An approach to the etiology of wife abuse.

Anne M. Hauser
University of Windsor

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LA THÈSE A ÉTÉ MICROFILMÉE TELLE QUE NOUS L'AVONS REÇUE
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

AN APPROACH TO THE ETIOLOGY
OF WIFE ABUSE

by

Anne M. Hauser

and

June N. Wilton

A Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies through
the School of Social Work of the University of Windsor
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Social Work

September, 1977

Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Anne M. Hauser
and
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1977
RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Professor B. F. S. Monaghan    Chairman
Professor V. J. Cruz           Member
Professor Christine Boyle      Member
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our thanks to those people who made it possible to complete this research.

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Special recognition is owing to our Research Committee. We are most appreciative of the assistance and support given by Professor Valentin J. Cruz, Professor Christine Boyle, and especially by our Committee Chairman, Professor B. F. Stan Monaghan. A special thanks is extended to Dr. Lola Beth Buckley for her assistance and encouragement at the beginning of our research.

Our gratitude is also extended to Mr. S. Schwartz, student, Psychology Department, for his pertinent ideas and valuable assistance.

A special thanks to Michael.
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this quantitative-descriptive study was to examine the stated determinants of physical abuse in married women in the sample. Starting with the premise that there is a relationship between behaviour dynamics in early family relationship and marital choice, the study focused on the abused wife and the information she shared with us concerning her marriage and family of origin.

The researchers selected four theoretical areas for examination in the review of the literature: personality development and behaviour, marital choice, stress and its effects on the family, and emotional factors involved.

A sample of twenty abused wives and mothers was obtained through contacts with Hiatus House and Legal Assistance of Windsor. Data was collected by means of structured interviews developed specifically for the study. Responses were analysed by computer, using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, subprogram, Crosstabs.

The major findings related to the hypothesis were: the younger the age of the subject at the time of separation from her parents, the greater the violence severity in her marital relationship; the more abuse in her family of origin, the more she was abused by her fiancé before marriage; the more abuse in her family of origin, the less agreement there
was on demonstration of affection in marriage, and where abuse was not present in the subject's family of origin, her spouse was more able to discuss his mad feelings with her.

The researchers strongly urge that further research be conducted on the phenomenon of wife abuse and the possible areas have been suggested.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I INTRODUCTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of the Problem</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the Study</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting of the Study</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personality Development and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mate Selection</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress and the Family</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Factors</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Purpose</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Definitions</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis and Research Questions</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumptions</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Study</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population and Sample</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of Data Collection</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitations of Design</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of the Subjects</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant Factors in Wife Abuse</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Data</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premarital Behaviour</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Marital Relationship</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family of Origin</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## V SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Findings</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitations</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestions for Further Research</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions of the Study</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## APPENDICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A - INTERVIEW SCHEDULE</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B - LETTERS TO AGENCIES</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C - DESCRIPTION OF HIATUS HOUSE</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D - PROFILE OF THE ABUSED WIFE</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY                        | 156  |

## VITAE                                        | 166  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Family Assaults and Domestic Complaints in Windsor - 1971-1974</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wife Homicide Victims in Canada 1971-1974</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Age of Subjects and Spouses</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Occupation of Couples</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Annual Household Income</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Present Marital Status</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Length of Marriage</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Number of Children in Subjects' Care</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Education of Couples</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Religion of Couples</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Agreement on Demonstration of Affection</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Violence Severity Scale</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Abuse Affected by Subjects' Pregnancy</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Part Pregnancy Played in Abuse</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Abuse Affected by Alcohol Consumption of Spouse</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Part Alcohol Played in Abuse</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Spouse's Behaviour Similar to that in His Parent's Marriage</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Age of Separation Between Subject and Parent and Spouse and Parent</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Physical Abuse Present in Family of Origin of Subject and/or Spouse</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Birth Order of Subjects</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Birth Order of Spouses</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Subjects' Reasons for Marriage</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Qualities in Males Found Attractive by Subject</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Qualities in Spouse which First Attracted Subject</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Number of Biological Children in Subjects' and Spouses' Families of Origin</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Subjects' Physical Health</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Frequency of Abuse on Subject by Spouse</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Frequency of Arguments while Subject Dating Spouse</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Subject's Father's Perception of Her Marriage at the Time of Its Occurrence</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Subjects' Dissatisfaction with Sexual Relationship</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Subjects' Stated Wants in the Act of Sexual Intercourse</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Nature of the Problem

While a great deal of attention and recognition has been given to the problem of wife abuse through various women's organizations in the United States, Canada and Great Britain and the mass media, there is still very little literature on and research into the causes of wife abuse. Because of the concern today for human rights, more and more women are asserting themselves and exposing the previously hidden facts of wife abuse. The information shared by the abused woman has resulted in many articles written in popular women's and men's magazines relating to the problems faced by the woman, particularly legal, medical, financial and psychosocial. Few professionals and academics have devoted time to writing about or studying the etiology of wife abuse.

Since wife abuse has not been legally, or for that matter, socially defined, statistics regarding the number of reported cases of wife abuse are nearly impossible to document. Therefore, we cannot accurately determine the incidence of wife abuse. The obvious sources of information, as pointed out by Martin, are police reports, court rosters and emergency hospital admittance files (Martin, 1976, p. 10).
However, wife abuse is not an official category on such records. It is often listed under assault and battery or disputes. These terms are not synonymous with wife abuse. However, it is assumed that the majority of domestic disputes involve husband and wife. Also, there is no legal requirement that wife abuse be reported. Police Chief James Bannon discussed domestic violence in Detroit, in his study, *Social Conflict Assaults.* He stated that, "if no weapon is alleged to have been employed, the police will not be dispatched. The caller will be informed to go to the detectives to make the report and seek a warrant" (Bannon, 1975, p. 6). Also, if the police are dispatched and arrive at the scene, if the extent of the abuse is minor, no report will be made. Because of these procedures, thousands of cases are lost for statistical purposes (Bannon, 1975, p. 6). Therefore, the true extent of the problem of wife abuse is not known. The researchers can only surmise that it is an increasing problem in society.

In one of the researchers' personal contacts through letter with a senior analyst in the Justice Statistics

*The researchers referred to this Detroit study, as well as the following statistics, as originally part of the sample population was to be drawn from Catholic Social Services of Wayne County, Michigan. Concerning estimates of the incidence of abuse, "one million women each year are physically abused by their spouses, in the United States. Murray Straus who spoke recently at a Montreal Conference on "Violence in the Family" mentioned that the Canadian ratio would probably be somewhat lower than the United States estimates, since assault and homicide rates are lower in Canada (Warren, 1977, p. 19).
Division, it was learned that Statistics Canada does not collect data on wife abuse and, therefore, the analyst could not make an estimation of the number of cases in Canada. In the Windsor area, domestic complaints and family assaults recorded by the Windsor Police Department fluctuated dramatically during the 1971-1974 period.

Table 1

Family Assaults and Domestic Complaints in Windsor, 1971-1974*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Family Assaults</th>
<th>Domestic Complaints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage Base 1971</td>
<td>Percentage Base 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>18.8</td>
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</table>


Having documented the available findings on the incidence of wife abuse, the researchers were interested in determining what in fact constituted abuse. Two studies were found which defined abuse. Flynn's study (1977) defines abuse or assault as "the act of physical attack by one spouse* on another; pushing, slapping, punching, kicking.

*The researchers used the term spouse to refer to those individuals who have lived together as husband and wife whether legally married or not.
knifing, shooting or throwing an object with the intent to inflict bodily harm" (Flynn, 1977, p. 13). Gayford's study, (1975), defined an abused wife as "a woman who has received deliberate, severe and repeated demonstrable physical injury from her husband (Gayford, 1975, p. 194). Gayford described bruising of all his subjects at some time. Lacerations with a razor, knife or broken bottle were received by some women. Strangulation attempts were made; as well as burns and scalds. Other women received fractures of the nose, teeth, or ribs, as well as the shoulder or jaw. Some subjects were found unconscious, or had received retinal damage, or head injuries which resulted in epilepsy.

For the purpose of the study, the researchers referred to the Violence Severity Scale developed by Richard J. Gelles, in order to determine the extent of physical abuse in the study population. The scale consisted of 0 = no violence; 1 = pushed or shoved; 2 = threw object; 3 = slapped or bit; 4 = punched or kicked; 5 = pushed down; 6 = hit with hard object; 7 = choked; 8 = stabbed; 9 = shot (Gelles, 1976, p. 661). The researchers assumed that the subjects would have experienced physical abuse within the range indicated on the scale.

Sometimes marital conflicts are so severe that the end result is not assault but homicide. Between 1926 and 1968, there were 6,389 homicides in the city of Detroit. As accurately as could be deduced, 29.5 percent of these in-
volved family members in which either or both partners were killed (Boudouris, 1971, p. 668). Whether the couple was legally married or living in a common-law relationship did not seem to influence the likelihood that their interaction might end in a homicide. The quarrels resulting in homicide were apparently often over matters that drastically questioned the relationship of the couple and the role of each in that relationship. Quarrels over sexual relations, infidelity of one of the partners, and the ability of the man to provide financially for the household were common. Notably, a homicide was more likely to occur before any obvious signs of estrangement, rather than afterwards (Boudouris, 1971, p. 669).

In Canada, domestic murder incidents accounted for 44 percent to 55 percent of all murder incidents during the period 1971-1974. The researchers assumed that the majority of domestic murders involved husband and wife, although Statistics Canada did not provide such a breakdown of the data (Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce, 1976, p. 12, Catalogue 85-209). The following table provides an account of the number of reported homicide cases involving women who are married or living common-law. At present, Statistics Canada is preparing a detailed examination of homicide in Canada since 1961 with a special research report on Homicide in the Family.
Table 2  
Wife Homicide Victims in Canada,  
1971-1974*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>45.8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The highly explosive situation of family violence, thus described, involves the safety of the police officers responding to such calls. Domestic conflict calls have been cited as the number one cause of police officer, job-related deaths and injuries since 1972. In the United States, 51 percent of the police officers killed on duty were answering a domestic complaint (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1973, p. 45). According to a senior analyst of the Justice Statistics Division, Ottawa, of the 53 policemen murdered between 1961 and 1974, 17 percent were killed answering a domestic complaint. In statistical terms, wife abuse appears to be an area of considerable significance and merits further examination. However, wife abuse cannot be considered in terms of numbers alone.
The statistics cited by the researchers indicate the need to develop better services to help families where there is a history of family violence. Seminars and symposiums have been held and will continue to be held across Canada and the United States acquainting the public with the seriousness of family violence and providing a better understanding of the phenomenon of wife abuse. The researchers recognized that further study into the etiology of wife abuse would be deemed timely and appropriate by professionals and public alike.

Introduction to the Study

In discussing the personal motives for this study, both researchers had had some work experience with abused wives. This involvement had created an interest in the dynamics of wife abuse and since little was known about its etiology, the researchers hoped to contribute to the particular body of knowledge already existing about women in this situation. The opportunity to research the area was welcomed, as it is one which the researchers will continue to encounter in their professional careers.

Considering first the high incidence of wife abuse, the consequences of which have implications for family health and well-being, and second, the lack of empirical research regarding the etiology of wife abuse, the researchers were interested in discovering the determinants of physical abuse in married women and those factors which
play a part in precipitating violence in a marital relationship. Having adopted a major focus for the study, the following purposes or goals were established:

1. To explore and identify through the available literature and through interviews with abused wives the salient determinants of physical abuse in the study population;
2. To contribute to the existing body of knowledge concerning physically abused wives;
3. To increase public and professional awareness of the phenomenon of wife abuse;
4. To obtain a knowledge base from which recommendations can be made regarding services for abused wives and their families;
5. To help identify high risk families where there is a history of violence so that the findings will be used in a preventative capacity.

As the study developed, it became clear that the available literature on family violence occasionally referred to wife abuse. Scant information existed on the incidence and causes of wife abuse. The majority of literature written was either American or British, with very little being written in Canada on physically abused women. As of late, however, more research on physically abused wives is being produced by professionals and academics alike who are interested in the phenomenon of intrafamilial
violence.

In response to this scarcity, the researchers reviewed the readings on child abuse in order to determine the relevance of some concepts pertaining to both the areas of child abuse and wife abuse. Gayford's study found an association between child abuse and wife abuse (Gayford, 1975, p. 196). Common characteristics have been found between family background of child abusers and husband-wife violence. Related readings in the areas of marriage, family, mate selection, stress, aggression, violence, alcoholism and emotional disturbances were also reviewed in order to determine the dynamics of an interaction which results in physical abuse between spouses. For the purposes of the study, the researchers often referred to the feminine gender.

The researchers found it useful to develop a conceptual framework with which to guide the study. As a result, the theory and concepts of Structural Analysis, as developed by Eric Berne, were utilized. Structural Analysis, which is the basis of Transactional Analysis, is a theory for analyzing the structure of personality, which the researchers found helpful in understanding the behaviour of abused wives and their spouses. Scripts and script analysis are the concepts derived from structural analysis used by the researchers. Scripts were developed by Eric Berne to describe an individual's preconscious life plan, by
which she structures her whole life (Berne, 1972, p. 25-26).

Steiner defined script analysis as:

The study of people's decisions in early life based on injunctions and attributions of their parents which requires an understanding of the way in which parents transmit information to their children about what it is they want them and do not want them to do. (Steiner, 1974, p. 76)

The researchers decided that structural analysis was a more accurate theory of human personality. Its concepts explain and predict behaviour more concretely than the other theories available. It became evident through the literature review that early childhood and parental influence greatly affected the individual's personality development and later behaviour. According to Berne, life scripts are based on parental programming which the child seeks out for three reasons (Berne, 1972, pp. 38-39).

1. It gives purpose to life. A child does things usually for his parents.
2. It gives the child an acceptable way to structure his time.
3. People have to be told how to do things. Parents pass on to their children what they have learned.

Therefore, the individual's early life may be largely determined by the parents. Subsequent behaviour may also be determined, in large part, by the individual in early childhood. Authors Hall and Nordby have pointed out that "virtually every psychologist who has studied the development of personality emphasize that the parents of a child play an extremely important role in the development of the child's character" (Hall, 1973, p. 85). To elaborate
further, Berne stated that "if parents suffered from severe physical or emotional deprivation as infants, they may kill their offspring by neglect or abuse, or condemn them to life in an institution from an early age" (Berne, 1972, p. 54). Using a similar comparison, Gelles’ research has shown that people, whose children observed their parents engaging in physical violence, were more likely to engage in the same sort of activity with their own spouses (Gelles, 1972, p. 171).

The validity of structural analysis may be further substantiated by various other authors who have studied personality development and behaviour. For example, Erikson’s work, in the study of the human life cycle from birth to death, was employed by Berne in script analysis. A review of the works by Jung and Adler with regard to the individual’s life style and behaviour pattern, also closely parallel Berne’s work in script analysis. In the analysis of the individual’s life script, the researchers found it necessary to go back to childhood, to the family of origin and examine the perceived parental messages in relation to behaviour and attitudes of both spouses. In summary, the researchers found it helpful to have an understanding of the possible behaviour and attitudes of the abused woman which ultimately affect her choice of mate and marital relationship. Likewise, from the readings, the behaviour of the male took on clarity and meaning. Further discussion of
structural analysis and script theory would require greater depth and specialized training of the researchers. The ideas presented, however, acquire more meaning as the literature is reviewed and the data is presented.

Setting of the Study

This study was conducted through the School of Social Work, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario.

The City of Windsor is situated in the extreme southwestern area of Ontario, with a population of 202,000 and a metropolitan population of 249,300 (Convention Bureau, 1976). Windsor was established in 1836 and was incorporated as a city in 1892. Windsor is presently the largest city and busiest port which Canada has located on the Canada-United States border. The connecting links between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan are the Ambassador Bridge, the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, and railroad car ferries and barge services on the Detroit River. The close geographic and economic proximity of the two cities gives Windsor exposure to Detroit's cultural, educational and social facilities and many of the United States broadcasting media.

Essex County, the most southerly county in Canada, is a prosperous agricultural region, due to a favourable climate, fertile soil and a long growing season. In contrast, the city of Windsor is highly industrialized, contributing an especially large percentage to the output of
the Canadian automotive industry. Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Bendix, Champion Spark Plug and Kelsey-Hayes are all located in Windsor. These companies account for 25 percent to 30 percent of the country's output in the motor vehicle and parts manufacturing industry, and Chrysler Corporation has all of its Canadian assembly operations in Windsor alone. Other industries in Windsor include processing of foods and beverages, and metal working and machinery. Highly developed manufacturing combined with agricultural production provides incentive to prosper through activity.

Windsor's prosperity is indicated in a 1973 selected study of 75 cities in Canada, conducted by Revenue Canada, which lists Windsor as ninth in order of average income of the 75 cities surveyed (Inside Taxation, 1975). In terms of average family income, Windsor ranks among the highest of all major Canadian cities, reflecting the high level of employment and hourly wage rates that are consistent with its highly developed industrial base (Social Planning, 1977, p. 11). The average total income per family in Windsor was roughly $16,915 in 1976 (Calculated from Social Planning, 1977, p. 11).

The University of Windsor and its affiliated colleges have a student population of approximately 7,000; it offers a variety of academic programs in the Arts and Sciences as well as specialties including business, drama, education,
engineering, law, nursing and social work. The University attracts students from Canada, the United States and several foreign countries. There is also St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology located in Windsor. Yet Windsor's educational facilities are not an entirely accurate indicator of the average level of education of Windsor's population.

When compared with a city of comparable size such as London, Ontario, Windsor shows a significantly different educational mix (Social Planning, 1977, p. 9). A larger proportion of Windsor's population has less than grade nine education than is the case in London, 44 percent compared to 37 percent. London's university educated individuals comprise over 11 percent of the city's population compared to Windsor with 8.8 percent (Social Planning, 1977, p. 9). These figures reflect to some extent Windsor's predominantly industrial base.

The 1971 Census of Canada shows that the Windsor area's population of 258,655 was composed mostly of people originally from the British Isles, 124,340, and people of French ancestry, 52,885 (Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce, 1971, p. 2). The census shows that a substantial number of persons stated their official language as being both English and French, 33,490, and a small number, 1,280, indicated French as being their only official language (Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce, 1971, p. 2).
Such figures show that the French language and culture plays a part in the history and culture of the Windsor area to a greater extent than in most other metropolitan centres in Ontario.

