychology of murder. It presents some case histories. The author hopes that this book arouses greater concern over the tragedy of criminal homicide and stimulates greater attention to preventive measures. Some attention is given to spousal homicide.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

McCormick, C.Y. (1979) "Battered Women - The Last Resort," United States NCJRS., 047451.

Examines motivational factors of homicides committed by women. Questionnaires were administered to 130 women in the Women's Division of Corrections (Cook County Illinois) who had been arrested for homicide. Preliminary interviews with some of these women indicate that continuous abuse was a dominant factor in the murder of a husband, common-law husband, or boyfriend. Of the total sample, 53 killed their husband or boyfriend. Of these, 46 were black, 6 were white and one was American Indian. The weapons used were knives and guns: 26 were shot and 27 were stabbed. The average length of the relationship was 6.3 years for wives/common-law wives and 3.7 years for unmarried women who killed boyfriends. All 53 women cited continuous abuse as a factor: 31 listed excessive alcohol as the reason for the beatings and the remaining 22 gave several reasons, including "meanness" and anger. All 53 women had called the police on numerous occasions prior to the homicide.

Keyword: battered women who kill

McNab, Warren L. (1987-88) "A Unit on Violence and Health", Family Life Educator, Vol. 6 (2), 10-15.

Violent acts create major physical and mental health problems in our country. Violence reaches all levels of society; however, young children, adolescents and minorities seem to be more susceptible. The 1990 health objectives of the nation (HHS, 1980) on the control of stress and violent behaviour suggests the following potential ways of reducing violent acts: educational and information measures including public awareness campaigns; new educational pathways to enhance life skills, programs in stress reduction and public education for high risk groups; service measures emphasizing 'hot lines' for people under acute stress, stress management programs for adolescents, support systems and counselling to assist with stressful life events and training of health professionals to be alert for

evidence of abuse; legislative efforts - including limiting the availability of hand guns, strengthening mandatory abuse reporting laws and providing employment opportunities for youth.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicide

McNulty, Faith (1980) The Burning Bed, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Biography of Francine Hughes who was charged with the death by fire of her husband Mickey Hughes, in 1977. The Hughes' case is a classic example of chronic marital violence. The book touches on the circumstances before the crime, the crime and its aftermath.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(case history)

Mitchell, M.H. (1978) "Does Wife Abuse Justify Homicide", Wayne Law Review, Vol. 24 (5), 1705-1731.

An analysis of the law's response to the problem of spousal abuse reveals a trend toward the application of self-defense and justifiable homicide provisions for battered wives. Women are less likely to commit homicides than are men, but when women kill, they are likely to kill their husbands. An analysis of wife abuse in the United States indicates that police frequently have had prior contact with couples later involved in homicide cases. To reduce incidents of both wife abuse and spousal homicide, the criminal and civil statutes should be amended to create adequate dispute resolution and enforcement measures for domestic violence.

Keyword: battered women who kill

Morgan, Frank Lyn and Kratcoscki, Peter C. (1986) "An Analysis of the Victim-Offender Relationship in Homicide Cases", Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology, Vol.2 (1), 52-63.

Homicide, murder; victimization studies; domestic violence; criminal statistics, social science research.

Keyword: general

Mowat, Ronald Rae (1966) Morbid Jealousy and Murder: A Psychiatric Study of Morbidly Jealous Murderers at Broadmoor, London: Tavistock.

Morbid jealousy is defined here as being present when there is a delusion of infidelity by the sexual partner, wife, mistress, husband or lover. Inter-

views of 110 insane murderers, all present or former patients in Broadmoor Institution, were carried out. Part I of the study summarizes relevant literature and defines the main concepts. Part II, is concerned with simple comparable facts about the murderer and his behavior and the patterns of murder for morbid jealousy. Part III, is a psychiatric study of the delusional state of the jealous murderer and the mental illness underlying his ideas and behaviour. A summary of findings and conclusions is given.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Moyer, Sharon (1987) Homicide Involving Adult Suspects: A Comparison of Natives and Non-Natives, Solicitor General Canada (User report no. 1987-29) Ottawa

This research report provides a preliminary analysis of the characteristics of homicide suspects of Native and non-Native backgrounds and is the first Canadian study to describe adult homicide suspects controlling for race and gender. The analysis demonstrates that there are large variations in homicide offending by race and gender, but reasons for these differences have not been elaborated on. For the purpose of this report, the relationship between suspect and victim is classified as follows:

- ▶ "Immediate family": the suspect is a spouse, parent, child or sibling of the victim.
- ▶ "Common-law": the suspect is a common-law spouse, parent, child, etc. of the victim.
- ▶ "other kin", "non-domestic (other)", "non-domestic (criminal act)"

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

O'Brien, R.M. (1988) "Exploring the Intersexual Nature of Violent Crimes", Criminology, Vol. 26 (1), 151-170.

