

RETURNING TO THE ABUSER: THE CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES

by

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My father has been an inspiration to me – showing, through example, that greatness can be achieved in one’s life. This thesis could never have been conceptualized nor completed without his help, intuition, and red markings! I aspire to be that type of parent to my own children. To Dr. Del Carmen, whose insights and brilliance set me upon my thesis path and who showed me what a Master’s Degree has to offer, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you to my committee members; Dr. Polk and Dr. Stickels, the CRCJ office, Lindy and Cathy, and also my SafeHaven supervisor Vickie. I also thank my mom and Linda for their continued support of what I do and their magical way of helping me see through the brick wall. To the rest of my family; Russ, Shawn, Ronni, Alma, Autumn, Alizee and Austin, I thank for their encouragement and love. And finally to Shelley, who even far away has provided me with a friendship that has helped me overcome many adversities. I dedicate this thesis and my Master’s Degree to my grandpa who passed away in 2006, but who I know continues to watch over me and give me strength from day to day.

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ABSTRACT

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The present study examines self-reported perceptions regarding the reasons why women in Tarrant County returned to their abuser. A survey was implemented in a North Texas domestic violence shelter in which clients answered a series of questions pertaining to why they left their abuser in the past based on ten recidivism variables previous research found influential. Three statistical analyses were performed to determine if dependency on or for their abuser resulted in the subjects returning to their abusive relationship. Contrary to the hypothesized prediction battered women were found to return to an abuser for reasons other than dependency. However, it was found that that there was a positive and significant statistical relationship between women who

have returned to an abusive relationship three or more times and those women who lacked adequate alternatives and were in what might be considered dire financial need.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Rachel Miller left her abusive relationship after six years of being beaten bloody on a regular basis and having been raped and tortured almost daily. Before Rachel left she realized that "...till death do us part took on a whole new meaning. If [she] had stayed this man would have killed [her]. Each beating escalated to the point that [she] was convinced this man will end [her] life at some point had [she] stayed." She waited until he came home, told him she was leaving with the kids, and then left. For the next five years Rachel began a new life for her and her kids, re-married, and even became pregnant again. Then, in 2000, Rachel's ex husband broke into Rachel's home and fatally wounded her in a brutal attack. She died 13 days later. Her unborn son died with her.
(Miller, 1999, p. 1)

"On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day... for example during 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner" (Data Brief, 2003, p. 1).

The present study examines perceptions regarding the reasons why woman in Tarrant County returned to an abuser. This study utilizes ten recidivism variables that previous researchers have found influential in assessing the correlation between leaving an abusive relationship and subsequently returning (Griffing et al, 2002; Horton & Johnson, 1993 & Strube & Barbour, 1983): (1) pressure from others, (2) felt it was in the best interest of the children, (3) no other good alternatives, (4) abuser promised to seek counseling, (5) abuser expressed remorse, (6) religious convictions, (7) belief in the covenant of marriage, (8) financially unable to make it on their own, (9) feared

retaliation, and (10) continued emotional attachment/ love. This study seeks to uncover the relationships between women who return to their abuser on multiple occasions. The primary hypothesis therefore states:

H1: *There is a positive statistical relationship between abused women who return to their abuser multiple times and the woman's dependency on, or for, others.*

Women in an abusive relationship who subsequently leave that dangerous situation are at a high risk of returning to that same abusive relationship sometime in the future (Griffing et al, 2002; Schutte, Malouff, & Doyle, 2001; & Martin et al, 2000). It is not uncommon for such women to leave abusive relationships five to seven times (Burman, 2003; Ferraro, 1997; Miller, 1999). While previous research investigated the likelihood an abused woman will return to her abuser (Strube & Barbour, 1983; Griffing et al. 2002; Schutte, Malouff, & Doyle, 2001) little work has examined in detail circumstances surrounding previous returns to an abuser. Strube and Barbour (1983) state that for many battered woman, the subject of abuse is not just related to minor physical altercations, rather the abuse is often a severe, chronic problem.

The subject of domestic violence, until more recently, was a subject that received scant attention. If it happened in the home, it stayed in the home. In previous decades it was not uncommon for the legal system to utilize the Rule of Thumb in which a male could discipline his wife as long as the switch he used did not have a circumference larger than his thumb (Johnson, 2002). "By defining the home as part of the 'private' sphere, which was cushioned from the law, in contrast to the 'public' sphere, which was

protected by legal code, women abused by male partners fell outside of the purview of the law's protection" (Kurz, 1998, p. 106). "Because the privacy of the family tradition has been respected both legally and socially, researchers have found it difficult to conduct empirical studies of spouse abuse" (Horton & Johnson, 1993, p. 481). Yet, over the past two decades, there has been a dramatic transformation in the response to intimate partner violence across all sectors of society, including the criminal justice system, social services, health care, and public opinion.