However, the languages which are most frequently spoken at home in the city of Windsor are English, 84.92 percent, and Italian, 5.25 percent, with a smaller percentage of households normally using French, 2.83 percent, and a still smaller percentage using German, 0.99 percent (Social Planning, 1977, p. 13). Other ethnic communities which exist in Windsor are, in order of declining numbers: Ukrainian, Polish, Asian, Hungarian, Netherlands, Scandinavian, and Russian (Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce, 1971, p. 2). Windsor's population is thus comprised of numerous cultural and religious ancestries.

Summary

Wife abuse has become a phenomenon of recent importance and has been acknowledged by professionals and the public as a social problem. The area of wife abuse was relatively unresearched and the researchers decided to focus primarily on the possible causes of wife abuse, examining three main topics: family of origin, mate selection and present marital relationship.

A quantitative-descriptive design was utilized because the study fit the hypothesis testing sub-type. A
sample of twenty volunteer participants was obtained through contacts with Hiatus House, a shelter for abused wives and their children, and Legal Assistance of Windsor. For a description of Hiatus House, please refer to Appendix C.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Personality Development and Behaviour

Important to the study of the causes of wife abuse is the personality of the spouses involved. Why do individuals act and behave the way they do? What forces guide their activities and decisions in life? What causes individuals to interact with others the way they do? Why does a man strike out at his wife? Why does a woman stay with a mate who physically abuses her? Many theories of personality exist to answer these questions. Some may be confusing. Others say the same thing but in a different sort of way. For example, the work of Adler and Berne closely parallel each other in their theories of the development of the human personality.

Adler provided the view of man in his totality, interdependent on the environment for survival, and placed a great deal of importance on society in the development of the individual's character. According to Adler, the development of the character was based on one's attitude toward the environment, and the individual's attitude was formed early in childhood. The life style, or one's conviction about life, was completed at about the age of four or five and governed how the individual felt, thought and
acted (Adler, 1963, p. iv). The script, as previously discussed, is similar to Adler's concept of lifestyle. Basically, both concepts refer to an individual's interpretation of what life is, what she is, what others are and what her relationship to others mean.

Parent-Child Interaction

According to Adler, every individual is faced with three tasks in life: work, friendship and love (Adler, 1963, p. v). All three tasks demand cooperation and social feeling for a successful outcome. These two requirements are transmitted to the infant through the relationship with the mother. Through a genuine loving relationship, the child develops social feelings which will prepare her for life situations. If the mother is inadequate in her role or if the child is deprived of a mother early in her development, the child will experience difficulty developing social feelings. This point is well substantiated in the readings on child abuse. The potential abuser is ill-prepared for the sharing and generosity demanded in family relationships. However, the individual greatly desires marriage to meet her own dependency needs and feelings of insecurity. This individual is unable to give and her anguish and low frustration tolerance may lead to violence (Carter, 1974, p. 29). The methods by which the parents relate to their children play an important role in a child's growth and development, and later success in work, friendship and love. A child is
particularly frustrated and deprived of his rights if the parents consider their own interests to the exclusion of the child's. Dreikurs wrote that excessive love often makes it difficult for the child to become a happy and useful member of the community (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 18). The same is true for unkindness shown the child by the parents. An important factor to consider in this scenario is the parents' scripts. Whether or not a child is loved is dependent on how well she fits into the parent script.

Children whose parents hate them because they came into the world unwanted are often denied their rights in a very shameful way. Sometimes parents turn away from a child because she is a girl instead of the boy they had been hoping to have, or because they see a certain resemblance between the child and someone they dislike. Sometimes a parent is antagonistic to a stepchild. (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 18)

Family size plays a significant part in terms of the parent script and parent-child interaction.

To find that children in small families differ from children in large families is not simply due to the impact of group size upon the individual members but to the very different involvement of the parent with the children and to relations between the parents themselves in small versus large families. (Rossi, 1975, p. 515)

Here, the parents' motivation for having children is considered. A small family is conceived for a variety of reasons: either the parents wanted a small family or they wanted a large family but were not able to fulfill these wants. The family, therefore, is less likely to have unwanted children and greater interest is shown in the ones they do have. In contrast, a large family is conceived either because the
parents achieved the size they wanted or because they had more children than planned. "Large families, therefore, have a higher probability than small families of including unwanted and unloved children" (Rossi, 1975, p. 515). In summary, any one of the situations presented will determine whether the child feels accepted within the family. The researchers strongly suspected that some who are abusing and abused felt unloved or unwanted as children.

Maternal deprivation studies, scrutiny of early ego development of institutionalized children, indicated the relationship between inadequate or insufficient maternal care and a variety of ego deficits in the child (Korner, 1975, p. 85). Again, in the readings on child abuse, it was found that many abusive parents have themselves grown up with the feeling of not having been taken care of. They have often been neglected and treated by violent or critical means. If, as children, they learned to always please their parents, frustration resulted from not being able to please the parents or parent substitutes. These individuals are left with paranoic attitudes toward the world and especially in intimate relationships (Carter, 1974, p. 28). An insecurity in forming intimate relationships often develops from some degree of separation from one's parent figures during early childhood (Ferguson, 1972, p. 33). Separation through illness, divorce or death is significant in terms of the child's early development and
nurturing. The readings have made reference to the fact that violent men who have experienced childhood separation "were never allowed to express the grief and anger they felt at this loss and were often overburdened with responsibility ... at an early age" (Detroit News, 1976, p. 4C). The feelings kept inside since childhood are later released in violence against their spouse or offspring over some precipitating factor.

Accordingly, marital tension and separations are common childhood memories for the abusing male and the abusing parent. The researchers assumed that the physically abused wife may have experienced separations as well. The development of their faulty life styles began in childhood. Upon reaching adulthood and selecting a mate, the behaviour patterns learned as a result of parent-child interaction are brought with them. The potential abusing spouse carries into marriage the patterns of marital discord, rejection, humiliation, anger and, often, violence.

The situations described in the aforementioned will cause the individuals to face difficulty in the tasks of work, friendship and love. According to Dreikurs, "all human suffering originates from the difficulties which complicate the tasks" (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 7). The researchers found in their literature review that men who were frustrated in their occupational, social and intimate relationships were more prone to violence against their
wives. Violence, in the cases studied by O'Brien (1971),
came from husbands who were under-achievers in the worker-
earner role and lacking in certain status characteristics
relative to their wives. Therefore, the ascribed status
category of the male, as superior, was actually deficient
in achieved status, something which males may find very
threatening. O'Brien, therefore, believed that violence
in the family may have an etiology similar to that of the
general society, that being violent mostly involves use of
force by members of a superordinate status when they find
their status threatened (O'Brien, 1971, p. 692). Compared
to males who did not use violence against their spouses,
the violent men were more often less educated than their
wives and had a job of a lower status than that of the wife's
father. Therefore, her marital mobility was downward.
These men were often seriously dissatisfied with their jobs,
often educational dropouts at any level and their earnings
were frequently a source of marital discord (O'Brien, 1971,
p. 693).

The area of intimacy also became a battleground for
the spouses. Whitehurst observed that sexual rejection by
women can make some men violent. "An attempt at love which
is thwarted by the female can create immediate frustration
in the male aggressor" (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 40). As well,
Whitehurst observed a general pattern by wives of "more or
less consciously frustrating the husband, continually
participating in the further production of cumulative hostility, and eventually leading to the violent outcome" (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 686). He continued:

Wives quite often fail to see their own culpability and involvement, but are obviously real though subtle irritants and participators to the final violent scene. It is as though a script is laid before two people and the final act is simply culturally decreed as to the person striking the blow. (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 687)

In summary, a great sense of inferiority is felt by those who fail in the tasks of work, friendship and love. The individual in this state needs to control and dominate others in order to feel worthwhile. As shown, this type of individual has not learned to cooperate or share with others. The degree to which an individual is capable of loving, working and socializing is determined by the way in which his or her needs were met in early childhood. The researchers recognized the crucial importance adequate mothering had for child development and ego growth. Literature in child abuse and wife abuse indicated a need deficit in the individual who abuses or is abused. As a result, the individual developed a negative life stance. At this point, the researchers wish to acknowledge the role individual differences play in parent-child interaction. Research findings demonstrate that individual differences among newborn babies play a definite role in how the mother relates to her child. As each baby differs so does their specific needs for care. The following are types of individual differences at birth (Korner, 1975, pp. 87-88):
1. congenital activity type
2. sensory responsiveness
3. responses to novel situations
4. dedifferentiation
5. response to massive stimulation
6. quantity and mode of mouthing.

Though individual differences may play a part in the development of the child and in view of its being a relatively new field of inquiry, the researchers feel that the material presented on parent-child interaction is noteworthy in the development of the human personality.

The Family and Sex-Roles

In this section, the researchers dealt with the dynamics which occur within the family in terms of learned behaviour: concepts of maleness and femaleness; of how one learns to express oneself and of the factors that cause one to react the way he or she does. The dynamics presented operate to produce physical abuse in wives.

The human personality is shaped primarily by cultural conditioning. The family transmits the following elements of culture to the child: habits of eating, dressing and walking; language; attitudes toward sex, private property, religion; submission to authority; cooperative and competitive behaviour; and the history and tradition of the family group (Burgess, 1971, p. 210). In essence, the culturally endorsed messages, injunctions and myths about how an individual should act, feel and think comprise that individual's cultural script.
The family is the basic unit of socialization. Socialization refers to the process by which an individual learns to perform his various roles adequately (Tomeh, 1975, p. 13). A role is a pattern of behaviour which a child develops on the basis of what others expect or demand of him (Tomeh, 1975, p. 13). The socialization of sex roles by parents greatly influences the child's understanding of masculinity and femininity. In other words, a child is taught from birth how to be a man or woman.

In learning to be a man, the boy in American society comes to value expressions of masculinity and devalue expressions of femininity. Masculinity is expressed largely through physical courage, toughness, competitiveness and aggressiveness, whereas femininity is, in contrast, expressed largely through gentleness, expressiveness and responsiveness. (Balswick, 1975, p. 498)

It stands to reason that the man who beats his wife learned that he must protect his honour, show courage, conceal fear and that violence is an appropriate way to achieve these ideals (Martin, 1976, pp. 61-62).

Martin has researched those qualities viewed as masculine and feminine in our society. In order to do so, she referred to Rocet's Thesaurus, the Bible and The Psychology of Sex Differences by Maccoby and Jacklin. The following is a list of adjectives describing the words masculine and feminine (Martin, 1976, pp. 62-63).

**Masculine:**
- aggressive
- profound
- determined
- assertive
- bold
- undaunted

**Feminine:**
- cooperative
- loving
- nurturing
- tender
- caring
noble, virile, brave, paternal, stable, courageous, self-sufficient

active, upright, hardy, frank, intellectual, fearless, authoritarian, independent, heroic, daring, resolute, rational

Feminine:

passive, tender, chaste, matronly, artless, pure, prudent, fragile, dependent

modest, tactful, gentle, sentimental, docile, mild, emotional, masochistic, delicate, submissive, motherly, girlish, virginal, intuitive, superficial, timid

These adjectives reflect commonly agreed upon definitions of the words masculine and feminine in our culture.

In Toby's article, "Violence and the Masculine Ideal," he discussed the compulsive-masculinity need in boys to overcome their feelings of femininity. Toby found that there was more anxiety over expressing one's masculinity in female-headed households where there was no adequate male role model (Toby, 1974, p. 59). The following are predictions he made concerning the occurrence of violence.

Where there is easy identification with a father figure, boys are less likely to behave violently. Boys who develop toward adult masculinity early ought to be less violent. Boys assigned to do female household tasks and those denied the privileges of staying out late at night and possessing a key to the house ought to be more prone to violence. (Toby, 1974, p. 61)

Toby's findings can be extended to the husband who feels inadequate in his role as husband. For example, in a study of abused wives who charged their husbands with abuse, the
wives were generally found to be: aggressive, efficient, masculine, sexually frigid and masochistic. The husbands were generally: shy, ineffective, hard-working, mother's boys with a tendency to drink heavily. In this relationship, there was a frequent switch of passive and aggressive roles; the violence relieving the husband from his anxiety over his ineffectiveness as a man, while satisfying the wife's masochistic need and helping her handle the guilt arising from hostility expressed in her controlling, castrating, behaviour (Snell, 1964, p. 111).

The concepts of masculinity and femininity which define husband and wife roles create powerful expectations as to how men and women should behave and interact with each other. These expectations reinforce the values of our culture. Sex-role scripting allows a woman to supply the man she relates to with the emotional, feeling functions that are missing in him and he can, in turn, take care of business for her (Wyckoff, 1974, p. 196). The individuals are left incomplete and each seeks fulfillment in the other. Wyckoff stated that women are programmed to be the productive male's complementary other half (Wyckoff, 1974, p. 198). Women are expected to raise children, look after husbands and be nurturing. They are also expected to give more nurturing behaviour than they get back from their family. Men are supposed to initiate, direct and successfully complete sexual intercourse. Women often complain about their sex
lives if they do not achieve orgasm. This difficulty arises because male scripting disconnects the spouse from his sensual feelings and makes him unaware of what the woman wants from him (Wyckoff, 1974, p. 201). According to Steiner, this situation prevents the equal exchange of strokes,* thereby creating a stroke deficit for the woman (Steiner, 1974, p. 376).

With regard to roles, Totenh made an important point when she said that sex-roles channel people into roles and determine how one interacts with others.

Sex-role scripting causes relationships between men and women to have built-in inequalities which, on the whole, favour the man (Steiner, 1974, p. 355).

There are various cultural factors which contribute to male dominance. Not only do cultural definitions of masculinity and femininity substantiate this point but the legal tradition of husband as 'family head' and the Judeo-Christian concept of the superiority of the husband do as well (Hill, 1955, p. 790).

Due to sex-role scripting, it seems likely that some of the boys trained by society to be 'masculine' aggressors will grow up to be wife abusers and girls taught to be passive, submissive and dependent are being set up as 'feminine' victims (Martin, 1976, p. 66). In support of this fact, Whitehurst stated:

*A stroke is defined as a unit of human interaction and recognition. Stroke scarcity is an unhealthy state both physically and emotionally (Steiner, 1974, p. 45).
Our culture teaches men to be tough and ready to fight if necessary. To expect men to also become tender lovers and responsive husbands seems to be asking more than the logic can allow. (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 41)

In continuing the point, he elaborated that

... most men, regardless of class, share the belief that a woman will behave better and may even enjoy the feeling of being put in her 'rightful' (subservient) place by physical punishment. Part of the male folklore has it that women really enjoy a male domination-female submissive relationship. (Whitehurst, 1974; p. 78)

Husbands frequently beat their wives, stated Straus, as a means of maintaining the dominant role in the relationship (Warren, 1977, p. 19). Also, many males respond violently towards their wives out of frustration at being unable to control them, often accusing them, without justification, of being whores and having affairs. In a study of 100 court cases of physical violence between spouses observed in 1970, in a large western Ontario city, there was a strong sense of male uncertainty shown either in an inability to control one's wife, or what was interpreted as male projection of either real or fantasy life sexual problems. More aggressive males seemed to strike out at wives who were passive-aggressive in their involvement (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 686).

Ethnicity has been found to be a factor in the socialization process of the child. Ethnicity, that being the number of generations the parents of families have lived in this country, is also a factor in the amount of aggression shown by their children. Children whose ancestors
have lived in this country for several generations (high ethnic) are less aggressive at home and more so at school than children of low-ethnic parents. Most aggressive are those children whose father is high-ethnic and whose mother is low ethnic (Eron, 1971, p. 143). The male child grows up being habitually more aggressive while in females there is an inhibition against aggression which is early and easily-learned (Eron, 1971, p. 143).

While aggression may be displayed by men for the numerous reasons cited, the adult female is most likely to be aggressive in defense of her offspring and in competition for the same male (Storr, 1968, p. 59).

Birth Order

Birth order has been found to play a part in the development of a child's personality. Each child in the family differs from the other because of the birth order.

It is a common fallacy to imagine that children of the same family are formed in the same environment. Of course there is much which is the same for all children in the same home, but the psychological situation of each child is individual and differs from that of others because of the order of their succession. (Adler, 1964, p. 96)

Therefore, since the child has an essentially different position in the family, she must see all the circumstances of her childhood in an entirely different light (Dreikurs, 1963, p. 37). The eldest child, being the first-born into the family, watches how the parents interact with each other and accepts this as the given way to behave. Researchers
have found that social learning among first-born children included strong identification with the parents (Tomeh, 1975, p. 27). If this child observed her parents physically abusing each other, she may accept this behaviour in her own marital relationship. The male child may also observe that this behaviour is the appropriate way to handle women. Studies of child abusers and violent spouses support the premise that the more an individual is exposed to violence as a child (both as an observer and a victim) the more he or she is violent as an adult (Gelles, 1976, p. 662).

With the birth of a second child, the first-born finds a competitor for the mother's time and attention. The interaction between the first-born and the mother is now reduced. Because of this, the eldest child may experience some loss. This feeling of loss may be turned to anger or resentment which evokes a response in the parents. The child may be given messages through parental behaviour to "Be Good" and "Don't Be A Child." Thus, the child learns how not to show his angry feelings. As the readings have indicated, there is a greater potential for violence when the child learns not to show feelings.

The second-born child is in a different position than the first-born. "From the time she is born, she shares attention with another child and is therefore a little nearer to cooperation than an oldest child" (Ansbacher, 1956, p. 379). The second-born child learns much of her behaviour
from the elder sibling. There is also a great deal of competition between the two. The second-born feels the superiority of the eldest. To counteract the feelings of inferiority, the second child may try hard for achievement or be bad, whichever proves the most gratifying (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41).

Where the third-born children were in the middle of the birth order they experienced feelings of isolation, as opposed to third-born children being the last children in the family who were spoiled and often treated as the "baby" (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41). In a large family of children, the competition which existed between the first two children is repeated again, lower down in the family, but is generally less fierce (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41). Consequently later-born children usually develop more balanced characters (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41).