Data on criminal homicides (from UCR) and aggravated assaults and simple assaults (from National Crime Surveys) in the United States are analysed to determine the extent to which violent crimes occur within or between sexes. With the exception of homicides in which women murder men more often than expected, each of these violent crimes occur within sexes more often than expected. There is a strong relationship between the type of violence (simple assault, aggravated assault, and homicide) and the extent to which the target of female is male.

Keyword: general

Palmer, S. and Humphrey, J.A. (1982) "Familial and Other Relationships in Criminal Homicide in North Carolina", Journal of Family Issues, Vol. 3 (3), 301-318.

This paper presents analysis of 985 criminal homicide offenders and their victims in North Carolina. Typical patterns of intra-familial homicide are compared with extra-familial killing. The most usual victims of intra-familial murder and their offenders are identified and the relationships between offenders and victims are analyzed by age, sex and race. Data show that when females kill, they are more likely to victimize members of their families, especially their husbands and, this pattern is increasing.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Pethick, J. (1979) Battered Wives: A Select Bibliography, Toronto: Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto.

This bibliography covers works on battered women, family violence, social and legal aspects of these problems, police intervention and some solutions to the problems of battered women, provided by various agencies or self-help groups in the community. Includes information on spousal homicides.

Keyword: general

Plass, Peggy S. and Straus, Murray A. (1987) "Intra-Family Homicide in the United States: Incidence, Trends and Differences by Region, Race and Gender", Department of Sociology and Family Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire.

The research reported in this paper is based on rates computed from "Supplemental Homicide Report" data files for the period 1976-1984. Analyses of these rates found that:

- ▶ Homicides of one family member by another decreased during the period 1976-79 to 1980-84.
- ▶ The most frequently occurring type of intra-family homicide was murder of a spouse.
- ▶ Ninety-seven percent of the women killed by another family member were killed by their husbands.
- ▶ The South predominates in intra-family , as well as in acquaintance and stranger, homicide.

- ▶ Homicide rates for black and white victims and offenders tend to follow a similar pattern, but the black rates are much higher.
- ▶ In black families, spousal homicides are a larger proportion of intra-family homicides.

Possible explanations for these findings and their policy implications are discussed.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories and explanations)

Propper, Alice M. (1985) "Domestic Violence Spousal Homicide and Divorce", Aggressive Behavior, Vol. 11 (2), 181.

The ways in which physical cruelty has been interpreted and used in divorce cases since Canada's 1968 Divorce Act are examined, and Canada's past and current divorce legislation are compared with respect of physical cruelty to legislation and practices of other countries.

The historical and contemporary patterns of domestic homicide in Canada are then compared to other types of homicides, including the method of committing homicidal offences by suspect/victim relationship and the sex of the victim.

The relationship between domestic (particularly spousal) murder and the divorce rate is examined. An explanation is offered for the decline in spousal murder after the liberalization of grounds for divorce with the passage of the 1968 Divorce Act.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicide

Riedel, Marc, Zahn, Margaret A. and Mack, Lois Felsen (1985) The Nature and Patterns of American Homicide, Washington D.C., U.S.A.: Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

This book examines the trends and patterns of American homicide. The data were analysed by types of homicide which were categorized as follows: family homicides, acquaintance homicides, and stranger homicides. Men were dominant as victims and offenders in all three categories, but women were relatively more prevalent in cases of family homicides.

Keyword: general

Rosen, C.J. (1986) "Excuse of Self-Defense, Correcting an Historical Accident on Behalf of Battered Women who Kill", American University Law Review, Vol. 36 (1), 11-56.