Regarding social services, "the last 20 years have seen the creation of hotlines and emergency shelters for battered women and their children across the nation, creation of advocacy programs in family and criminal courts, and batterer intervention programs in virtually every community. Public awareness of domestic violence as a crime, not as a private family matter, has also altered the landscape and increased the demand for services" (Campbell, 2005, p. 654). Domestic violence is not a crime centered against one specific female demographic. Kurz (1998) argues, "Male violence is a problem for women of all income, race, and ethnic groups and affects an estimated three to four million women in the United States every year" (p. 105). Just like with other forms of violent crimes, a typology for the victims of domestic violence would be very hard to narrow down.

Increased attention and heightened awareness have spurred various governmental agencies to become involved by providing services and places of refuge. It might be more prevalent to see those in a lower socio-economic class in shelters, which could be due to

the range of options that comes from discretionary income. Women in shelters need resources available to them to better assist their recovery.

1.1 Definitions

Below are the primary terms and their respective definitions used throughout this study.

Abuse - the improper or excessive use or treatment; misuse; physical maltreatment; language that condemns or vilifies usually unjustly, intemperately, and angrily (Merriam-Webster, Inc, 2006)

Battered Women's Syndrome (BWS) - the highly variable symptom complex of physical and psychological injuries exhibited by a woman repeatedly abused especially physically by her mate (Merriam-Webster, Inc, 2006).

Femicide - is a term referring to the systematic killing of women because they are women; seen as a gender crime; these practices result in demographic imbalance with an excess of males (Wikimedia Foundation, Inc, 2006).

Intimate Personal Violence (IPV) - evolves from patriarchal social structures that imply women's subordinate status in society; defined as physical, sexual, and psychological violence, perpetrated by the man who is or was the woman's intimate partner (Ruiz-Pérez, Mata-Pariente, & Plazaola-Castano, 2006).

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) - is a term for certain psychological consequences of exposure to, or confrontation with, stressful experiences that the person experiences as highly traumatic. The experience must involve actual or threatened death,

serious physical injury, or a threat to physical and/or psychological integrity (Wikimedia Foundation Inc, 2006).

1.2 Organization of Study

The organization of this study originates with a literature review focusing on the broad issue of domestic violence; the men who commit this act; the help a woman can receive from relevant organizations; and finally, the women who leave an abusive relationship and then return. Next the sample, methods, and analytical techniques are presented. In this chapter the methodology is detailed and identification of the sample of battered women who stayed at the Tarrant County shelter between October 2006 and February 2007 is described. A survey is employed to capture the perceptions of women who sought refuge from their abuser. Finally, additional explorations are conducted to assess alternative explanations ending with a summarization of the findings, results, discussion and conclusion.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this study is to investigate domestic violence and the perceptions of battered women that relate to those women returning to their abusive situation. “Understanding why many women who have left a battering relationship eventually return to the possibility of being battered again may be an important step toward helping them break out of a cycle of victimization” (Schutte et al, 2001, p. 606). To support the hypothesis developed in Chapter I, the following section provides (1) an overview of the relevant literature on the broad issue of domestic violence; (2) batterers and how they affect the recidivism rate of survivors; (3) the places that women find shelter when they decide to leave; (4) a look into women who have left and permanently ended the relationship; and (5) a look at reasons why battered women consider returning. In contrast to the focus of most literature on domestic violence recidivism rates (Griffing et al., 2002; Schutte, Malouff, and Doyle, 1988), the focus of this study will be on battered women who have previously left and their perceptions regarding the reasons why they have returned to their abuser.

2.1 Domestic Violence Education and Theories

Bowen, Gilchrist, and Beech (2005) defined domestic violence as “any form of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse which takes place within the context of a close

relationship... between partners (married, cohabiting or otherwise) or ex-partners, represents nearly one quarter of all recorded violent crime” (p. 189). It is very difficult to identify the underlying causes of domestic violence and even the scholars in the field do not agree as to what they are. As a result, there are several different and at times overlapping theories of causation (Wolfe & Jaffe, 1999; Stover, 2005). Research in the field of domestic violence has increased over recent years and Stover (2005) found 15,719 articles published in this area in the past 10 years and concluded the most predominant of domestic violence literature is intimate partner violence.

Horton & Johnson (1993) show that “since the early 1970’s, researchers, clinicians and educators have identified wife abuse as a significant problem and have attempted to define, explain, and, more recently, treat and prevent it” (p. 481). Why hasn’t there been a definite way to stop wife battering? What works and what does not work? Horton and Johnson (1993) answer these questions by stating that “unfortunately, little hard data exist concerning women who have ended abusive relationships, because most spouse abuse research has relied on findings from (1) normal populations (2) shelter studies, (3) police and court records, and (4) women in counseling” (p. 481-482).