A middle child is in the situation of neither having the same rights as the older nor the privileges of the younger (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41). She may often feel left out and as a result feel that life treated her unfairly. The youngest child is perceived by the family as the "baby." All the family members spoil her. "She is always the baby of the family, probably the most pampered and faces the difficulties of a pampered child" (Ansbacher, 1956, p. 380). For example, Adler remarked that the spoiled child can never be independent (Adler, 1964, p. 96). The youngest child
can either excel in whatever she does because of the family stimulation or she can experience extreme inferiority feelings; everyone around her is older, stronger or more experienced (Ansbacher, 1956, p. 381). Moreover, she generally develops characteristics which make it likely that other people will help her shape her life, such as helplessness, a winning nature and whimsicality (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41). The researchers assumed that if the abused wife is the youngest of her family, her mate may be resentful of her favourable position. The frustration of her always wanting her own way may provoke violence in the male.

If the child is an only child, she is usually pampered and allowed to have her own way in the family. She also wants to be the centre of attention all the time (Ansbacher, 1956, p. 381). As a result, she comes to regulate her parents' lives and tyrannize over them, demanding that her needs be met (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 41). In later life, she may experience many difficulties, when she is no longer the centre of attention. The individual may go through life continually demanding that his or her needs be met and provoking or employing violence if they are not.

In summation, the researchers found persuasive evidence that birth order also has some affect on the individual's subsequent behaviour and attitudes.

Physical Punishment

Physical punishment, used in various degrees by the
different social classes, plays a role in the formation of the personality. Members of different social classes come to see the world differently, to develop different conceptions of social reality, different aspirations, hopes and fears and different conceptions of the desirable (Kohn, 1975, p. 541). Duvall characterized working-class and lower middle-class parental values as traditional, that is, they want their children to be neat and clean, to obey and respect adults, to please adults. Middle-class parental values are more developmental. They want the children to be eager to learn, to love and confide in parents, to be happy, to share and cooperate. With regard to child-rearing and discipline, working-class parents are more likely to employ physical punishment, while middle-class families rely more on reasoning, isolation, appeals to guilt and other methods involving the threat of loss of love (Kohn, 1975, p. 548). From the readings in child abuse, shaming experiences for the adult, such as loss of a job, will recreate feelings present in childhood and the resultant frustration may lead to anger and abuse. Such an abusive parent may well have come from a home where there was inconsistency in the methods of discipline, but where shaming experiences were common (Carter, 1974, p. 31).

Steinmetz and Straus have pointed out that parents who use physical punishment to control the aggressiveness of their children are likely to increase rather than de-
increase the aggressive tendencies of their child (Steinmetz et al., 1974, p. 3). Also, the child learns that those who love him are those who hit him (Rex, 1977, p. 12). Therefore, the child learns to associate love and violence. These findings have important implications in terms of the couples' methods of relating to each other in marriage. For example, the male learned to use violence toward his mate as an appropriate way of handling his aggression. The female is more likely to remain with her abusive spouse if she herself observed or experienced physical abuse in her parental home, thereby reinforcing her mate's actions.

Thus, in terms of learning and behaviour in the social classes, Whitehurst found that the lower social class uses violence more frequently, both in frequency against the wife and the amount used in one encounter. Perhaps middle-class males see more quickly a threat to social position, law involvement, economic losses and incongruency with self. This does not mean that these men are less aggressive, only that they curb these tendencies sooner (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 687). Even so, wives "cannot ever be exonerated very completely from their own culpability in the development of the violent scene" (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 686).

**Mate Selection**

In the previous sections, it was found that an individual's personality and behaviour pattern were greatly
influenced by the family into which she was born. The learning that took place in the family of origin is brought with her into adulthood and determines her selection of a mate. In order to understand the dynamics of wife abuse, it is important to understand how and why two people come together to form a family and the expectations they carry into the marriage. In this section, the researchers discuss mate selection. Mate selection calls into play all that one has thought, expected and feared in childhood and adolescence. The determinants in mate selection, then, are formed in the family of origin. Factors such as proximity, common backgrounds and personality needs play a significant part in this process.

In the readings, the researchers found the greatest amount of research in this area conducted by sociologists. Listed as factors in mate selection were the homogenous variables such as age, socioeconomic status, propinquity, race, previous marital status and educational level (Murstein, 1976, p. 170). According to Duvall and Hill, people tend to love and marry people like themselves (Duvall, 1962, p. 116). In the child abuse literature, the researchers found that abusing parents tend to marry individuals who have a similarly inadequate background, thus perpetuating the abuse cycle.

Dreikurs wrote that "the whole process of selecting and choosing is based upon deeper psychological processes
which are not accessible to introspection and self-analysis" (Dreikurs, 1946, p. 75). The theory of complementary needs developed by Winch explains the tendency for a person to find a mate whose personality complements his own and whose temperament meets his own basic needs. Winch maintained that sociological variables define a field of eligibles but are not the major determinants of marital choice (Winch, 1958, p. 96). Rather, the choice is made on the basis of unfulfilled personality needs. In other words, an individual selects someone to love and marry based on the other's capacity to fulfill that individual's needs. The potential abuser and his mate both desire marriage in order to meet their dependency needs and feelings of insecurity.

In his article, "Neurotic Choice of Mate," Eidelberg stated that when a neurotic choice is made, "the individual, instead of choosing a person he could be happy with, selects an object he needs in order to avoid recognizing what he is afraid of" (Eidelberg, 1956, p. 58). According to Martin, abused women's motives for marriage stemmed from what they saw as consequences of not marrying and their desire to be free of parental control (Martin, 1976, p. 38). Gayford summarized his findings by stating that all the women he interviewed "had made disastrous marriages, often undertaken by a desire to leave home and be attracted by the protective image of their man" (Gayford, 1975, p. 196). Men's
motives for marriage would more often incorporate fatherhood and provide the man with a companion to do the housework, take care of his sexual needs and look after the children (Martin, 1976, p. 38).

The major dimensions of need relevant to mate selection are nurturance-receptivity and control-submission (Winch, 1952, p. 569). Some of Winch's hypotheses state:

A highly nurturant person will marry someone who is receptive and relatively non-nurturant.
A highly dominant person will marry someone who is highly submissive and relatively non-dominant.
The more dominant spouse tends to be the more overtly hostile spouse.
The more dominant spouse tries to mold the mate into his or her own likeness; that spouse tries to mold the mate into the likeness of the spouse's own opposite-sex parent. The mate is very different from the spouse's own opposite-sex parent.
Persons who assume the parental role in marriage tend not to explore the field of eligibles very widely.
Husbands who assume the role of son in marriage tend not to explore the field of eligibles very widely. (Winch, 1958, pp. 214-217)

In the previous discussion of sex-role scripting, the point was emphasized that women can often be culturally scripted to believe that their role in life is to take care of their husbands. The woman believes that she is incomplete unless she is caring for another person. Likewise, men are culturally scripted to be the stronger, more dominant sex. Sex-role scripting, then, fits in with Winch's theory of nurturance-receptivity in mate selection.

Problems arise, however, in violent families where the wife does not meet the expectations and needs of her
husband. Schultz's study revealed the following sequence: the husband was characterized by a domineering, rejecting mother relationship (Schultz, 1960, p. 260). The child reacted to his mother with passive submission and controlled his aggressive impulses. As a result, the child failed to develop normal patterns of aggression. The unsatisfactory mother-child relationship made for a frustrated dependency and his emotional needs were never fully met (Schultz, 1960, p. 260). The child's dependency influenced his choice of a mate. He married a woman who would mother him and once again the husband took a submissive role in relation to his wife. When his needs were frustrated, his aggression finally broke through. The conflict was one between hostility toward the wife and dependence on her (Schultz, 1960, p. 261).

Tied in with Winch's hypothesis concerning exploration of the field of eligibles, Gayford found that his subjects left school between the ages of 7 and 18; the median age being 15. Age at marriage was between 16 and 29, the median age being 20. The male's age was 20 also. With this information, it is assumed that both wives and husbands would not have developed other intimate relationships before marriage. It would seem that their dependency needs and feelings of insecurity brought the two together. Thus, it would appear that their scripts were complementary and fit together.
Romantic Love

The choice of marital partners is dependent to a great extent on romantic love. Dreikurs stated that the concept of romantic love serves as a stimulation to offset common sense and good judgement (Dreikurs, 1946, p. 14).

It is a daydream of a discouraged person who does not believe in his own future happiness and seeks unrealistic pleasures to soften his despair. (Dreikurs, 1946, p. 14)

The notion that a principal function of marriage is to increase one's personal happiness is closely related to the romantic ideal. For example, similarly inadequate and unhappy backgrounds of both potential mates are drawn together in the hope that they will find marital happiness. Our culture provides us with the following assumptions concerning romantic love: true happiness will be found only in marriage; mutual attraction and a similarity in backgrounds create ideal love relationships; each individual will find an ideal mate (Mowrer, 1972, pp. 160-161). These assumptions as illustrated by Mowrer do little to prepare a couple for marriage and all it entails. It is assumed by the researchers that few abused wives and their spouses prepared well for their marriage relationship. In over half the cases studied by Gayford, there had never been a period of engagement prior to marriage (Gayford, 1975, p. 195). Further lack of consideration is revealed in the same study where one-quarter of the wives interviewed ex-
experienced physical abuse before marriage or living together (Gayford, 1975, p. 195).

Love can be a positive as well as negative emotion which binds a couple together. Love serves a function in supporting the individual's aims. Love is also based on the individual's needs, as pointed out. It has also been shown that for the individual who lacks self-esteem or social interest, love can be an instrument of hostility. Lobsenz and Blackburn make the point clear when they say that the more love, trust and security a person received as a child, the more he will be able to give love in a mature way (Lobsenz et al., 1969, p. 157). In the previous section, the readings indicated that spouses who were involved in physical abuse experienced inadequate mothering in their family of origin.

Consequently, mate selection is a decisive test of the concept of love and marriage. The personal attitude of the child toward the sexes and toward herself, as learned in the parental home, will determine how she will approach love and marriage.

His attitude will influence his choice of a mate and will create the particular conflicts which endanger or enhance his marital happiness. (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 62)

A certain equilibrium is established soon after a couple meets and this equilibrium determines what will happen between them. The researchers took special note of Dreikurs' statement that everyone gets from her mate the
treatment she unconsciously expected in the beginning of the relationship (Dreikurs, 1953, p. 68). Thus, the couple plays a part in evoking and stimulating in each other the behaviour expected and needed.

**Stress and the Family**

In the preceding section on mate selection, the researchers discussed how two people are attracted to each other and form a relationship. They join their identities in marriage to form the nucleus of a new family. In this section, attention focuses on the development of the concept of stress as an important factor in wife abuse. The following contributing factors involving stress affect the marriage relationship: family growth crises, environmental crises, occupation, employment status, economic position, social position, financial circumstances, educational level, physical health, alcoholism, sexuality and self-concept.

According to Selye, stress is the nonspecific response of the body to any demand made upon it (Selye, 1974, p. 27). That is, all agents to which one is exposed produce a nonspecific increase in the need to perform adaptive functions and thereby to re-establish normalcy (Selye, 1974, p. 28). The intensity of the demand for readjustment or adaptation is important in our discussion of stress. Marital conflict is a possibility in any marriage and will occur when the difference in individual
needs between the spouses exceeds their capacity to adapt (Scott, 1974, p. 433). Scott, in his article, "Battered Wives," mentioned that some degree of physical abuse is likely to occur at times of stress. Whitehurst supported this idea when he suggested that it is likely that almost all families suffer from violence at some point (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 687). The potential is there in all of us and at times the frustration level is high enough so as not to dismiss this outcome. Patterns of interaction established over the years become solidified and may well lead to violence (Whitehurst, 1971, p. 687). The exception to this is with regard to couples who have learned not to express physical aggression. Physical abuse occurs due to a failure in adaptation. Once the abuse has reached dangerous proportions, the individual's self-adjusting mechanism has not come into operation to prevent repetition (Scott, 1974, p. 433).

Selye explained that interpersonal stress may create negative effects in others such as hatred, distrust, hostility, jealousy, frustration and an urge for revenge (Selye, 1974, pp. 74-75). These drives may incite aggressiveness in others who are afraid of being harmed and thereby endanger security.

Family Life Crises

The characteristics of today's family may reflect the stress individuals experience. Hill summed this up by stating:
The modern family lives in a greater state of tension precisely because it is the great burden carrier of the social order. In a society of rapid social change, problems outnumber solutions and the resulting uncertainties are absorbed by the members of society who are for the most part also members of families. Because the family is the bottleneck through which all troubles pass, no other association so reflects the strains and stresses of life. (Hill, 1949, p. viii)

The family faces a tenuous situation for the following reasons: the small nuclear family is separated from the extended family; mother lacks the support for her duties with the children; the family moves from place to place failing to establish itself in a community. As a result, problems within the family are poorly dealt with.

Because the goals of society and family life are unclear, families may exhibit confusion and disorganization. Oftentimes, the family fails to achieve a real unity; parents are confused on matters of child-rearing in a society about which they have doubts. The binding power of love and loyalty in family living is fickle and undependable (Ackerman, 1975, p. 285). Ackerman stated that "the emotional stability of the family is upset by mistrust, doubt and fear; there is less feeling of closeness, less sharing, less intimacy and affection" (Ackerman, 1975, p. 286). The family, it seems, lacks knowledge of its own resources for problem-solving. For the woman who has suffered abuse, the family system tends to augment the problem rather than alleviate it. Cooper noted the organization of the family system and how it contributed to the
frequency of wife abuse in terms of the following:

1. the need of men who lack superiority in personal resources to use violence to maintain a superior power position in the family,
2. the antagonism between the sexes engendered by sex-role differentiation and inequality,
3. the perceived inability of many women to escape from a violent marriage because society thrusts the full burden of childrearing on her, denies her equal job opportunities, inculcates a negative self-image in respect to roles other than wife and mother and perpetuates the myth that bringing up a child without a father in the home is damaging to children. (Cooper, 1976, p. 8)

Potential stress points and crises exist at each and every stage of the family life cycle. The study of the family life cycle was appropriate to the research in terms of recognizing stress and potential crisis situations which contribute to abuse. The readings indicated that there was no integrated theory to cover the entire life span. However, important contributions have been made by Erikson (1950), Jung (1933), Buhler (1933, 1935), Fromm (1941), Maslow (1954), Peck (1955) and White (1963). The crucial points in the life cycle which are associated with crises include: pre-natal experience of the mother and father; the birth process; birth of siblings; the first major separation from the home upon entrance into school; transition from various levels of education; courtship relationship; marriage; middle age; retirement; old age; death. During these crises stages, functioning is interfered with, according to the intensity and significance of the problem and the stress involved. The upset associated with
the crisis can take the form of anxiety, fear, guilt, shame or helplessness. Thus, there is some disorganization of functioning. From the readings on wife abuse, the researchers were inclined to believe that families where wife abuse is present experience moderate or major life crises.

The act of transition in the life cycle may be quite stressful. Stress develops into a crisis when the ability to respond to strain is temporarily lost or is ineffective in resolving a current problem situation (Cooper, 1976, p. 1). A crisis may be defined as a time when:

... a person faces an obstacle to important life goals that is for a time, insurmountable through the utilization of customary methods of problem-solving. A period of disorganization ensues, a period of upset, during which many abortive attempts at solution are made. (Caplan, 1961, p. 18)

During these periods, even minor problems may assume crisis proportions. The individual's or family's ability to cope with even minor problems is at a low point.

Pregnancy was the most significant of the family growth crises in relation to abuse that the researchers found. In the marital relationship, one of the situations which may trigger aggression and violence is the wife's pregnancy. In a study by Gelles of 44 families where abuse had occurred one or more times, pregnancy played a part in ten of those families. As well, half of the victims interviewed in the Flynn study had been abused when they were pregnant. Gelles investigated the instance of violence
towards pregnant wives and believed that it occurred frequently enough to be considered important by people studying or working with such families (Gelles, 1975, p. 81).

Gelles cited five factors contributing to pregnant wives being abused by their husbands, the first of these being sexual frustration. Some men believe that sex should not take place while the woman is pregnant, or else that she is ugly, and therefore undesirable for sex. The second of these involves the family transition, stress and strain associated with the changes in the marriage as the couple moves towards parenthood. This is especially so if the couple married because of pregnancy or if a honeymoon pregnancy occurred. Any money from the working wife is reduced if she leaves employment. This causes more economic stress for the family. Many husbands refuse to change their routine and go out, often without their pregnant wives, and this leads to conflict (Gelles, 1975, p. 83).

The third contributing factor of violence towards pregnant wives is the biochemical changes which take place in the wife. Because of these, she may become irritable, depressed, unhappy about her appearance and perhaps more critical of her husband's behaviour, such as the way he drives (Gelles, 1975, p. 83).

Pre-natal child abuse may be the motive of the spouse who punches his wife in the stomach. This may well be an attempt to terminate the pregnancy and relieve himself of
the stresses generated by the child, and to prevent the difference which it will make in the amount of attention the wife gives to him (Gelles, 1975, p. 83).

Lastly, is the defenselessness of the wife, who, in the husband's view, is often unable or unwilling to retaliate and this may make violence more likely (Gelles, 1973, p. 84).

To offset these factors, Gelles supported the idea of the fathers becoming involved with the pregnancy and the concept of parenthood as much as possible. He advocated husband and wife attendance at pre-natal classes early in the pregnancy, family crisis and counselling centres, and the early preparation for parenthood in terms of basic needs for the child. Gelles also advocated planned parenthood, so the couple has or refrains from having children, as they so wish (Gelles, 1975, p. 84). Gelles noted in his study that the crises and transitions of parenthood began during the pregnancy and not only after the child was born (Gelles, 1975, p. 86).

Social Situation

In the readings on child abuse, the researchers found a number of environmental stress factors common to the history of abusing parents. Overcrowding in housing led many abusing parents to remark that their children were always under their feet. Unemployment, money problems, frequent moves and social isolation were also important
factors. Physical stresses such as giving birth at intervals of less than one year; illnesses, fatigue, hunger; a crying, sickly baby; excessive work, shift work and absence of household routine all contributed to body changes raising irritability and lending themselves to violence in predisposed persons (Carter, 1974, p. 37).