Battered women who kill their abusers in perceived self-defense, present a special challenge to the criminal justice system, especially when considered in terms of the evolution of the Law of self-defense. To accept that the battered woman acted in self-defense is to justify her conduct and justify self-help. This may result in encouraging self-help as a preferred solution to domestic abuse. The solution of the dilemma posed by such cases is to return self-defense to its theoretical basis as an excuse. Excuse recognizes that, even though self-help may not be desirable and may harm society, it often results from an individual's understandable inability to choose an alternate course of action due to overwhelming internal or external pressures. This approach to self-defense accommodates the social reality of the battered woman's plight while allowing the fact-finder to consider the defendant's subjective belief without risking the possibility that bona fide defensive acts will be condoned by the Criminal Law.

Keyword: battered woman syndrome - expert testimony and the law of self-defense

Rosenberg, Mark L., Stark, Evan and Zahn, Margaret (1986) "Interpersonal Violence/Homicide and Spouse Abuse", in Last, John, M. (ed), Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Twelfth Edition, United States, 1399-1429.

After presenting data on the extent and dimensions of homicide and spouse abuse, this paper discusses their causes and prevention, with particular attention to preventing firearms deaths and injuries. Definitions of "violence", "homicide", "aggravated assault", "family homicide" and "stranger homicide" are offered. The discussion of homicide causes encompasses causal theories and empirical factors associated with homicide. The proposed prevention approach for homicide and spouse abuse involves complex social prevention (broad changes in an overall approach to interpersonal violence), primary prevention (intervention in cases of potential violence), and secondary prevention (minimization of the consequences of spouse abuse). Specific steps are presented for each type of prevention.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicides

Showalter, Robert C., Bonnie, Richard J. and Roddy, Virginia (1980) "The Spousal-Homicide Syndrome", International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, Vol. 3, 117-141.

This article has a two-fold purpose. First, drawing on the case records and videotape library of the Forensic Psychiatry Clinic of the University of

Virginia Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy, they depict a distinct and recurrent psychodynamic picture of the offender who kills his spouse, and of his relationship with his victim, a description which refines and elaborates the picture which has thus far emerged in the clinical literature. Second, they pay special attention to their findings regarding the offender's mental state at the time of the killing, a topic which has been almost entirely neglected in both clinical and legal literature.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Silverman, Robert A. and Kennedy, Leslie W. (1987) "Relational Distance and Homicide: The Role of the Stranger", Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, Vol. 78 (2), 272-295.

This article suggests that a categorization of homicides in terms of social distance categories will lead to a better understanding of homicide. Because relational distance is so important in defining the homicide situation, it is also a powerful predictor of elements associated with homicide. This research predicts that stranger homicide will have quite distinct patterns from homicides within more intimate relationships. Most prominently, patterns involving gender relationships, age, means of commission of the act and locations should vary with relational distance.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Silverman, Robert A. and Mukherjee, S.K. (1987) "Intimate Homicide: An Analysis of Violent Social Relationship", Behavioral Sciences and the Law, Vol. 5 (1), 37-47.

Homicides in intimate social relationships were studied, using data from three Western Canadian cities. Variables, which may be related to the relationship and homicide, are also examined. Unstable relationships are clearly differentiated from other relationships and are more likely to result in homicide. Implications for future research are discussed.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Smith, Dwayne M. and Parker, Robert N. (1980) "Type of Homicide and Variation in Regional Rates", Social Forces, Vol. 59 (1), 136-147.

A reanalysis of regional differences in homicide rates is conducted for two types of homicide derived from the victim/offender relationship. A social-structural, as opposed to subcultural, explanation is supported, but is found

to have limitations. Social-structural variables, particularly poverty, are shown to be important predictors of differences in primary homicide rates (generally involving family members or friends), but are less important in explaining variations in non-primary rates (those generally involving strangers).

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Statistics Canada Homicide in Canada: A Statistical Perspective, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, 1961- , (Catalogue 85-209 Annual).

This annual report gives a statistical portrait of homicides in Canada. General topics of this report include: Homicide in Perspective; Historical Trends; General Profiles; Geographical Patterns; Offence and its Circumstances; Victim-suspect Characteristics. Breakdown in types of homicides do not include spousal homicide - this type of homicide is included without distinction in the category of domestic relationships.

Keyword: General

Statistics Canada (1976) Homicide in Canada: A Statistical Synopsis, Statistics Canada, Ottawa. (Catalogue 85-505E).