A large number of respondents in the Kalamazoo, Michigan study (Flynn, 1975) indicated that abusing males were likely to have financial and employment problems. Stress for the husband included job dissatisfaction, unemployment, underemployment, lower occupational status than his neighbours of his own economic status, lower educational and occupational status than his wife. The victims interviewed, generally speaking, tended to be more often of higher economic and educational levels (Flynn, 1977, p. 17).

Isolation, alienation and powerlessness are also stress producing characteristics of families in which wife abuse occurs. The nuclear family exists in relative isolation, without significant supports. Abusing males and their wives are often cut off from others and have few contacts with people outside their immediate families. According to Cooper, the abused wife probably has few friends or sources of support; she may have no positive links to rewarding work; no assistance with child care, educational or recreational opportunities; she lacks other sources of reinforcement for self-worth and personal growth (Cooper,
1976, p. 13). The situation of isolation intensifies the tendency toward family breakdown and contributes to the incidence of violence.

Alcohol

The researchers observed that alcohol was a precipitating factor in some of the studies of wife abuse. In Flynn's study, as well as others, and in the child abuse literature, "the escalation of argument seems to be frequently associated with excessive use of alcohol which in turn increases the probability of violence" (Flynn, 1977, p. 18). According to the Micklow and Eisenberg study, 60 percent of abusing men attack when drunk (Micklow, 1974). In Gayford's study of 100 physically abused wives, he found that in 44 cases, violence occurred regularly when the husband was drunk. In 52 homes, the husband was frequently drunk and in 22 there were episodes of heavy drinking. Statistics Canada reported that 32.9 percent of murder cases involve the immediate family (Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce, 1976, p. 35).

Gelles stated that "alcohol leads to violence because it sets off a primary conflict over drinking that can extend to arguments over spending money, cooking and sex" (Gelles, 1972, p. 117). However, his research does not substantiate the theory that alcohol is a primary cause of family violence. Bard and Zacker found that alcohol was not the primary cause of many family disputes but was one of a number
of circumstances contributing to the dispute (Bard, 1974, pp. 283-292). Their study found that in only about one-third to one-half of all disputes did one or both disputants appear to have even used alcohol (Bard, 1974, p. 291). Blane's research into the alcoholic personality found that although aggression is apt to occur with those toward whom the alcoholic feels close and toward whom he frequently turns to gratify dependent needs, assault under those circumstances occurs only occasionally (Blane, 1968, p. 38). Individuals who do drink and are violent can shift the blame from themselves onto the alcohol. Gelles stated that having become drunk and then violent, the individual either may deny what occurred or plead for forgiveness (Gelles, 1972, pp. 116-117).

Verbal Aggression

Verbal aggression has been found to lead to physical abuse. According to Flynn, the woman is better at verbal arguments and the man chooses to switch to physical attacks to continue to dominate the situation (Flynn, 1977, p. 18). In a test of the theory that verbal aggression is a substitute for physical aggression, the results were that the more there was verbal expression of aggression, the more there was physical aggression, irrespective of the spouses' personalities (Straus, 1974, p. 13). This "leveling" or giving free expression to one's aggressive feelings is in contrast to "intellectualizing" marital conflicts, a method
which is associated with low amounts of physical violence. These findings support a theory of interaction between the couples, rather than a personality predisposition of one or both partners in the investigation of the causes of husband-wife violence (Straus, 1974, p. 13).

Psychological Factors

The researchers dealt with the ideas of self-worth and self-esteem which are important concepts in the dynamics of wife abuse. Examined were the self-concepts of both husband and wife.

Cooper pointed out that the individual's self-concept and stress are closely interrelated. She stated that "a person's interpretation of a stressful event is important, especially if the interpretation is linked to ideas of self-worth" (Cooper, 1976, p. 3). For example, one's sexuality may be a source of stress. Physical abuse has often been linked to male sexuality and feelings of self. Male sexuality contains aggressiveness in the concepts of pursuit and penetration. It is only when the erotic relationship fails that the aggressive component in love and love itself may turn into hatred (Storr, 1968, p. 68). For a good number of people, their self-esteem is rooted in sexuality, so, unlike the person who has an inner source of self-esteem derived from parental love, after a rejection not only are they hurt and angry, but they are not capable of recovering and finding a new person (Storr, 1968, p. 70). Such people fear separation
and lack of attention. Thus, by irritating, demanding and criticizing a man, a woman is really trying to evoke a dominant response by attacking him for his lack of virility (Storr, 1968, p. 67).

How actively the individual responds to the stressful event has important implications for the study. The ability to respond depends on the individual's current personal and environmental resources, as well as on past learning (Cooper, 1976, p. 3). If an individual has doubts regarding his or her self-worth, the individual will have difficulty responding actively and positively to the stressful situation. Therefore, individuals who have poor self-concepts may be abused or abusing.

A failure to respond to a situation or learned helplessness is often "a result of a deficit in motivation based on previous experiences in which the response was useless" (Cooper, 1976, pp. 5-6). An individual such as this would have difficulty in coping with life crises. She may feel especially vulnerable in the face of stressful events and interpret these events as personal threats. She may lack a firm belief in her abilities and worth. Therefore, a woman who is periodically abused by her husband and feels trapped in the relationship may start to believe that she deserves what she gets (Martin, 1976, p. 153). Often, the individual will feel resentful and this can be expressed passively or aggressively. Moreover, the woman may come to lack motivation
to change her situation.

Martin commented on the mental health of married women. She stated that it is usually the woman who is required to redefine her role in marriage (Martin, 1976, p. 39). She must accommodate, adapt and adjust to conform to her husband's expectations (Martin, 1976, p. 39). In several of the cases studied by Flynn, the husband had expectations of the wife that were not being met. For example, that the wife would not change her personality or her behaviour, that she would be submissive, or that she would not be able to cope well with difficulties (Flynn, 1977, p. 18). The definitions of role and expectations is in keeping with the sex-role expectations of men and women in marriage. For example, women are encouraged to be loving wives and mothers and function well as nurturers and supporters (Wyckoff, 1971, p. 16). Wyckoff stated that:

Because of their role expectations, men often lose touch with their feelings and thus their human warmth. They are tuned out to other people's emotions and needs and thus lack the ability or the need to respond. (Wyckoff, 1971, p. 16)

As a result, some married women experience a need for recognition. Due to the pressures felt in the relationship and because she lives in a situation that does not provide significant recognition, wives express unhappiness, seek marriage counselling and initiate divorce proceedings more often than husbands do (Bernard, 1972, p. 28). This was the case in a survey conducted of Americans concerning
their mental health. Among the married respondents, it was found that generally the women were unhappier, had more problems, felt inadequate as parents and had a more negative and passive outlook on life and showed a more negative self-image (Rossi, 1975, p. 517). These findings indicate that women lose ground in personal development and self-esteem during the early and middle years of adulthood, whereas men gain ground during the same years (Rossi, 1975, p. 517). Research conducted by Scott on physically abused women who remain with their spouses found that these individuals have scarcely established their own independent identities (Scott, 1974, p. 436).

A high level of self-esteem may be dependent upon the adequacy of earlier preparation for adult roles in marriage, parenting and employment. Also, if the abused wife does not have an adequate support system, including friends or relatives who can reinforce her sense of worth, she must rely on her spouse's definitions of herself which are usually negative and degrading. The researchers were persuaded by their readings that women who have been abused have poor self-concepts and have never established an identity for themselves prior to marriage. The husbands have inadequate personalities and many were abused as children or witnessed parental abuse.

Why Do Women Stay?

The individual's self-concept is a major determinant
in why abuse is perpetuated and why a wife remains with the husband who abuses her. Again, cultural scripting encourages women to believe that marital breakdown represents their failure as women. Cultural scripting also fosters dependency in a woman. Many women believe that marriage gives their lives meaning and that they have no value as individuals apart from their husbands. As previously mentioned, the woman has been taught that her role in life is to care for her husband and children. Through her marriage vows, she promised to stay with him in sickness and in health.

The child abuse literature mentioned fear of spouse as well as fear of separation, as reasons for the couple remaining together. A fear of one's spouse, often connected with drinking, is an indicator of high marital tension. Because of this high tension level, many abusing couples have separated and reunited a number of times, indicating not only a failure to arrive at effective solutions to their problems, but also great fears of permanent separation or loss (Elmer, 1967, p. 29). Separation may re-enact childhood fears of rejection or loss of parental figures and may trigger an instance of abuse.

Weiss claimed that the tendency either to stay with or return to an unsatisfactory relationship is very strong. He called this the "attachment" phenomenon (Weiss, 1975, p. 44).

Even when marriages turn bad and other components of love fade or turn into their opposites, attachment is likely to remain. (Weiss, 1975, p. 44)
Though their lives may be threatened or in jeopardy, some women will remain with their husbands because of attachment which developed over the years.

Gayford found the following reasons for women returning to their abusers.

Twenty-seven returned to their husband after he had pleaded and promised reform, but in seventeen, threats and demonstration of further violence was used to achieve the wives' return. Reluctantly, fourteen women returned because there was nowhere else to go, while thirteen came back because the children were still in the marital home. Only eight went back because they felt love or sorrow for their husband. (Gayford, 1975, p. 195)

Despite the reasons cited, it is important to keep in mind that despite the misery and suffering in the marital relationship, certain vital needs are being fulfilled for both spouses. Based on the theories of marital choice, the emotional patterns of the spouses complement each other so that their behaviours are perpetuated within the marital relationship. The following complementary patterns which provide need-gratification, as well as an equilibrium, are discussed by Mittelman (Mittelman, 1956, pp. 682-684).

1. One partner is dominant and aggressive; the other is submissive, passive and masochistic.
2. One partner is emotionally detached; the other craves affection.
3. Continuous rivalry between the partners for aggressive dominance.
4. One mate is helpless and craves dependency from the other; the other is endlessly supportive.
5. One mate alternates between periods of dependency and self-assertion; the other between periods of helpfulness and of unsatisfied need for affection.

The role alternation and tenuous balance serves to perpetuate
the vicious circle of abuse in the relationship, perhaps for years. In the research by Snell et al., the couples studied had been married thirteen years and violence had occurred throughout the duration. This was the first court charge and in most cases the eldest male child was involved in the fight which led to the charge (Snell, 1964, p. 108). The researchers assumed that the marital balance was satisfactory and the interference of the adolescent son on his mother's behalf served to disturb it. In each case, the father-son relationship was distant or troubled and the father complained of the close mother-son relationship (Snell, 1964, p. 109). Were it not for the child stepping in and perhaps forcing his mother to take action, the violence might have continued for the duration of the marriage.

Gelles' research has found that women who have been physically abused as children and those who have observed their fathers abusing their mothers may approve the use of physical abuse and expect that husbands are supposed to hit their wives (Gelles, 1976, p. 662). In this situation, the wife would be likely to remain with her spouse.

**Emotional Factors**

The researchers expect that a small number of abused wives and their husbands will display emotional disturbances. Emotional disturbance was cited by the wives in Flynn's study to explain their spouse's behaviour. As well, Gayford described a picture emerging of men,
... with low frustration tolerance, who often completely lose control under the influence of alcohol, punch and kick their wives in a savage manner perhaps using weapons to aid their assault. Pregnancy seems to heighten the tirade and remorse is either forgotten or meaningless. (Gayford, 1975, p. 196)

In terms of outlook, however, the abuser may view his spouse as the embodiment of evil, as one needing violence to bring justice, correct a defect, produce better behaviour, or make the behaviour more thoughtful and responsive (Usdin, 1972, p. 111). If the victim can show her attacker that the violence is based on his projections, then he will likely feel guilt and shame (Usdin, 1972, p. 116). However, often the wife abuser's aggressive behaviour fulfills the masochistic needs of his wife and is therefore necessary for the couple's equilibrium (Snell, 1973, p. 110). It seems reasonable to look for a sadomasochistic element in the relationship, especially if the wife persistently returns to an abusing husband. Thus, if an individual stays in a situation where she is likely to be repeatedly abused, it is hard to imagine that she is not gaining some sort of satisfaction.

The Masochistic Personality

The development of such a personality, termed masochistic, begins at infancy, as parents show concern if their infant or young child demonstrates that he has suffered. A child who is otherwise neglected and feels unloved soon learns how to stimulate this show of concern or guilt from his parents (Panken, 1973, p. 58). The father of such a
child may well be critical and undermining, perhaps inadequate to the point where he feels threatened by his wife. His wife may herself be subtly dominating but have attached or submerged dependency needs. Further, she may be depriving, immature and overidealized in her expectations (Panken, 1973, p. 91). Such a mother may give very little mothering to her children, and expect one of her children to almost assume the parental role toward the child's siblings. When the child grows up, she may project any hostility she had toward her younger siblings onto her own children (Panken, 1973, p. 201).

Before even reaching the point where she has children, the masochistic adult has a tenuous self-image. This may largely be due to parental ambivalence when the child was identifying with the parent, or else being party to the parents' criticisms of one another (Panken, 1973, p. 91). The life of the masochist is "the attempt of an intimidated individual to cope with life and its dangers by dependency and unobtrusiveness" (Horney, 1973, p. 34).

The formation of the masochistic personality may be attributed in large part to the presence of five elements in childhood. The first of these is the lack of oral and tactile stimulation in the infant-mother relationship, this originating from the mother's ambivalent, constricting, and overwhelming attitude. Secondly, development of the child's ego functions fall behind other developmental areas
as the mother fails to provide the maximum emotional opportunity for the child. Thirdly, the child herself begins self-degradation in an attempt to satisfy her mother and her negative expectations, perhaps unconscious ones, of the child. The child hides anger and negative feelings for her parents as she fears loss or separation. As the child grows up, she transfers the sadomasochistic interplay from her mother to other adults in an attempt to continue a parental tie and avoid separation. Lastly, the nature of the child's relationship with her father and the implications of the father's role in the family and society during the child's life are vital in setting up masochistic formations (Panken, 1973, p. 92).

Masochistic persons will go to great lengths to be abused and imposed upon. Their satisfaction and security is derived from anxiety (Sullivan, 1973, p. 57). Their need for anxiety and crises emphasizes their identity and aliveness. They have few genuine or independent feelings and avoid constructive or self-assertive projects, as any success achieved would interfere with their needs for dependency and unobtrusiveness (Panken, 1973, p. 139).

Women with such needs seem to fall in love with men who abuse and humiliate them. In relationships with men, the sexual act may be considered to be one of violence and submission. Perhaps the entire preparation for sexual activity in these women has been fraught with masochistic implications. Rape, loss of virginity, menstruation, pain,
childbirth, are all linked in a negative way for these women, who expect that sex is yet another source of punishment from a loved one (Reich, 1973, p. 35).

Studies have shown that the masochist uses fantasies of rape or attack, rejection or excitement, to feel greatest arousal during sexual activity. Skin eroticism is important to the masochist as related to the fear of loneliness or losing contact with the love object. In spite of a directly physical approach to men generally, the masochist female often seems unaware as to her reasons for the selection of such mates. It is common for these women, however, to have elaborate fantasies of revenge against their men (Panken, 1973, p. 90).

The Sadistic Personality

Just as the masochist sets herself up for abuse and humiliation, her often sadistic husband enjoys imparting these behaviours upon her. In 1900, Krafft-Ebing, in defining sadism, considered it the pathological extension of the normal aggressive component of male sexuality. The relationship between sexuality and cruelty set off one another. The sadistic person has a weak, inadequate ego which is bent on the building up of self and the acquisition of force. Such a person lives forcefully through others and he needs to enslave, humiliate, abuse or exploit his partner. He hopes by such force to degrade others to the extent that he unconsciously feels himself to be (Panken,
With the needs of one partner feeding into those of
the other, the union of the two seems bound for abuse and
destruction. Worse still is the union of sado-masochistic
persons, the sado-masochist being the one who suffers and
inflicts suffering. Such a union may be defined as "the
simultaneous existence of submissive and aggressive traits
in each spouse which lead to a high degree of destructiveness in the marital relationship" (Reynolds, 1959, p. 545).

In this type of relationship, quarreling seems to be
the central focus of the couple, with husbands frequently
complaining that their wives: belittle, nag, boss and
criticize them; and wives complaining that their husbands
leave them alone, don't tell them everything, and don't
help with housework, when frequently the male in these
couples does take most of the responsibility for doing the
housework. The result of this interaction is verbal and
physical fights, brought on by one partner doing something
known to provoke their mate (Reynolds, 1959, p. 546).

From the nine cases in which these findings are
based, the social workers saw that there was, in the majority
of cases, no financial planning, no mutual interests or
close relationships between the couple and family or
friends, the majority of the women were frigid and most
of the men had potency difficulties; neither spouse was
willing to assume responsibility for birth control, there-
fore, the arrival of children was unplanned and served to increase marital tension. To substantiate the readings cited earlier of the masochistic cycle, children often displayed the parents' sado-masochistic behaviour and the eldest child was often disturbed (Reynolds, 1959, p. 546).

All clients reported that their family of origin was one in which quarrelling and bitterness was the norm between parents during their childhood; punishment was frequent and affection rare. Each of these people left home at an early age because of overcrowding or a broken home (Reynolds, 1959, p. 546).

Sado-masochists frequently display distorted judgement, unsound reality-testing and very low frustration tolerance. They are highly narcissistic, having a limited capacity to form mature relationships, and are impulsive and dependent (Reynolds, 1959, p. 546).

It is this narcissistic quality which may be at the root of their aggressive outbursts. Lowenstein maintained that man's worst aggressive outbursts are caused by wounded narcissism (Lowenstein, 1977, p. 138). Therefore, it is excessive vulnerability rather than excessive aggression at the root of problems. She believed that one feels aggression upon occasions of loss, sickness, failure, deprivation and betrayal. These are all forms of narcissistic injury, and consequently potential times of abuse (Lowenstein, 1977, p. 138).
If one draws an analogy between the behaviours of the sado-masochistic partners, and the marital couples wherein the wives are abused, it is possible to find many similarities. If there are, indeed, likenesses in the origin of such behaviours, then work with a woman after she has been abused will be of little value, compared to the work that could have been done on a preventative basis were one able to identify the types of family structures prone to produce women who would be likely to become abused.

Jealousy

Scott commented on jealousy as being a dangerous passion that constituted a well-recognized motive for crimes of violence (Scott, 1974, p. 437). It is difficult to distinguish the jealous personality from the pathological jealousy and delusional jealousy. To account for this, Scott spoke of a continuous gradation from the situational jealousy, through various degrees of sensitivity to rejection, jealous personalities and illnesses of various sorts having a delusional component which can be highly dangerous (Scott, 1974, p. 437).

Jealousy with regard to sexuality is not an uncommon motive for abuse. The husband, already inadequate in character, experiences a great deal of insecurity if he suspects that his wife has been unfaithful to him. He feels that he has lost control of his possession (Martin,
Contraception is rarely practiced by the wife of a jealous man. The husband tries to find security in keeping his wife pregnant and therefore captive (Martin, 1976, p. 60). As already pointed out, the wife abuser also beats his wife if she is pregnant. There is the fear that she may have conceived by another man and he wishes to kill the child out of jealousy and hate. Martin pointed out that he may also be expressing jealousy toward the child and resentment against changes it will bring to his life (Martin, 1976, p. 60).

Jealous husbands often rigidly adhere to the cultural scripts learned in his family of origin. For example, sex roles serve to maintain the double standard in society: virginal, loyal wife; virile husband who must protect his honour and property (Martin, 1976, p. 61). This adherence to sex roles is typified in the following study by Whithurst, "Violence Potential in Extramarital Sexual Responses," in which questionnaires were administered to 142 students from night classes as a Western Ontario University and 50 businessmen in an urban service club. Of the respondents, 62 percent believed there were occasions which justified acting violently in a situation where one spouse was involved in extra-marital sex. Nearly one-third stated that violence in situations of extra-marital sex was not solely negative, but could as well be a sign of love and concern. Twelve percent of the 75 males stated that they felt it
was appropriate to beat their wives if she engaged in extramarital sex.

Role of the Victim

Gayford refers to some women who are severely emotionally disturbed.

These women often need protection against their own stimulus-seeking activities. Though they flinch from violence like other people, they have the ability to seek violent men or by their behaviour to provoke attack from the opposite sex. (Gayford, 1975, p. 197)

The physically abused woman's tendency to continually incite violence in their spouse may be deemed a symptom of an emotional disturbance. Professor Donald Dutton, a professor of social psychology at the University of British Columbia, discussed the physically abused woman's tendency to incite violence in their spouses:

Some women, maybe, were battered about as children and they now have a way of eliciting violence from men because it is exciting; because it shows the men really care about them; because when they were young it was the only way their parents showed they really cared about them. It's better to be battered about a bit than to be ignored. (Dutton, 1976, p. 4)

In essence, this pathological response is taken for granted in their present marital relationship. Often, the women accept and approve of the abuse because it is the only form of communication they know.

In summary, the readings in child abuse literature indicated some association between the abuse and emotional disturbances. The act of abuse suggests, according to
Carter, that "parents have suffered early fundamental damage to certain aspects of personality, with resulting inability, or serious difficulty in controlling aggression and tolerating frustration" (Carter, 1974, p. 31). In speaking of wife abuse and the presence of emotional disturbance in the spouses, it is not always clear whether an early personality disorder or later precipitating factors, such as stress or drinking and marital conflict, caused the emotional disturbance. The researchers have presented theories found in the readings to develop and explain some of the reasons for physical abuse. Added to the factors presented here were: dependency, fear of loneliness, and not knowing that there is any better form of relationship. The researchers were led to a belief that abusing couples have a conspicuous inability to form genuine relationships with themselves and others. Wasserman pointed out that this kind of situation exists because the individuals are too absorbed by their own hurt feelings and therefore cannot sympathize with the the feelings of others (Wasserman, 1974, p. 224). More research into the area of emotional disturbance is essential before any further opinions about its being a significant factor in physical abuse between spouses can be substantiated.

**Summary**

Four areas relating to physical abuse in married women were reviewed. Personality development and behaviour
were examined in order to provide an understanding of how the individual's early development within the family of origin plays a part in the dynamics of abuse. Four aspects, considered important, were reviewed, these being: the parent-child aspect, the sex-role aspect, the birth order aspect and the aspect involving use of physical punishment in the parental home.

Mate selection was discussed as an important factor in the study in terms of unfulfilled needs and the expectations carried into a relationship.

The broad area of stress and its impact on the family was reviewed. Family growth crises were explored with particular importance placed on the wife's pregnancy. Social and psychological factors were discussed in relation to self-concept and need-gratification of the spouses. Verbal aggression was considered as a precipitating factor in abuse, along with alcohol and sex.

Finally, the review outlined the emotional factors which were thought to play a part in physical abuse. The review concluded with comments on the role of emotional disturbance in the dynamics of wife abuse.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The research design and methodology the researchers employed in carrying out this project is described under the following headings: (1) Statement of Purpose; (2) Operational Definitions; (3) Hypothesis and Assumptions; (4) Type of Study; (5) Population and Sample; (6) Data Collection; (7) Limitations; and (8) Data Analysis.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore and attempt to identify through interviews with abused wives and through research material, salient determinants of physical abuse in the wives in the sample.

Operational Definitions

This section defines concepts employed in the study. Operational definitions are the definitions of these concepts, and are used throughout the study in the contexts stated here.

Family of origin refers to the parental family. A family begins when an adult man and woman, each having a distinct personal identity developed within their families of origin, join their identities in marriage to form a new family. The family is an important socializing agent. In the family,
cultural expectations are transmitted to the infant, forming his habits, setting his standards and defining his roles. "Family expectations define the initial roles of the child in his family and prepare him for later roles in the community" (Tomeh, 1975, p. 14). It was assumed that the families in the sample were involved in the abuse cycle. Children learn how to relate to others as parents relate to each other and to their children. Children learn parenting by watching their parents and the parents of significant others interact.

The child's early subjective perceptions become the basis of his decisions on how to be as a person and how to perform as a person. Thus, the child at an early age decides on his life script or life plan. According to Steiner, "the script guides the person's behavior from late childhood throughout life... and the trained observer is often able to detect and predict the course of a person's life quite accurately" (Steiner, 1974, p. 63).

Cultural scripts transmitted by the family, are spoken and unspoken assumptions about human behavior that result from culturally endorsed messages, injunctions and myths about how people should act, feel and think" (Justice, et al., 1976, pp. 59-60).

Birth order has an affect upon personality development, sex-role scripting, and subsequent behavior. "Through birth order, families transmit and children acquire patterns
of sex-specific behavior" (Tomeh, 1975, p. 27).

**Mate Selection** is important to the study. The choice of a marriage partner is influenced by the needs one mate has and his or her self-perception. What attracted the couple together in the first place for the process of abuse to begin? According to Winch, "in mate selection, each individual seeks within his or her field of eligibles for that person who gives the greatest promise of providing him or her with maximum need gratification" (Winch, 1952, p. 585). **Abuse** is a result of social and psychological factors based on the premise that there is a failure in adaptation or a failure to acquire adequate social learning. In the broad sense, abuse refers to non-physical abuse as well as physical abuse (Scott, 1974, p. 433).

In this study, the researchers defined **abused wife** as a woman who has been physically abused by her spouse. The violence severity scale developed by Gelles (1976) was used as an indicator of the extent of abuse. This scale was given in the Introduction.

**Frustration** is any interference with some ongoing goal-directed activity (Berkowitz, 1962, p. xi). **Stress** may originate with an event in the environment. It is always accompanied by internal, emotional and thought responses in the individual. The stressful event poses a threat when stress is accompanied by doubts regarding self-worth. The event will be interpreted by the individual as
evidence of personal failure. This study examined various sources of stress: environmental, interpersonal and psychological, as well as having discussed various degrees of frustration resulting from stressful situations (Cooper, 1976, p. 1).

Anger is an internal condition making aggressive responses relatively likely to occur (Berkowitz, 1962, p. xi).

Aggression "denotes behavior aimed at the injury of some object" (Berkowitz, 1962, p. xii).

Violence is "any behavior which threatens or causes physical damage to an object or person. Violent behavior may or may not emerge from conflict and may or may not be characteristic of individuals who are otherwise involved in extensive conflict-ridden interaction" (O'Brien, 1971, p. 692).

Conflict is "a product of social interaction and typically a special form of effort directed at the resolution of a decision-making impasse" (O'Brien, 1971, p. 692).

Hypothesis and Research Questions

The research hypothesized that there may be a relationship between family of origin and present marital relationship with regard to wife abuse, as perceived by the wife.

The researchers formulated the following research questions as the basis of their research project.

Is there a connection between an individual's be-
haviour in family of origin and his/her behaviour in marital relationship?

If there is such a connection, what is it?

What effect does the family of origin have in the individual's marital relationship where wife abuse is present?

What part does mate selection play as a possible determinant of abuse?

Will individuals who report being abused as children likely be abused or abusers as adults?

To what degree does social, physical and emotional isolation versus family integration with its network of relatives and friends play with regard to physical abuse?

To what extent is abuse approved of, or disapproved of between spouses?

Assumptions

Few assumptions can be supported because of the lack of research and inquiry into the subject. However, the researchers have formulated the following:

- that the expression of one's anger and frustration is learned behaviour

- that physical abuse is learned behaviour

- that the physical expression of anger by males is more socially acceptable than physical expression by females

- that women who report being abused will have gone through related experiences in their family of origin
that abusive men will have experienced physical abuse between their parents or significant others.

- that individuals from homes where there is physical abuse will choose spouses who will complement their need to give and receive physical abuse in their marriage relationship.

- that there will be some degree of emotional stress among spouses where physical abuse is present in the marriage relationship.

**Type of Study**

Tripodi et al. identified three major types of research, namely experimental, quantitative-descriptive and exploratory. This study fell within the quantitative-descriptive type, which is defined as:

... empirical research investigations which have as their major purpose the delineation or assessment of characteristics of phenomena, program evaluation, or the isolation of key variables. These studies may use formal methods as approximations to experimental design with features of statistical reliability and control to provide evidence for the testing of hypotheses. All of these studies use quantitative devices for systematically collecting data from populations, programs, or samples of populations or programs. They employ personal interviews, mailed questionnaires and one or other rigorous data-gathering devices and survey sampling procedures. (Tripodi et al., 1969, p. 38)

Quantitative-descriptive studies were further classified into four sub-types based on purpose or methods of the investigation. The study fitted the hypothesis testing sub-type. This was defined as:

... those quantitative-descriptive studies which contain in their design of research explicit hypotheses to be tested. The hypotheses are typically derived from theory and they may be either statements of cause-effect relationships or statements of associa-
tion between two or more variables without reference to a causal relationship. (Tripodi et al., 1969, p. 39)

This study was classified as:

Major-type: quantitative-descriptive
Sub-type: hypothesis-testing.

Population and Sample

Population was defined as "the aggregate of all of the cases that conform to some designated set of specifications" (Selltiz et al., 1959, p. 509). Thus, the population for this study included physically abused wives who have sought assistance from Hiatus House in Windsor. Some of these women also had contact with Legal Assistance of Windsor.

It is generally much more economical in time, effort and money to get the desired information for only some of the elements (individuals) than for all of them. When we select some of the elements with the intention of finding out something about the population from which they are taken, we refer to that group of elements as a sample. (Selltiz et al., 1959, p. 510)

The study sample comprised those women in the population who were willing to participate, who had or were receiving service from Hiatus House, and those whom the executive director of Hiatus House believed would talk of their situations without undue upset.

The two main types of sampling are probability sampling and non-probability sampling. The researchers' method of sampling falls into the second category, indicating
that "there is no way of estimating the probability that each element has of being included in the sample and no assurance that every element has some chance of being included" (Selltiz et al., 1959, p. 514-515).

This was applicable to this study, as the researchers spoke with abused wives from Hiatus House. The rational for using this particular sampling method and sample source was one of necessity. Although the number of abused wives who identify themselves and seek agency help is very small in relation to the total number of abused wives, the cooperation of this agency was our means of talking with even this segment of the population of abused wives.

Method of Data Collection

A standardized questionnaire, meaning that "questions are presented with exactly the same wording and in the same order to all respondents," (Selltiz et al., 1959, p. 255) was administered by the researchers to the study participants on an individual basis. The questionnaire was constructed to maximize understanding by the subjects. However, the researchers were both present to clarify any questions the subjects did not understand.

The first part of the questionnaire contained personal, individual and occupational data. In categorizing occupation, the researchers used the United States Bureau of Census' classification of occupations (U.S. Bureau of
the Census, 1969, p. 223-225) which listed several occupations under the broader headings used. This served to make data collection much easier. Questions concerning family of origin, marital choice, and marital relationship were other broad areas covered in our questionnaire.

The questionnaire was composed of many 'fixed-alternative' as opposed to 'open-ended' questions, the 'fixed-alternative' questions being "standardizable, simple to administer, quick and relatively inexpensive to analyze" (Selltiz et al., 1959, p. 257). Several open-ended questions were used, as these enabled the subjects to express their feelings and opinions on issues that were not as easily categorized.

The meeting with each subject was arranged by the agency staff, and took place at either Legal Assistance of Windsor or Hiatus House. Therefore, the researchers did not know the name, address, or telephone number of the subjects, a requirement which both of the agencies insisted upon.

Pretest. The questionnaire was pretested on two of our colleagues, one each on April 5 and April 9, 1977. The procedure for pretesting took the form of an interview, with both researchers present in each case, one to conduct the interview and the other to record the responses. It was decided that this procedure would be used during the actual interviews, since it did not inhibit the responses
of the participants, nor reduce the effectiveness of the questionnaire.

The times taken for the pretest interviews were 30 minutes and 70 minutes. As a result of the pretest, only minor revisions were made in the questionnaire, these largely in terms of placement and wording, rather than content.

The researchers each conducted 10 of the 20 interviews and recorded the alternate 10 interviews with the subjects. The final interview was completed on July 5, the interviews having started on May 10, 1977. The questionnaire is found in Appendix A.

Limitations of Design

The limitations in this study were those dealing with reliability and validity. First, our sample was small (20) and was drawn exclusively from Hiatus House, and predictions beyond this setting were not likely. Also, as mentioned earlier, the abused wives who seek agency help are only a small percentage of the total number of abused wives. By no means can they be generalized to the total population.

Although most of the information we received from the study participants was first-hand, it was based on childhood recollections. Because of this, there were possible gaps and distortions in the data. The subjectivity of much of the content of the questionnaire was another
limitation. Both the running of a pretest and the fact that our questionnaires were personally administered by both researchers may compensate for limitations in the study. It remains unknown whether the subjects truly represent the population.

**Data Analysis**

Using a precoded Master Data Sheet, the data were compiled on IBM coding sheets. The data were then key-punched on computer cards from these coding sheets, and processed by the computer, using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, subprogram Crosstabs (Bent et al., 1970, pp. 115-126).

Much of the analysis involved determining frequencies and percentages so that variables associated with abuse could be examined. To identify the major factors associated with wife abuse and to consider how these factors were related to one another, the researchers correlated all the variables studied with the use of the program Crosstabs. This output enabled us to accomplish the aforementioned goals and to formulate recommendations for further research in the area of wife abuse. Pearson's Correlation coefficient was applied in all cases to determine the existence of relationships between pairs of variables.

**Summary**

The study was classified as quantitative-descriptive
and sub-type hypothesis-testing. The area of focus for the study was the relationship, if present, between family of origin and present marital relationship with regard to wife abuse. Twenty abused wives having had contact with Hiatus House were interviewed. Data were collected through the use of a standardized questionnaire containing 57 questions. The questionnaire was pretested prior to the actual interviews.
CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

In this chapter the data is presented in two major sections. The first section is essentially a description of the subjects, while the second section identifies and analyses significant factors associated with wife abuse.

Characteristics of the Subjects

The analysis of the data and the findings were based on a sample of 20 abused wives and mothers interviewed between May and July, 1977.

Age of Subjects and Spouses

Forty percent of the subjects fell within the 25-29 year age group, while 35 percent of the spouses fell within the 30-34 age group. Table 3 illustrates the distribution of ages of both subjects and spouses.

Occupation of Subjects and Spouses

The occupations of the subjects and spouses were classified under eight broad categories, the last of which included the category of housewife. Seventy percent of the subjects fell into the 'other' category. Fifty-five percent of the males fell into the 'operatives' category. The distribution of occupation of subjects and spouses is shown in Table 4.

82.
### Table 3

Age of Subjects and Spouses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4

Occupation of Couples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Subjects Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Spouses Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Professional and technical workers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Managers and administrators</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Salesworkers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Clerical workers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Craftsmen and kindred workers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Operatives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Service workers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Other</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annual Household Income

The annual income of 52.6 percent of the households of the subjects was $13,000 or more. Although Whitehurst (1974) states that the lower social class use marital violence more frequently, this study indicates the presence of wife abuse in other social classes as well. Table 5 illustrates the range of annual household incomes.

Table 5

Annual Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Under $5,000/yr.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. $5,000-$6,000/yr.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. $6,100-$8,000/yr.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. $8,100-$10,000/yr.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. $10,100-$13,000/yr.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. $13,100+/yr.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>52.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The income of one subject was not ascertainable.

Present Marital Status

At the time of the interviews, 55 percent of the subjects were separated. Table 6 illustrates the present marital status of the subjects.

Length of Marriage

Thirty percent of the subjects were married 1-4
years, and another 30 percent were married 5-9 years. Table 7 shows the length of marriage of the subjects.

Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Married</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Separated</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Divorced</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Common-law</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Widow</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Single</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Marriage</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Under 1 year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 1-4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 5-9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 10-14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 15-19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 20+</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Children in Subjects' Care

The majority of subjects, 60 percent, had two or three children in their care. Table 8 illustrates the number of children in the subjects' care.

Table 8
Number of Children in Subjects' Care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: None</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: One</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: 2-3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: 4-5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: 6+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education of Subjects and Spouses

The majority of our subjects, 70 percent (14) had not completed high school. Eighty percent of the spouses had not completed high school. This level of education was comparable to that found in Gayford's study (1975). Table 9 shows the education of the subjects and spouses.

Religion of Subjects and Spouses

Sixty-five percent of the subjects and 75 percent of the spouses were Roman Catholics. There were four mixed
marriages. The literature relates to Judeo-Christian religion in supporting the male spouse as superior (Hill & Becker, 1955). The Roman Catholic religion supports the theory of people staying in their marriages. Table 10 illustrates the number of subjects and spouses classified by religion.