This special study of Homicide in Canada is a synopsis of basic statistical information which has been gathered since 1961. The report outlines the historical foundations and developments of homicide laws. Information is given on the types and circumstances of the murder. Breakdown of types include - domestic relationship (immediate family, other kinship, common-law), and social or business relationships (lovers' quarrel or love triangle, close acquaintance, casual acquaintance, business relationship). Spousal homicide is not identified as a specific type.

Keyword: general

Steinmetz, Susanne K. and Straus, Murray A. (1974) Violence in the Family, New York: Dodd Mead and Company.

This work is a compilation of 38 papers drawn from a literature review of the subject of violence in the family. One section deals with violence between spouses and kin and contains articles of interest to those involved in providing social or criminal justice assistance to victims of marital violence. Several interpretations of the underlying causes of marital violence are presented. The book's strength lies in its comprehensive documentation of the spouse abuse problem and its analysis of root causes. The collection provides persuasive evidence that researchers, the criminal

justice system and community service agencies, must address the problem of intra-family violence and determine their roles in helping to resolve the problem.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Straus, Murray A. (1976) "Sexual Inequality, Cultural Norms and Wife-Beating", Victimology, Vol. 1, 54-70.

In this sociological study of wife-beating, the author points out that one is more likely to be murdered by a spouse than by any other category of person. But, the extent of violence within families is still unknown. The author discusses wives as victims and tries to show that wife-beating has its roots in cultural norms and in the sexist organization of the society and the family. The police often fail to act in family violence situations. Sexism encourages wife-beating. To reduce marital assaults, the degree of inequality within the family needs to be reduced.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Straus, Murray A. (1986) "Domestic Violence and Homicide Antecedents", Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, Vol. 26 (5), 446-465.

This paper is divided into three sections. The first section describes the nature and extent of homicides between family members, including some information on trends since 1966. The second describes the extent of non-lethal violence within the family and its connection to homicide. The final section views intra-family violence from a public health perspective and discusses the implications for primary prevention.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Straus, Murray A. (1988) "Primary Group Characteristics and Intra-Family Homicide", Family Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

The first part of the paper uses nine different data sets from the United States to test the hypothesis that the lower the homicide rate, the higher the percentage of homicides which are within family. Of the empirical tests, 17 supported the hypothesis. The second part of the paper outlines a theory to explain these findings. This theory, which is called the "primary group-lag theory", holds that primary groups, especially the family, tend to have characteristics which engender a certain minimal rate of violence on

the one hand, and to restrict serious violence on the other hand. Characteristics of the family which engender conflict and violence are identified as are characteristics which tend to restrict the extent and severity of the violence. The paper concludes by discussing the implications of the primary group-lag theory for understanding homicide, for designing research on homicide and for primary prevention of homicide.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Straus, Murray A. and Hotaling, Gerald T. (1980) The Social Causes of Husband-Wife Violence, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

An ironic perspective, alert to the ambivalence of human relationships, especially in intimate settings, has borne considerable fruit in this book. Aware that aggression-like charity begins at home, the authors have documented, with instructive thoroughness, that contrary to the prevailing image, family relations are the breeding ground of both love and hostility, of selfless devotion and of destructive violence. The authors convey the idea that family conflicts, as all types of interactions within the family, cannot be understood without the realization that they tend to derive from social structures and cultural norms.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Straus, Murray A. and Williams, Kirk R. (1988) "Homicide Victimization and Offense Rates by Age, Gender, Race, Relation of Victim to Offender, Weapon Used and Circumstances", Family Research Laboratory and Department of Sociology, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

The purpose of this brief article is to make available a unique set of homicide rates for the United States. These rates are part of a larger source of data on homicide in the United States - the "Comparative Homicide File (CHF)". Even the small part of the CHF presented in this article will be useful for understanding the nature of homicide in American society and for interpreting the results of other studies.

Keyword: general

Swigeert, Victoria Lynn and Farrell, Ronald A. (1976) Murder, Inequality and the Law: Differential Treatment in Legal Process, Lexington, Mass., U.S.A.: Lexington Books.

This book deals with the patterns in Criminal Homicide - theories and research. Chapter 4 is of particular interest. It deals with subjects such as

social characteristics of defendants and victims; legal history of the defendants; social and demographic relationship between defendants and victims; the circumstances of the offense; and gives some theoretical explanations of violent offenders. Please note that the breakdown in categories of victim-offender does not include spousal, but only relatives, friends, and acquaintances.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Tanay, E. (1969) "Psychiatric Study of Homicide", American Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 125, 1252-1258.