Table 9
Education of Couples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Some public school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Completed public school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Some high school</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Completed high school</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Community or technical college</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 10
Religion of Couples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Protestant</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Roman Catholic</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jewish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. None</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agreement on Demonstration of Affection

In the area of agreement on demonstration of affection between subjects and spouse, 11 subjects (55 percent) said they never agreed, and an additional 5 (25 percent) stated they seldom agreed. Table 11 gives the subjects' opinions on agreement on demonstration of affection.

Table 11
Agreement on Demonstration of Affection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Always</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Often</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Seldom</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Never</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Violence Severity Scale

The 20 subjects had all had some degree of physical abuse inflicted upon them by their spouses. Table 12 illustrates the number of subjects, classified by violence severity. Violence began under one month of living together for 25 percent of the spouses, 1-5 months for 5 percent, 5-9 years for 25 percent, and 10+ years for 5 percent. Subjects who had been abused only once number 10.6 percent, 21.1 percent were abused "a few times a year," 5.2 percent were abused monthly, 28.3 percent weekly, and 36.9 percent said it varied greatly - there was no pattern, and missing data were recorded for one subject who found the question too upsetting to answer.

Table 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pushed or shoved</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Threw object</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Slapped or bit</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Punched or kicked</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pushed down</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Hit with hard object</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Choked</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Stabbed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Shot</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abuse Affected by Subjects' Pregnancy

Twenty-five percent of the subjects (5) stated that their pregnancies had an affect on the abuse. Table 13 illustrates the number of subjects among whom pregnancy had an affect. Table 14 shows the part these women felt pregnancy played in the abuse.

Table 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected by Pregnancy</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Yes</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 14

Part Pregnancy Played in Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Pregnancy Played</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Large</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Some</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pregnancy played no part in abuse in 15 (75%) of cases.
Abuse Affected by Alcohol Consumption of Spouse

Although none of the subjects felt they consumed alcohol to a point which affected the violence inflicted upon them, 55 percent stated that their spouse's alcohol consumption affected the amount of physical abuse they received. Table 15 shows the responses to the affect alcohol consumption by their spouse had on the abuse. Table 16 shows the part these women felt alcohol consumption by their spouses played in the abuse.

Table 15
Abuse Affected by Alcohol Consumption of Spouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected by Alcohol</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Yes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 16
Part Alcohol Played in Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Alcohol Played</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Large</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Some</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Alcohol played no part in abuse in 9 (45%) of cases.
Spouse's Behaviour Similar to that in His Parent's Marriage

Seventy-two point two percent of the subjects stated that their spouse's behaviour in their marriage was very similar to the behaviour in his parent's marriage. This supports our research question linking an individual's behaviour in his family of origin with that in present marital relationship. The male child looks to his father to see how to be a male and how to use his anger. The female, having learned how to receive or to handle anger from her mother, is more likely to perpetuate the abuse if she observed or experienced physical abuse in her parental home. Table 17 illustrates the degree of similarity according to the subjects.

Table 17
Spouse's Behaviour Similar to that in His Parent's Marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarity</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Very similar</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Somewhat similar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Not at all similar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age of Separation between Subjects and Parents and Spouse and Parents

Forty percent of the subjects and 55 percent of spouses were separated from their parents (through illness, death, divorce) before the age of 15. Table 18 shows the number of subjects and spouses, classified by age of separation from their respective parents.

Table 18
Age of Separation Between Subject and Parents and Spouse and Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Separation</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Birth-4 years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 5-9 years</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 10-14 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 15-19 years</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 20+ years</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Not applicable</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Don't know</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physical Abuse Present in Family of Origin of Subject and/or Spouse

Forty-five percent of the subjects and 55 percent of the spouses were raised in a home where physical abuse was present. Fifty percent of the spouses in a sample of 16 in which the information was known, were abused themselves as
children. Studies of child and wife abuse support the researchers assumption that the more an individual is exposed to violence as a child, both as an observer and a victim, the more he or she is violent as an adult (Gelles, 1976). The presence of physical abuse in family of origin is shown in Table 19.

Table 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Abuse Present</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Don't know</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birth Order of Subjects

Twenty-five percent of the subjects were second-born and an additional 30 percent were third born. Literature states that second borns have more feelings of inferiority. To counteract the feelings of inferiority, the second child may try hard for achievement or be bad, whichever proves the most gratifying. Where the third borns were in the middle of a family, they experienced feelings of isolation. When the third born was the youngest child, she was often spoiled and treated as the baby of the family (Dreikurs, 1953).
Table 20 shows birth order of subjects.

### Table 20

#### Birth Order of Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth Order</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Birth Order of Spouses**

The birth order of the spouses was almost equally divided among oldest, youngest, and middle child. The spouse's birth order is shown in Table 21.

### Table 21

#### Birth Order of Spouses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth Order</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oldest</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subjects' Reasons for Marriage

Only 30 percent of all subjects stated that they married for love. As noted in the literature, love serves a function in support of the individual's aims. It is also based on the individual's needs and may be a positive as well as negative emotion (Dreikurs, 1952). Twenty-five percent married to get away from home, 5 percent for financial reasons, and 15 percent due to pregnancy. These last three reasons are also quoted in the literature as common reasons for the marriages of abused wives (Martin, 1976; Gayford, 1975). The abusive male often marries someone who will bear and care for his children, look after his sexual needs and keep house (Martin, 1976). A number of our subjects did mention that their spouse expected these things in marriage. Table 22 shows the subject's reasons for marriage.

Table 22
Subjects' Reasons for Marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Love</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To get away from home</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Financial reasons</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pregnancy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualities in Males Found Attractive by Subject and Qualities in Spouse Which First Attracted Subject

Surprisingly, there was no statistically significant relationship between the qualities in males that the subject found attractive and those qualities in her spouse which first attracted her to him. In the latter area, self-confidence, sense of humour, physical appearance and friendliness were all related as equally important (16.7 percent chose each category) by the subjects. The same areas of qualities in males that the subject found attractive were rated as follows: self-confidence (5 percent), sense of humour (30 percent), physical appearance (30 percent) and friendliness (15 percent). This indicates that if the subject were choosing a mate now, she would place less emphasis on the man's sense of confidence and more on his sense of humour and physical appearance. This is illustrated in Tables 23 and 24. In terms of the theory of complementary needs, Winch notes the tendency for a person to find a mate whose personality complements his own, and whose temperament meets his own basic needs (Winch, 1958).

Number of Children in Subjects' and Spouses' Families of Origin

The size of the subjects' and spouses' families of origin is illustrated in Table 25.
Table 23
Qualities in MalesFound Attractive
by Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualities</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Self-confidence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sense of humour</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Physical appearance</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Common interests</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Same intellectual level</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Maturity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Honesty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 24
Qualities in Spouse which First Attracted Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualities</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Self-confidence</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sense of humour</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Physical appearance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Friendliness</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Common interests</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Same intellectual level</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Maturity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Honesty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Creativity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 25
Number of Biological Children in Subjects' and Spouses' Families of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
<th>Number of Spouses</th>
<th>Percent of Spouses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. None</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. One</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 2-3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 4-5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 6-8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 9+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Significant Factors in Wife Abuse

In this section the researchers analysed and discussed the significant findings that resulted from the correlations of some of the variables. Having examined a total of 8,638 correlations, the researchers chose to discuss only those variable relationships that proved to be statistically significant at the .01 level. Variables related to our hypothesis are also noted. The questionnaire was divided into four major parts: individual data, premarital behaviour, present marital relationship, and family of origin. The discussion of the data, wherever possible, followed the same divisions as in the questionnaire.
Individual Data

Age of Subject

A number of obvious correlations were produced and
these are presented first. In the correlation of age of
subject with age of spouse, a statistically significant re-
lationship resulted at the .01 level. This indicates that
the older the subject, the older her spouse. In the cor-
relation of age of subject with length of marriage, there
was again significance at the .01 level, indicating that
the older the subject, the longer she tends to have been
married. A third significant relationship involved the
age of the subject correlated with her desire to leave the
marriage at some point while still in it. The older the
subject, the more likely she was to have wanted, at some
point, to leave the marriage. Although the family income
was high, in accordance with the literature, many of our
subjects feared that financially they would be unable to
make it if they left their spouse. Snell et al. (1973)
states that in many marriages of long duration, violence
has occurred throughout the marriage. This would tend to
make women who had a lengthy marriage want to leave at some
points.

When the variable agreement on demonstration of
affection was correlated with subject's desire to leave the
marriage, it was found statistically significant at the .01
level. Agreement on demonstration of affection was taken
here to mean the agreement between couples, whether spoken or unspoken, on the giving or receiving of any physical contact in the marriage. This indicates that the less the couple agreed on demonstration of affection, the more the subject wanted to leave her spouse at some points in the marriage. The need for human contact, sight, sound and touch may make the difference between mental health or breakdown (Berne, 1971). Forty-five percent of our subjects married due to pregnancy, financial reasons, or to get away from home. These women may not have given much consideration to demonstration of affection until well into the marriage relationship. Then, realizing that marriage was not the escape from home or from an unwanted pregnancy that they had expected, the concept of demonstration of affection may have become more prominent in their minds. If a couple never agrees on demonstration of affection, the category chosen by 55 percent of our subjects, it seems logical that they may wish to be out of the marriage at some points.

This is supported by the literature with regard to a lack of recognition and affection common to married women (Bernard, 1972; Wyckoff, 1971).

Physical Health and Pregnancy of Subject

When physical health of the subject was correlated with frequency of abuse, there was a statistically significant relationship. The worse the physical health of the subject,
the more frequently she was abused. The researchers can
only speculate at this point whether it was the physical
ill-health of the subject that caused strain in the marriage
and led to the physical abuse, or if, in fact, the subject's
poor physical health is necessarily a direct result of the
abuse. Table 26 indicates the subjects' physical health,
and Table 27 shows the frequency of abuse to the subject.

Table 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Excellent</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Good</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fair</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Poor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 27

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Once only</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 2-5 times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Few times a year</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Monthly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Weekly</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Daily</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Varies greatly - no pattern</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Don't know</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One subject stated that she did not know how often the abuse occurred and that she was too upset to calculate it.
Although only 25 percent (5) of our subjects felt that pregnancy played a part in their abuse, there is evidence of higher violence to these women. This parallels a study by Gelles (1975) in which approximately one-quarter of the abused wives felt pregnancy had played a part in the abuse. In Flynn's study (1977) one-half of the subjects had been abused during pregnancy.

Education

When the variable of subjects' education was correlated with that of her spouse, there were no statistically significant relationships. However, 25 percent of the subjects had completed high school while only 10 percent of the spouses had. The literature supports the concept of the wife having more education than her spouse (Flynn, 1977; Gelles, 1972).

An interesting finding to the researchers was the correlation of subject's education with abuse in her family of origin. Forty-five percent of the subjects reported being and/or witnessing abuse in their family of origins. These were not the subjects who quit school early to find employment and get away from home, but rather the ones who stayed in school, presumably remaining at home while education was continuing.

Premarital Behaviour

Frequency of Arguments while Dating

The variable frequency of arguing behaviour while
dating when correlated with subject's father's opinion of her marriage at the time was statistically significant at the .01 level (p < .01). In response to the question, "Did you and your spouse argue while dating?" 35 percent responded sometimes, 30 percent seldom, and 35 percent stated they never argued while dating. (See Table 28.) In response to the question, "How did your father view your marriage at the time of its occurrence?" 29.4 percent of the subjects said he approved, while 47.1 percent stated that he disapproved. (See Table 29.) Mother's disapproved of the subject's marriage 61.1 percent of the time.

Twenty percent (4) of our subjects reported being physically abused before marriage, which closely compares to Gayford's study in which 25 percent of the subjects had been abused before marriage or living together (Gayford, 1975).

Table 28
Frequency of Arguments while Subject Dating Spouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Always</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sometimes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Seldom</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Never</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 29

**Subject's Father's Perception of Her Marriage at the Time of Its Occurrence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Strongly approved</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Approved</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Accepted</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Non-accepted</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Disapproved</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Marital Expectations**

Fifty-five percent of the subjects and only 20 percent of spouses were reported as stating love as an expectation in marriage. According to our subjects, the spouses seemed to be more interested in loyalty (33.3 percent) and financial security (26.7 percent). Fifty percent of the subjects reported discussing their expectations with their spouse prior to marriage.

**Friends**

Eighty percent of the subjects stated they seldom or never agreed with their spouse in choice of friends and 75 percent said they and their spouses seldom or never engaged in outside activities together. In response to the question,
"How do you usually spend your leisure time?" 40 percent of the subjects stated that she and her spouse "both stay home," 15 percent said they "both go out," and 45 percent said "one goes out and the other stays home." Even in the area of social relationships, the couples seemed unwilling to spend time with each other or together to see friends they both enjoyed. A picture was often painted by the subject of herself staying home and being socially isolated while her spouse went out. The literature states that abusive males and their wives are often socially isolated, having few friends, and little contact with those outside their immediate families (Cooper, 1976). It seems to follow from our findings that there is an over-dependence on one another which leads to abuse.

Present Marital Relationship

Sexual Behaviour

A number of variables in relation to sexual behaviour were found statistically significant at the .01 level when correlated with one another. The more often the subject and her spouse agreed on demonstration of affection, the more often she found sex enjoyable. The more often the couple agreed on demonstration of affection was also significant to the subjects being satisfied with the frequency of sex. The more satisfied the subject was with the frequency of sex, the more she tended to enjoy it.
Lastly, the more satisfied the subject was with the frequency of sex, the more often she had orgasm. Fifty-five percent of the subjects stated that they were always or often satisfied with the frequency of intercourse, and 45 percent stated they always or often found sex enjoyable. This still leaves the majority of subjects stating that their experience with sex in the relationship was either seldom enjoyable or never enjoyable. These later findings are more in line with literature linking sex with punishment from a loved one (Reich, 1973), or sex in which the male is aware or concerned with only his needs (Wyckoff, 1974). Seventy percent of our subjects stated that they wished sex had been different, wanting more time spent in sex (15 percent) to showing more affection (40 percent). (See Tables 30 and 31.)

Table 30

Subjects' Dissatisfaction with Sexual Relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dissatisfaction</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Yes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 31
Subjects' Stated Wants in the Act of Sexual Intercourse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stated Wants</th>
<th>Number of Subjects</th>
<th>Percent of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Wanted more time spent in the act of intercourse</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Subject's desire for monogamous relationship</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Subject's desire for freedom to initiate and refuse sexual intercourse</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Wanted more foreplay as part of intercourse</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Six subjects stated that they would not have wanted sexual relationships with their spouse to have been any different.

Alcohol Consumption of Spouse

Fifty-five percent of the subjects stated that alcohol consumption by their spouse played a part in the abuse. Although the affect of alcohol and the part it played in the abuse were not statistically significant with any of the other variables, the presence of alcohol consumption by the spouse in instances of wife abuse is well-documented by the literature (Flynn, 1977; Gelles, 1975; Bard & Zacker, 1974). The Bard and Zacker and Gelles studies come closest to the present research in finding alcohol only one of a
number of circumstances leading to family disputes.

Self-concept

Twenty percent of the subjects reported liking themselves because they were easy-going, and another 20 percent because they cared about themselves. Fifteen percent liked nothing about themselves and many others had difficulty answering this question. In the area of not liking themselves, 20 percent of the subjects said they were weak, 15 percent said they were stupid, 10 percent said they were gullible, and only 5 percent said they liked everything about themselves.

Twenty percent of the subjects stated their spouse liked them because of their personality. 13.3 percent were liked because of each of the following: physical appearance, humour, parent-figure to spouse, housekeeper, and liked nothing about them. Twenty-three point five percent of the subjects stated their spouse did not like them because they were argumentative, and 17.6 percent were disliked because of their lack of strength. None of the subjects stated that their spouse liked everything about them.

Family of Origin

Ethnicity

Sixty-five percent of our subjects were third or more generation Canadian, 15 percent were second generation.
and 20 percent were first generation Canadian. Fifty-five percent of the spouses of a population of 16 were third or more generation Canadian, 27.8 percent were second generation, and 16.7 percent were first generation Canadian.

Although we found no statistically significant relationships, it is interesting to note from the literature that the most aggressive are those children whose father is high ethnic, having lived several generations in this country, and whose mother is low ethnic (Eron, 1971).

Age of Subject and Spouse at Separation from Parent

Age of subject at time of separation from a parent showed a statistically significant relationship with violence severity in marriage. This finding is related to our hypothesis linking family of origin and marital relationship factors. Carter (1974), Korner (1975), and Ferguson (1972) refer to the effects that early separation from a parent can have on a child. The younger the spouse at time of separation from a parent is statistically significant with greater household income. Toby (1974) found that boys showed more anxiety over expressing their masculinity in female-headed households. This may well relate to the area of income, as after a father's departure for whatever reason, the boy feels that he is now the man of the house and it is up to him to bring in some money. This may well result in his growing up and obtaining employment which.
pays well.

Feelings in Childhood

Seventy percent of the subjects reported feeling very loved or loved in childhood, in contrast to only 42.1 percent of their spouses having these feelings.

Subject Praised in Family of Origin

While it is not statistically significant, it is worthy of mention that the subjects who received praise as children, given generally by both parents, viewed their parents' marriage as happier than those subjects (55 percent) who viewed their parent's marriage as either unhappy or very unhappy.

Physical Abuse in Subject's Family of Origin

Physical abuse in the subject's family of origin when correlated with physical abuse before marriage between the couple, was statistically significant at the .01 level. Therefore, this indicates that the presence of abuse in her family of origin is linked to abuse by her fiance before marriage. She may well be associating love and violence patterns learned in childhood and expect them in her dating relationship as well. She also has a greater tendency to marry a person who is prone to violence (Gelles, 1976).

The variable agreement on demonstration of affection,
when correlated with abuse in the subject's family of origin, was statistically significant at the .01 level. This indicates that if there was abuse in her family of origin, then the less there was agreement on affection in marriage. This relates to our hypothesis in terms of a direct relationship between family of origin and present marital relationship. The ability to show affection or agree on affection is dependent on how the individual's needs were met as a child. Lack of love or affection shown the child by his parents makes it difficult for the child to be happy (Dreikurs, 1946). They have learned from their parents not to show their feelings, therefore it is very difficult for these persons to express affection in marriage. They experience a generally difficult time in forming intimate relationships (Carter, 1974). By watching the parents interact in families where abuse was present, the child also grows up expecting her husband to abuse her (Gelles, 1976). The association of affection and violence is also learned in childhood in these homes, resulting in the child growing up and inciting violence in the marriage, feeling that the demonstration of abuse from the husband is his way of caring for her (Dutton, 1976).