This paper is mainly about the offender. Demographic and personality characteristics of the offender and information on the setting and circumstances of the crime are set out. Most murders were of spouses, relatives, lovers, friends or acquaintances.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Totman, Jane (1978) The Murderess: A Psychological Study of Criminal Homicide, San Francisco, California; R and E Research Associates Inc.

This research effort had two major thrusts: the first was an effort to learn more about two important aspects of human behaviour - murder and female criminality. The focus of the study was an attempt to identify and describe any process or processes which occur within and to, and are perpetrated by, an individual murderess prior to, and leading up to, her act of fatal violence. The purpose was to determine, if possible, what common patterns of experiences and events contribute to, precipitate and advance a woman toward the commission of an act of murder. In this last issue lies the second major thrust of the inquiry.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Virkkunen, Matti and Kallio, Eila (1987) "Low Blood Glucose Nadir in the Glucose Tolerance Test and Homicidal Spouse Abuse", Aggressive Behaviour, Vol. 13 (2), 59-66.

The purpose of the study was to investigate whether homicidal spouse abuse offenders with a low blood glucose nadir in glucose tolerance test (GTT) showed more instances of repeated and severe aggression and criminality than counterparts with more normal GTTs. An attempt was also made to determine whether personality profiles on the Minnesota

Multi-phasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) differentiated between the groups. Altogether, 60 male homicidal offenders were studied. Those with low values had been repeatedly violent and impulsive under the influence of alcohol in relationships, but also outside the home. The homicidal act usually occurred under the influence of alcohol with no clear recollection. These offenders had normal MMPIs but some of them showed motor restlessness and irritability during the GTTs. The possible connections with enhanced glucose and abnormal brain serotonin metabolism among habitually violent and impulsive offenders are discussed.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Voss, Harwin L. and Hepburn, John R. (1968) "Patterns in Criminal Homicide in Chicago", Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, Vol. 59, 499-509.

All cases in which a charge of criminal homicide was filed in Chicago in 1965 were examined in a replication of Wolfgang's Patterns in Criminal Homicide. Non-white males, between 15 and 39 years of age were the victims or offenders more frequently than any other age, race, sex category. It was found that 37.9% of the cases were victim-precipitated and non-white males were most likely to precipitate their own death.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Walter, P.D. (1982) "Expert Testimony and Battered Women - Conflict Among the Courts and a Proposal", Journal of Legal Medicine, Vol. 3 (2), 267-294.

Courts must adopt a uniform approach and render the testimony admissible. The conflict between the courts over the admissibility of expert testimony about the "battered woman syndrome" in homicide trials could be resolved by uniform adoption of the federal rule 702, which presents a two-part test requiring the expert to be qualified through knowledge, skill, experience, training or education, and to be able to help the trier of fact understand the evidence or determine a fact in the issue.

Keyword: battered women - expert testimony and the law of self defense

Williams, K.R. and Flewelling, R.L. (1984) "Family, Acquaintance and Stranger Homicide: Alternative Procedures for Rate Calculations", Criminology, Vol. 25 (3), 543-560.

This paper describes the extent of missing data within the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR), collected as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting

Program of the FBI. The yearly SHR provides coded information on the victim, the offender and the circumstances of all reported homicides in the United States. Thus, the data allows the computation of specific kinds of homicide rates, such as those involving family members, acquaintances and strangers. However, missing data within reported events, primarily on offender characteristics and thus the victim/offender relationship, present a serious obstacle to the accurate calculation of such rates. The authors propose computational procedures designed to compensate for missing data and empirically evaluate the impact of these procedures in comparative analyses of homicide rates for cities, metropolitan areas and states.

Keyword: general

Williams, Kirk R. and Flewelling, Robert L. (1988) "The Social Production of Criminal Homicide: A Comparative Study Disaggregated Rates in American Cities", American Sociological Review, Vol. 53, 421-431.

The growing research on comparative studies of homicide in the United States reveals significant methodological advances but inconsistent findings. A major goal is to identify sources of inconsistency and accumulate more varied and reliable results. This analysis empirically examines a major problem with most previous comparative studies - the failure to disaggregate the overall homicide rate into more refined and conceptually meaningful categories of homicide. A theoretically integrated model is presented. Using data from the Comparative Homicide File (CHF), the analysis shows that indicators of resource deprivation and social disintegration tend to have significant effects across sub-types of homicide, although the magnitude of the effects varies, while indicators of violent cultural orientation are confined to homicides resulting from interpersonal conflicts.