The ability of the spouse to discuss his mad feelings, when correlated with physical abuse in the subject's family of origin, was significant at the .01 level. This indicates that a subject who was not abused in her family of origin.
disputes having been handled in another way, often verbally, is likely to seek out the kind of spouse who, like her parents, is able to discuss his mad feelings without resorting to violence. Sixty percent of the subjects stated their spouse was always able to discuss his mad feelings with them, 10 percent said often, and 30 percent said never. Forty percent of the spouses were always or often able to discuss sad feelings, 30 percent were always or often able to discuss glad feelings, and also 30 percent were always or often able to discuss feelings of being scared, with the subjects.

Summary

In this chapter the researchers presented their data analysis and findings. The characteristics of the subjects, the responses obtained in the questionnaire, and relevant issues related to wife abuse arising from the data were analysed and discussed.
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this research was to analyze the relationship between the family of origin and the present marital relationship with regard to wife abuse, as perceived by the wife. The researchers explored and identified through the literature review the salient determinants of physical abuse in the study population. This resulted in isolating three main areas for investigation: family of origin, mate selection and present marital relationship. Interviews with the abused wives further substantiated the validity of the areas chosen.

Methodology

The study was a quantitative-descriptive study of the sub-type "hypothesis-testing." The sampling procedure employed non-probability sampling and included 20 abused wives who sought assistance from Hiatus House. Some of the population also had contact with Legal Assistance of Windsor. The prospective subjects were selected by the executive director of Hiatus House on the basis of their willingness to talk of their situations without unreasonable upset.

The data was collected by means of structured interviews developed by the researchers specifically for the study. Some of the questions were based on information
provided in the literature review concerning the abused wife. Other questions which directly applied to the hypothesis were formulated. The responses were analysed by computer using the Statistical package for the Social Sciences, subprogram Crosstabs.

Findings

Utilizing the violence severity scale, as discussed in the Introduction, all of the 20 women interviewed had some degree of physical abuse. For example, three were pushed or shoved, five were slapped or bitten, six were punched or kicked, one was pushed down, one was hit with a hard object and four women were choked.

Although few assumptions could be formulated by the researchers, due to the lack of empirical data on the causes of wife abuse, those that were developed were borne out in the research.

1. The literature provided persuasive evidence that an individual's personality development and behaviour patterns were greatly influenced by the family of origin. The individual's life script was found to be determined to a large extent by parental influence (Berne, 1972). Research into the problems of wife abuse concluded that children who observed their parents engaging in physical violence were more likely to engage in the same sort of activity with their own spouses (Gelles, 1972). Thus, the child learns
from watching his parents how to express anger and frustration. In the findings, family of origin was found to be a significant factor in the individual's learned behaviour and expression of anger. Of the subjects, 45 percent were raised in a home where physical abuse was present. Of the spouses, this figure represented 55 percent. The researchers found that 60 percent of the spouses could always express feelings of anger with their wives, whereas only 30 percent never did. Although the researchers did not express early childhood separation as an assumption, the literature review identified separation (through illness, death or divorce) as a significant factor in wife abuse (Eichenhorn, 1976). A sense of loss and rejection is felt by the child accompanied by feelings of anger. In the findings, a significant relationship was found to exist between the age of the subject and the age of the spouse at the time of separation from a parent in early childhood. This major finding is related to the researchers' hypothesis: the younger the age of the subject at the time of separation from her parents, the greater the severity of violence in her marital relationship. Of the subjects, 35 percent experienced separation before the age of nine; of the males 45 percent experienced such separation. The assumption that abuse is learned behaviour was borne out in the study. In the literature review, the researchers found that the woman learns to accept and approve of
physical abuse because it is a basic form of communication she knows. These findings suggest that the child learns from his or her parents the messages of how to act and how not to act.

2. Regarding physical abuse in the family of origin, 20 percent of the subjects witnessed their fathers abusing their mothers, and 50 percent of the spouses witnessed this.

3. In the literature review, the researchers dealt with the dynamics within the family in terms of learned behaviour, concepts of maleness and femaleness, how one learns to express oneself. The human personality is shaped primarily by cultural conditioning which governs how an individual should act, feel and think. Through the socialization of sex roles by parents, the child is taught from birth how to be a man or woman. Masculinity is expressed largely through physical courage, toughness, competitiveness and aggressiveness, whereas femininity is expressed largely through gentleness, expressiveness and responsiveness (Balswick et al., 1975). The concepts of masculinity and femininity create powerful expectations as to how men and women should behave and interact with each other. Husbands frequently abuse their wives as a means of maintaining the dominant role in the relationship (Warren, 1977). Although a direct question concerning socially acceptable ways of expressing anger did not appear
on the questionnaire, the assumption was supported in the literature review and was considered by the researchers to be a valid factor in the etiology of wife abuse.

4. Studies of child abuse and wife abuse support the assumption that the more the individual is exposed to violence as a child, both as victim and observer, the more likely it is that that individual abuses or is abused (Gelles, 1976). The researchers assumed that women who report being abused will have gone through related experiences in their family of origin. As already stated, 45 percent of the subjects experienced physical abuse in their family of origin.

5. Similarly, the researchers assumed that abusing spouses will have experienced physical abuse between their parents in the family of origin. Again, 55 percent of the spouses were raised in homes where physical abuse was present. Of the 16 women who replied, 50 percent said that their spouses were abused as children.

6. The review of the literature indicated that learning, behaviour and unmet needs in the family of origin influence one's choice of mate. According to Martin (1976), abused women marry because of the consequences of not marrying, and their desire to be free of parental control. Gayford (1975) stated that the abused wives he interviewed married in order to leave home and because they were attracted to the protective image of their man. Winch's (1958) theory
of complementary needs indicated that a person finds a potential mate whose personality complements his own and whose temperament meets his own basic needs. Thirty percent of the subjects married for love. This would indicate the subjectivity of the response in terms of the present marriage becoming dysfunctional and her justification for leaving it. Fifteen percent married because of pregnancy and five percent married for financial reasons. The wives were first attracted to their spouse for the following reasons: self-confidence, sense of humor, physical appearance and friendliness, 16.7 percent for each factor.

Gelles' (1976) research found that the woman who grew up in an environment which approved of abuse was more likely to marry a person who was prone to using violence. Strong evidence of a relationship between physical abuse in the subject's family of origin and physical abuse before marriage was found. The major finding related to our hypothesis states: the more abuse in the subject's family of origin, the more she was abused by her fiance before marriage. Twenty percent of the subjects were physically abused before marriage and still continued in the relationship.

These findings support the hypothesis that individuals who come from homes where there is physical abuse will likely choose spouses who complement their need to give and receive physical abuse in their marriage relationship.
7. In the review of the literature, the researchers found that there were many stress-producing factors which contributed to marital conflict within the family. Ackerman (1975) stated that the emotional stability of the family is upset by mistrust, doubt and fear. The lack of feeling of closeness, sharing, intimacy and affection in the family was found to be important to this research. The researchers assumed that there would be some degree of emotional stress among spouses where physical abuse is present in the marriage relationship. A major finding which related to this hypothesis stated that the more abuse in the subject's family of origin, the less agreement there was on demonstration of affection in marriage. Fifty-five percent of the wives stated that they and their spouses never agreed on the demonstration of affection and 25 percent seldom agreed. The researchers found a correlation between age of the subject and her propensity to want to leave the marriage at some point. Similarly, the less the couple agreed on demonstration of affection, the more the subject wanted to leave her spouse. Ninety-five percent of the subjects said they wanted to leave the marriage but were unable to for various reasons compared to five percent who said they did not want to leave the marriage.

Pregnancy was the most significant of the family growth crises in relation to abuse that the researchers.
found. Gelles (1975) cited five factors contributing to pregnant wives being abused by their husbands. A degree of emotional stress played a large part in the abuse. In this study, there was no statistically significant relationship between pregnancy and abuse, due to the small number of subjects who stated that pregnancy played a part in the abuse, 25 percent. Using this percentage, it was found that later-born subjects' pregnancy played more of a part in the abuse.

One's sexuality may be a source of stress. According to Storr (1968), it is only when the erotic relationship fails that the aggressive component in love, and love itself, may turn into hatred. When a woman irritates, demands and criticizes a man, she is really trying to evoke a dominant response by attacking him for his lack of virility (Storr, 1968). Seventy percent of the subjects stated that they wished sex had been different, wanting more time spent in each sexual encounter (15 percent), and more sharing of affection (40 percent).

One's self-concept and stress are closely interrelated. Cooper (1976) stated that a person's interpretation of a stressful event is important, especially if the interpretation is linked to ideas of self-worth. A number of women had difficulty answering the questions concerning their self-concept. Fifteen percent did not like anything about themselves, 15 percent said they were "stupid," 20
percent said they were "weak" and only 5 percent said they liked everything about themselves. With regard to their spouses' feelings toward them, 23.5 percent of the subjects stated their spouse did not like them because they were argumentative. All of the subjects stated that there was not anything that their spouses liked about them.

From the findings, the researchers observed a strong relationship between family of origin and present marital relationship. Family of origin was found to be significant for the study in terms of the individual's personality development and learned behaviour. The researchers found strong associations between physical abuse in the subject's family of origin and physical abuse in her present marital relationship. Separation was a factor in the severity of violence in the subject's marital relationship. Although birth order did not prove to be statistically significant, there was a relationship between later-born subject's pregnancy playing more of a part in the abuse. In the review of the literature, birth order was found to play a part in the development of a child's personality. This area may be more closely examined in future studies conducted on the causes of wife abuse.

Mate selection was found to be an area which was also greatly affected by the learning that took place in the family of origin. Dreikurs (1953) made the statement that everyone gets from her mate the treatment she un-
consciously expected in the beginning of the relationship. Thus, the spouses complemented each other's needs to give and receive physical abuse in their marriage relationship. This was proven in the major findings related to the hypothesis.

The marital relationship was examined in terms of stress and its impact on the family. Findings related to pregnancy, sexual behaviour and demonstration of affection were discussed.

To reiterate, the major findings which related to our hypothesis were: the younger the age of the subject at the time of separation from her parents, the greater the violence severity in her marital relationship; the more abuse in the family of origin, the more she was abused by her fiance before marriage; the more abuse in her family of origin, the less agreement there was on demonstration of affection in marriage; and where abuse was not present in the subject's family of origin, her spouse was more able to discuss his feelings of anger with her.

In the analysis of the subject's life script (Berne, 1972) or life style (Adler, 1963), it was necessary to review the following three areas: family of origin, marital choice and present marital relationship. In childhood, she interacted primarily with her parents and siblings. In adolescence, she interacted with more people
and formed relationships with those who fit her particular script, and she theirs. The researchers have been able to provide an approach to the etiology of wife abuse by using the theories and concepts of Structural Analysis.

Although the researchers presented some important determinants of physical abuse in wives, the study has not provided a complete analysis of the problem. Wife abuse involves not only the attitudes of spouses and the causes of violence in general, but the attitudes and values of society. Further research is required in order to understand and to change the attitudes that continue to perpetuate the problem of wife abuse.

Limitations

As was stated in Chapter III (Methodology), the research design has specific limitations that affect its validity and reliability. Before conclusions can be drawn from the findings of the study, the limitations within which the study took place must be recognized. The major limitation of the study is that the sample was composed of a particular type of population, that being women who had received counselling at Hiatus House. In addition, the representativeness of the sample is not known. Also, the subjects presented data on themselves and their family of origin based on recall of childhood events which might not be entirely accurate. However, it could be argued that present recollections of early
childhood are the most relevant information about the individual's present outlook on life.

If one knows what a person remembers from the multitude of experiences in his early childhood, then one knows how she looks at life, her concepts about herself and life and the goals which she has set for herself. (Dreikurs, 1973, p. 25)

Only a single perspective was provided, in that the wives supplied the data concerning their spouses, with no objective source of information on the spouses being available. These problems all influence the degree to which one can generalize from findings generated by this research.

There are, however, some major strengths in the research which may serve to counterbalance the limitations somewhat. The present study is unique in that little research exists on the causes of wife abuse which examines the interrelation of family of origin, marital choice, and present marital relationship. A second strength is that the study yielded a population of wives without incorporating a working-class, middle-class or upper-class bias. The annual income ranged from under $5,000 per year to that exceeding $13,000 per year.

Recommendations

The researchers offer the following recommendations:

1. Information should be made available to the public in the form of pamphlets, describing
the causes of wife abuse, including precipitating factors. Included in these pamphlets would be information on the legal, medical and social services available, and the steps that can be taken in seeking help in cases of wife abuse.

2. In-service training could be provided to professionals who are likely to deal with families where wife abuse is present.

3. Agency workshops and conferences on the problems of wife abuse could be useful if made open to the public. The ideal would be to involve all levels of government and all agencies concerned with the problem.

4. Professional schools might give attention to the dynamics of wife abuse, especially with regard to family growth crises, the role of stress and social and psychological factors involved in marital conflict. Particular attention should be given to the part that pregnancy plays in the lives of the couple. The problem of alcohol abuse should be stressed as well.

5. The courts, police departments and government agencies by collecting and
publishing data on the number of abused wives would help determine the extent of the problem and assist in the identification of the service and treatment needs of abused wives.

6. Further involvement of educators would help to prepare young people to cope with the problems of marital conflict.

7. Special attention deserves to be given to children in homes where there is knowledge of physical abuse.

8. Counselling would be important for those boys and girls who have experienced separation (through illness, death or divorce) in early childhood.

9. Professional counselling should be provided in emergency shelters and follow-up counselling should also be available for both spouses.

10. It is important that the courts recommend appropriate counselling for the spouse who has been charged with wife abuse.

Since the researchers' goal was to conduct a client-oriented study it is appropriate that they present the recommendations made by 16 of the 20 women, and they are contained in the following five points.
1. Shelters should be established in communities where there are none and the ones in operation should continue to exist.

2. Marriage should be made as hard to get into as it is to get out of.

3. Couples should be given psychological tests prior to marriage to determine emotional stability.

4. Couples should live together for at least one year before they decide to marry.

5. Free babysitting services should be provided to families.

Suggestions for Further Research

The researchers strongly urge that further research be conducted on the phenomenon of wife abuse. This study has suggested the following areas for examination.

1. Those women in counselling and those who have never received counselling could be invited to participate in a study in order to provide a cross-section of the population of abused wives.

2. A similar study of husbands who physically abuse their wives would be a valuable contribution in that it would provide another necessary perspective on the
issue of wife abuse. Such a study could also identify the salient determinants of wife abuse in males.

3. Further study could explore why abused women remain with their spouses.

4. Further studies in physical abuse could investigate the part that pregnancy, alcohol, and emotional disturbance play in wife abuse.

Conclusion of the Study

The goals of this study were established in the introductory chapter and were significant throughout the research. These goals shaped the researchers' approach to the etiology of wife abuse, and should be commented on before terminating this study. These comments are listed in the order of the goals as set out in the Introduction.

1. The literature review resulted in selection of the most plausible approach to the problem of wife abuse. Interviews with abused wives provided an opportunity to explore the problem and served to substantiate the approach chosen. The researchers feel that they have succeeded in isolating the salient determinants of physical abuse in the study population.

2. To this extent, the researchers are confident that the present study is a worthwhile contribution to the existing body of knowledge concerning wife abuse.

3. Having increased their own awareness of the phenomenon, the researchers will be able to incorporate this knowledge
into their own practices. This being one of the first Canadian studies on this topic, the intent is that the public and professional awareness of the subject will be increased, and that this study will serve as a foundation for further research into the etiology of wife abuse.

4. While public and professional awareness may be increased, the researchers trust that those reading this study will be convinced of the reality of the problem of wife abuse. It is hoped that the recommendations contained in this study will form a basis for further action on the problem of wife abuse by those in a position to make necessary changes in the present services.

5. The most significant changes that can be made are those of a preventive nature. In their readings, as well as their findings, the researchers have been able to identify those high risk families which tend to be involved in the abuse cycle. This research may serve as another approach available to those dealing with the problem of wife abuse. Furthermore, it is hoped that the prevalence of the abuse cycle will be reduced and that, consequently, the incidence of wife abuse will be decreased.
APPENDIX A

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

I  Individual Data
II  Premarital Behaviour
III Present Marital Relationship
IV  Sexual Behaviour
V   Satisfaction with Marriage and Spouse
VI  Marital Discord
VII  Expression of Emotion
VIII Self-Concept
IX  Causal Relationships
X   Family of Origin
XI  Conclusion
A. **INDIVIDUAL DATA**

1. What is your age? □
   What is your spouse's age? □
   1. under 20
   2. 20-24
   3. 25-29
   4. 30-34
   5. 35-39
   6. 40-44
   7. 45+

2. a) Do you have any physical ailments? □
   b) Are you on any medication at present? □
      If so, for what purpose?
      1. yes
      2. no
   c) Describe your present physical health:
      Excellent Good Fair Poor

3. a) What is your occupation? □
   b) What is your spouse's occupation? □
      1. professional and technical workers
      2. managers and administrators
      3. sales workers
      4. clerical workers
      5. craftsmen and kindred workers
      6. service workers
      8. other □
   c) What is your annual income? □
      1. under $5,000/year
      2. $5,000-6,000/year
      3. $6,100-8,000/year
      4. $8,100-10,000/year
      5. $10,100-13,000/year
      6. $13,100+/year
4. a) What is your present marital status? □
   1. married  4. common-law
   2. separated  5. widowed
   3. divorced  6. other

   b) How many years have you been, or were you married? □
   1. under one year  4. 10-14 years
   2. 1-4 years  5. 15-19 years
   3. 5-9 years  6. 20+ years

   c) How many children do you have in your care? □
   1. none  4. 4-5
   2. one  5. 6+
   3. 2-3

5. List any previous marriages for both spouses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife</th>
<th>Husband</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When terminated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. a) What is your last grade attained in school? □

   b) What was your spouse's last grade attained in school? □
   1. some public school  4. completed high school
   2. completed public school  5. community or technical college
   3. some high school  6. university

7. a) What is your religion? □

   b) What is your spouse's religion? □
   1. Protestant  4. other
   2. Roman Catholic  5. none
   3. Jewish
c). Did the religion of either you or your spouse change upon or after marriage? □

1. yes 2. no

8. a) Describe your life at present

very happy happy average unhappy very unhappy

b) Describe why you checked where you did.