Keyword: general

Wilson, Margo and Daly, Martin (1987) Spousal Homicide in Canada, Department of Psychology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

During the period 1974-1983, 1,060 Canadians were killed by their spouses; 812 wives and 248 husbands were victims. Spouses represented 16.2% of 6,559 Canadian homicide victims during that ten year period and 19.5% of the 5,445 solved cases. The overall rate of homicide in Canada for this ten year period was 26.9 victims per million couples per annum and the rate of spouse-killing was 9.4 victims per million couples per annum. This paper discusses what these fatal spousal conflicts are about.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Wilt, Marie G., Bannon, J.D., Breedhove, R.K., Sandher, D.M., Michaelson, S., Fox, P.B. and Keenish, J.W. (1977) Domestic Violence and the Police: Studies in Detroit and Kansas City, Washington, Police Foundations.

These two studies attempt to improve police understanding of dangerous situations. They deal with the relationship of disputes and disturbances to aggravated assaults and homicides. The goal of the Detroit study was to learn about participants in, and characteristics of, homicides and assaults for prevention purposes. All Detroit homicides in 1972 were studied and researchers interviewed people involved in assaults during a month in 1973. The Kansas City project was to discover if police could intervene effectively before a domestic disturbance became a homicide or assault case. It was found that police can obtain some early warnings of assaults and homicides, as any given arrest is likely to be the culmination of a series of police interventions. In Kansas City, the police were called to the location of an assault or homicide at least once before in about 85% of the cases and five or more times in 50% of the cases.

Keyword: preventive methods and homicide

Wolfgang, Marvin E. (1957) "Victim Precipitated Criminal Homicide", Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, Vol. 48, 1-11.

Empirical data for analysis of victim-precipitated homicides were collected from the files of the Homicide Squad of the Philadelphia Police Department and include 588 consecutive cases of criminal homicide which occurred between January 1, 1948 and December 31, 1952. The present study is part of a much larger work that analyses criminal homicide in greater detail. Material relevant to victim-precipitation is included in the present analysis. The 588 criminal homicides provide sufficient background information to establish much about the nature of the victim/offender relationship.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Wolfgang, Marvin E. (1958) Patterns in Criminal Homicide, Philadelphia, U.S.A.: University of Pennsylvania.

This book is an overview of the patterns of criminal homicide. The author touches on subjects such as - the victim and the offender, in the homicide drama, the victim/offender relationship - interpersonal relationship between victim and offender. Chapter III deals specifically with husband/wife homicides.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Wolfgang, Marvin E. (1967) Studies in Homicide, New York: Harper & Row.

This book examines criminal homicide and the subculture of violence and gives a sociological analysis of criminal homicide. It also looks at sex homicides, and inter- and intra-racial homicides. The book basically brings together the works of widely recognized authorities on contemporary social problems and homicide. It is divided into four parts: introduction, the sociology of homicide, psychological and psychiatric aspects and finally touches on some cross-cultural evidence.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Wolfgang, Marvin E. (1969) "Who Kills Whom", Psychology Today, Vol. 3, 55-56, 72, 74-75.

The author refers to his own research on 588 homicides in Philadelphia during 1948-1952. When a woman murders, she is more likely than a man to kill her mate. When a man is killed by a woman, he is most likely to be killed by his wife. In England, murder is a domestic crime. In a study of 456 murders in England and Wales, from 1957-1960, 81% had relatively close relationships. Seventy percent of victims over 16 years are female, nearly half killed by husbands and a quarter by other relatives or lovers. Examples of data from Danish, American and African studies are briefly reported.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

Zahn, Margaret A. (1980) Homicide in Twentieth Century United States, U.S.A.

This paper is a review of extant information on homicides in the United States from 1900-1979. This descriptive review is seen as a necessary prelude both for an historically grounded theory of homicide and for a set of workable social policies to deal with this type of interpersonal violence. This review establishes, not only the changing trends, but also a portrait of the dominant types of homicides existing in different periods of American history.

Keyword: study of homicide and dynamics of family violence
(theories - explanations)