8. PREMARITAL BEHAVIOUR

9. For what reasons did you marry? □

1. love 4. pregnancy
2. to get away from home 5. other
3. financial reasons

10. a) What kind of things in males do you find attractive? □

b) What kind of things in your spouse first attracted you? □

c) What was it that your spouse liked most about you? □

Choose three that first come to mind for each question.

1. self-confidence 6. same intellectual level
2. sense of humour 7. maturity
3. physical appearance 8. honesty
4. friendliness 9. creativity
5. common interests 10. other

C. PRESENT MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

11. a) What do/did you expect from your spouse in marriage? □
b) What does/did he expect from you? □
   1. loyalty
   2. financial security
   3. love
   4. that you would be a good parent
   5. share in household tasks
   6. other

   c) Did you discuss these things with your spouse prior to marriage? □
   1. yes 2. no

12. Do/did you and your spouse agree on friends?

   always often seldom never

13. Do/did you and your spouse engage in outside activities together?

   always often seldom never

14. How do/did you usually spend your leisure time? □
   1. both stay home
   2. both go out
   3. one goes out and the other stays home

15. Do/did you and your spouse agree on how you showed affection for each other?

   always often seldom never

D. SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

16. Who in the relationship generally initiates sexual intercourse? □
   1. self
   2. spouse

17. Were (are) you satisfied with the frequency of intercourse?

   always often seldom never
18. How often during sex do/did you have orgasm?
   always  often  seldom  never

19. Do/did you find sex enjoyable?
   always  often  seldom  never

20. Would you have wanted sex to have been different?  
   1. yes  2. no  Can you explain your answer?

21. a) How often have you wished you had not married your spouse?
   always  often  seldom  never

   b) If you were to marry the same man again, what would you do differently?

22. a) Which of the following four feelings is/was your spouse able to talk about with you?
   Mad
   always  often  seldom  never
   Sad
   always  often  seldom  never
   Glad
   always  often  seldom  never
   Scared
   always  often  seldom  never

23. a) What does/did your spouse generally do with the feelings he could/did/does not talk to you about?

   b) What do/did you do with those feelings you are/were not able to talk about with your spouse?
F. MARITAL DISCORD

24. What three things cause/cause you the most serious problems in your relationship? Choose the first (3) that occur to you at this moment.

25. a) Did physical abuse by your spouse towards you increase or decrease in number since you lived together? □
   1. increased  2. decreased

   b) How soon after living together did physical abuse begin? □
   1. under one month  5. 3-4 years
   2. one to five months  6. 5-9 years
   3. 6-12 months  7. 10+ years
   4. 1-2 years

   c) On an average, how frequently did the physical abuse occur? □
   1. once only  5. weekly
   2. 2-5 times  6. daily
   3. few times a year  7. varies greatly - no pattern
   4. monthly

26. How do/did you react when your spouse is/was physically abusing you? □
   1. fought back  5. too shocked to react
   2. cried for help  6. begged him to stop
   3. tried to get away  7. showed anger
   4. remained quiet  8. other

27. a) Did your pregnancies have any part in the physical abuse? □
   1. yes  2. no

   b) If yes, what part?
   large  some  none
28. a) Did/does alcohol have any part in the physical abuse, i.e., does/did he ever physically abuse you while he is/was drunk or you were/are drunk? [ ]
   1. yes  2. no

   b) If yes, what part?
      __________________________________________
      large  some  none

29. What generally were the circumstances prior to the physical abuse?
   __________________________________________

30. How many times, because of the abuse, have you and your spouse separated? [ ]
   1. never   4. 3-5 times
   2. once    5. 6+ times
   3. twice

31. Did your feelings change towards your spouse after he first physically abused you? [ ]
   1. yes  2. no  If so, how? __________________

32. In what ways did his treatment of you change after he first physically abused you? __________________

33. Did you and your spouse argue while dating?
   __________________________________________
   always  sometimes  seldom  never

34. a) Was physical abuse present in your relationship prior to marriage? [ ]
   1. yes  2. no

   b) How did you feel about it then? __________________

G. EXPRESSION OF EMOTION

35. a) What situations are most uncomfortable for you?
   __________________________________________
b) Which of the following feelings do you have when you are most uncomfortable? (   )
   1. mad  3. glad
   2. sad  4. scared
c) What do you generally do when you feel like this?
   __________________________________________
d) What does/did your spouse do to be helpful?
   __________________________________________

36. What situations are most uncomfortable for your spouse?
   __________________________________________

H. SELF-CONCEPT

37. a) What do you generally like about yourself?
   __________________________________________

b) What does your spouse generally like about you?
   __________________________________________

c) What do your parents like about you?
   __________________________________________

d) What did they like about you as a child? (   )
   __________________________________________

e) What do other people like about you?
   __________________________________________

f) What do you really not like about yourself?
   __________________________________________

g) What does your spouse really not like about you?
h) What do your parents really not like about you?

i) What did your parents really not like about you as a child?

j) What do other people really not like about you?

I. CAUSAL RELATIONSHIPS

38. a) How is your spouse's behaviour like the behaviour in his mom and dad's marriage?

| very similar | somewhat similar | not at all similar |

b) How is his behaviour different?

| very different | somewhat different | not at all different |

39. a) What happened that made you decide to leave your spouse? (if separated) □

1. refused to accept further abuse
2. too dangerous for self and children
3. no change likely in situation
4. he left me
5. other

b) What has to happen before you leave your spouse? (if together) □

1. more dangerous fights
2. he abuses the children
3. I need more financial security
4. other
c). Have you ever wanted to leave and not been able to?

J. FAMILY OF ORIGIN

40. Were you a biological or an adopted child? _____________

41. a) Are both your parents living? □
   1. yes  2. no □

   b) Are your parents (if 1): □
      1. living together  2. separated  3. divorced

   c) Are both your spouse’s parents living? □
      1. yes  2. no

   d) Are his parents (if 1): □
      1. living together  2. separated  3. divorced

42. a) If there was a separation between you and your parents (through death, illness, divorce) how old were you at the time? _____________

   b) If there was a separation between your spouse and his parents, how old was he? _____________

43. a) Are your parents living within an hours travelling time or less? □
    1. yes  2. no

   b) Are your spouse’s parents within the same distance? □
      1. yes  2. no

   c) How often do you see your parents?

      daily  weekly  monthly  every  every  rarely  never
      3  6  months  months

44. a) How did you generally feel in childhood?

      very loved  loved  unloved  very
      unloved
45. a) How were you praised as a child? By whom?

b) How were you criticized as a child? By whom?

46. a) Who took responsibility for your discipline?
   1. father mostly
   2. both
   3. mother mostly
   4. neither
   5. other

b) What kind of punishment was given to you?
   Most severe
   Least severe
   Most common

47. a) If there was physical abuse present in your parental home, was this by:

b) If there was physical abuse present in your spouse's home, was this by:
   1. father on mother
   2. father on children
   3. mother on children
   4. mother on father
   5. child on parent
   6. child on child
   7. other
   8. not applicable

c) Was your spouse physically abused as a child by his parents?
   1. yes 2. no 3. don't know

d) What did your father and mother do after a fight?
e) What do you do that is different than what they did?

f) What do you do that is the same as what they did?

48. a) How do you view your parent's marriage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>very happy</th>
<th>average</th>
<th>unhappy</th>
<th>very unhappy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>happy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>unhappy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) How do you view your spouse's parent's marriage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>very happy</th>
<th>average</th>
<th>unhappy</th>
<th>very unhappy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>happy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>unhappy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

49. Are you most like your mother or your father?

50. a) How did your mother view your marriage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>strongly approved</th>
<th>accepted</th>
<th>non-approved</th>
<th>dis-approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>approved</td>
<td>accepted</td>
<td>approved</td>
<td>dis-approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) How does your mother view your marriage now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>strongly approves</th>
<th>accepts</th>
<th>nonaccepts</th>
<th>dis approves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>approves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dis approves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c) How did your father view your marriage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>strongly approved</th>
<th>accepted</th>
<th>non-approved</th>
<th>dis-approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>approved</td>
<td>accepted</td>
<td>approved</td>
<td>dis-approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d) How does your father view your marriage now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>strongly approves</th>
<th>accepts</th>
<th>nonaccepts</th>
<th>dis approves</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>approves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dis approves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

51. a) How many generations has your family lived in this country? □

b) How many generations has your spouse's family lived in this country?

1. one  2. two  3. three or more  4. none
52. a) How many biological children are in your family? □
   b) How many biological children are in your spouse's family? □
      1. none
      2. one
      3. 2-3
      4. 4-5
      5. 6-8
      6. 9+
   c) Were there any other people living in your house? □
      1. yes Explain ____________________________ 2. no
   d) What is your spouse's position by birth in his family? □
      1. oldest
      2. youngest
      3. middle
      4. only
   e) Was your spouse a biological or an adopted child? □
      If adopted, at what age? __________
   f) If you were adopted, what age were you when the adoption took place? __________
   g) Were any of the children in your family adopted? □
   h) Were any of the children in your spouse's family adopted? □
      1. yes 2. no 3. don't know

53. Data about your parents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at</th>
<th>Present Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mother

Father

54. Data about your brothers and sisters in order of birth:
K. CONCLUSION

55. Is there anything else you could add that might be helpful to you and/or this research?

56. What are your feelings having gone through this interview?

57. What is the best thing you could do for yourself now?
Mrs. Dolores Blonde, Social Worker
Legal Assistance of Windsor
85 Wyandotte St. W.
Windsor, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Blonde:

We are requesting your assistance in putting us in touch with abused wives in the Windsor area who would be willing to talk with us regarding their situation. We are in the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Windsor and are writing a thesis examining the relationship of family of origin and present marital relationship of abused wives.

We would greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to give us in this area.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Anne M. Hauser
(Miss) June N. Wilton
Ms. Donna Miller  
Executive Director  
Hiatus House  
644 California Ave.  
Windsor, Ontario

Dear Ms. Miller:

We are requesting your assistance in putting us in touch with abused wives in the Windsor area who would be willing to talk with us regarding their situation. We are in the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Windsor and are writing a thesis examining the relationship of family of origin and present marital relationship of abused wives.

We would greatly appreciate any assistance you may be able to give us in this area.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Anne M. Hauser  
(Miss) June N. Wilton
Dear Ladies:

As two students in the candidate year of the Master of Social Work Program, we are attempting to complete a research project dealing with causes of wife abuse. We are requesting an hour of your time in answering some questions for us. No one except ourselves and the person who arranges the interview will know that you have talked to us. Our results will be gathered from all the ladies we talk to. Therefore, your confidentiality is assured. The results will be used by ourselves and others in an attempt to provide better assistance and services to battered women.

Thank you in advance for considering and responding to our request.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Hauser

June N. Wilton
APPENDIX C

HIATUS HOUSE

Hiatus House is an emergency shelter for physically abused women and their children situated at 644 California Ave., Windsor. Under the Directorship of Donna Miller, B.A., B.S.W., Hiatus House was opened in July, 1976 as a joint project of Legal Assistance of Windsor, the Council for Separated Women, the Community Law Program of the University of Windsor Law School, and the Secretary of State Student Community Service Project '76. It is a 24-hour-a-day service operated by staff and volunteer help, and has a capacity for four families. At time of writing, plans are underway to move to a larger residence in the fall of 1977. The length of stay for women at Hiatus House is 3-6 week periods. During a woman's stay at Hiatus House, she is involved in counselling with one of the two social workers and is given help and ideas in her planning for the future of her family. Follow-up counselling for former residents is also provided, as well as counselling to abused wives in the community who are able to make arrangements for accommodation outside of Hiatus House.
APPENDIX D

PROFILE OF THE ABUSED WIFE

From the compilation of our findings, it was possible to draw up a profile of the abused wife. First and foremost it must be remembered that this profile was based solely on our sample, and the reliability of generalizations beyond that are unknown. The profile follows our interview schedule in terms of content.

INDIVIDUAL DATA

The abused wife is most likely to have been in the 25-29 year age bracket, to have no physical ailments, and to be in good physical health. She is often a housewife, with a household income of $13,000 per year or more, if still married. Her income is considerably less if she is separated, and she is more likely to be separated than not. This frequently reduced her income to welfare allowance. She is likely married between one and nine years, having two or three children in her care, and having no previous marriages. She has some high school education. Her religious affiliation is Roman Catholic. For the most part, she describes her life as neither happy nor unhappy, just average.

PREMARITAL BEHAVIOUR

She is likely to have married for reasons other than love, such as getting away from home, pregnancy, and
financial reasons. She is most likely attracted by males' sense of humour and physical appearance, and was first attracted to her spouse because of these two qualities, in addition to their self-confidence and friendliness. Besides her physical appearance, she is unlikely to know what attracted her spouse to her.

PRESENT MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

While she expects love from her spouse in marriage, she states that he more often expects loyalty and financial security from her. They are as likely to have, as not to have, discussed these things prior to marriage. The couple seldom agree on friends, and never engage in outside activities together, usually one staying home while the other goes out.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

It is likely that the couple never agree on demonstration of affection, and that the male spouse generally initiates sexual intercourse. The subject is likely to be satisfied with the frequency of intercourse, although seldom having orgasm. More often than not she finds sex unenjoyable, and wants it to be different. She most often wants more affection shown to her during sexual intercourse.

SATISFACTION WITH MARRIAGE AND SPOUSE

She is likely to wish she had never married this man, and certainly, she would not marry him again if she had the opportunity to do so.
The woman's spouse is likely always able to express his mad feelings to her, while he has more trouble expressing his sad feelings, and probably seldom or never discusses his glad or scared feelings. He is likely to fight with her or drink when he is unable to discuss his feelings, while she keeps the feelings she cannot share with him to herself.

**MARITAL DISCORD**

Most frequently the couple fights over his drinking or his lack of respect for her. He is most likely to begin abusing her either under one month of living together or else after 5-9 years of living together. There is most likely no pattern to the abuse in terms of frequency and the extent of the violence is most often punches or kicks. The woman is likely to fight back when she is being abused. She is likely to feel that her pregnancies have no part in the abuse but that her spouse's drinking does. Talking with him is likely enough to trigger an abusive episode. She is likely to leave him once because of the abuse but want to leave on other occasions as well but is not able to out of fear, lack of finances, or because of the children. After the first incidence of abuse she is likely to lose respect for her spouse, and to feel that the marital situation gets worse. The couple is likely not to have argued frequently when dating.

**EXPRESSION OF EMOTION**

The woman is likely to be most uncomfortable at
social outings, and to feel sad when she is uncomfortable. To remedy this, she is likely to go off by herself, and her spouse does nothing to help her with these feelings. He is also most uncomfortable in public.

**SELF-CONCEPT**

The subject most often likes herself because she is easy-going, or because she cares about herself. She likely does not know what her spouse likes about her, but is likely to feel that her parents like everything about her now, and liked the fact that she was quiet as a child. Other people are most attracted to her because of her personality.

The subject does not like herself because she is weak, and believes that her spouse does not like her when she is argumentative. She is not likely to know what her parents do not like about her, or even what they did not like about her as a child, or what other people do not like about her.

**CAUSAL RELATIONSHIPS**

The spouse's behaviour is likely to be very similar to that in his parents' marriage. The woman is likely to have left her spouse because she refuses to accept further abuse, or, if they are still married, she is likely to leave if there are more dangerous fights or if he abuses the children.

**FAMILY OF ORIGIN**

The subject is likely to have been a biological as opposed to an adopted child, and it is as likely as not
that one or both of her parents are now deceased. If both her parents are living, it is likely that their marriage is still together. The woman is likely to have been separated from one or both parents (through death, illness, divorce) before the age of ten, and to be married to someone who experienced the same kind of separation. If her parents are living, they are likely to live within an hour's travelling time, and she is most likely to see them several times a month.

As a child the subject most often felt loved, but is married to someone whom she states felt unloved. She was likely praised verbally by her mother, and also criticized verbally by her mother. The most severe punishment was one of a physical nature but the most common was verbal.

There is nearly as apt to have been physical abuse in her family of origin as not, and after a fight her parents generally did not talk to one another. She differs from her parents in that after a fight she is likely to argue. She is likely to view her parents' marriage as happy or very happy, and to see herself as most like her mother.

The subject is likely to come from a family of 6-8 children, whose ancestors have lived in Canada for three or more generations. She is more likely to be married to someone who has been raised in a family of nine or more
children. They are likely not to have been any adopted children in either family, and she is likely to have been second or third born.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books


Periodicals


Government Documents


Uncollected Materials


Newspaper Articles


VITA

Anne M. Hauser was born on February 4, 1951, in Guelph, Ontario. She obtained her elementary education at St. Joseph's School in Guelph and completed her secondary education in 1970 at Bishop Macdonell High School in Guelph.

Miss Hauser commenced undergraduate studies in the School of Social Work, University of Windsor in 1970. Upon graduating with her Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1974, Miss Hauser accepted employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Westminster Hospital in London, Ontario, for two years. In 1976, Miss Hauser entered the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Windsor.

In the final year of undergraduate social work studies, Miss Hauser was placed for field practicum with the John Howard Society of Windsor. Her field placement during the M.S.W. candidate year was with Catholic Social Services of Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan.

Miss Hauser has acted as a teaching assistant in the School of Social Work at the University of Windsor during the academic year. She expects to graduate in October, 1977.
VITA

June N. Wilton was born in Toronto, Ontario on December 20, 1950. She attended elementary school in Willowdale, and was graduated from Northview Heights Secondary School, Willowdale in 1970. She then attended the University of Western Ontario and in 1974 received her Bachelor of Social Work degree.

In June 1974 she accepted employment with the Children's Aid Society of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. She worked at this agency for two years in the Family Services Department.

In September 1976 she was admitted to the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Windsor and expects to graduate in the fall of 1977.