Additionally, The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) evaluated Texans’ personal experiences with domestic violence in 2003 by defining and placing the answers in two ways: (1) domestic violence: “refers to anyone who has experienced any of the following forms of abuse: physical abuse, such as hitting, choking or slapping; sexual abuse; threats made against themselves or their family; verbal abuse, including name-calling and public humiliation; and forced isolation from friends and family” (Texas

Counsel On Family Violence, 2003, p. 3), and (2) severe abuse in which one experiences at least one of the following: “physical abuse, sexual abuse or having a spouse or dating partner threaten them or their family” (Texas Counsel On Family Violence, 2003, p. 3).

Johnson (2002) showed that “According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report, two million women report being battered by a partner or ex-partner each year. Over a quarter of female homicide victims are killed by a spouse or boyfriend” (p. 60). Frye et al. (2005) report that in 2000 “women constituted 74% of all intimate partner homicide victims... and approximately a third of femicide victims were killed by current or former intimate partners” (p. 205). Frye et al. (2005) also show that the “killing of women, or femicide, represents a significant source of premature mortality among young women in the United States” (p. 204-205). Yet figures like those above are almost certainly an underestimate given the likelihood of underreporting (Strube & Barbour, 1983).

Moreover, family violence has devastating consequences for its victims. The Department of Justice- Family Violence Fact Sheet (2006) found that “individuals who experience- or are exposed to- family violence, the violence can have psychological, physical, behavioral, academic, sexual, interpersonal, self-perceptual or spiritual consequences.” The Family Violence Fact Sheet (2006) also found that domestic violence in Canada has cost the “Canadian society an estimated \$4.2 billion per year in social services, education, criminal justice, labour, employment, health and medical costs. Criminal justice costs alone total an estimated \$871,908,582.00 per year.” The research since 1991 has continually showed another consequence of domestic violence in which some of the battered women experience Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (Woods,

2005). Golding (1999) found in a meta-analysis of 11 studies that 31% to 84.4% of women who experience Intimate Personal Violence (IPV) met PTSD criteria. Woods (2005) shows that individuals with PTSD are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality.

One of the main concerns of women in battering relationships is the decision to return to that situation time and time again. On average a women will return to her abusive relationship five to seven times (Burman, 2003; Ferraro, 1997; Miller, 1999) before she leaves for good or is eventually murdered at the hands of her batterer. Most of the research that has been presented in the past on domestic violence has not really sought to explain this phenomenon: they have just explained why they might return in the future (Strube & Barbour, 1983; Griffing et al., 2002; Schutte, Malouff, & Doyle, 2001; Snyder and Fruchtman, 1981). Battered women themselves do not fully understand the phenomenon. For example, Snyder and Fruchtman (1981) interviewed woman at the time of intake into a shelter. They found at the time of intake only 13% of the woman intended to return to their abuser. However, at discharge 34% indicated an intention to return. At follow up six to ten weeks later, a majority of the woman interviewed (60%) had returned to their abuser.

Even when women do report domestic violence to the police, that number is very sporadic. The Statistics Canada study found that “eight out of 10 offenders were reported only once” (News Staff, 2006). One major reason for reporting is due to children witnessing the abuse; mothers are more likely to call the police when their children have just witnessed the abuse (News Staff, 2006). While women are infrequent in making the calls to the police, studies have shown that “more than 20,000 calls were made to the

Women's Aid national helpline in 2004, yet this figure does show that there was an increase in both marked and missed calls reporting domestic violence (McDonagh & Ring, 2006).

Lewis et al. (2006) explain a reason women remain silent about their abusive relationships could be due to the concept of cultures being "clannish, even vindictive about negative extra-familial exposure, favoring stability of the family over protection from harm. Many factors make it difficult for women to come forward. For example, the self-silencing of African-American women has been associated with factors as complex as loyalty, ethnic pride, and distrust of mainstream institutional and law enforcement policies (p. 342). Yet, as Campbell (2005) showed that "determining the seriousness of a particular case and the risk of escalation is necessary not only for allocating resources, but it is also important to tailor the response to the level of dangerousness, to make the response appropriate, to avoid violating the civil rights of offenders and to avoid unnecessarily disrupting the lives of victims and their children" (p. 655).

2.1.1 Domestic Violence Policies

Lutze and Symons (2003) describe how the evolution of domestic violence policies occurred through the gendered institutions that created and implemented and often undermined their effectiveness. They refer to the first evolutionary period in domestic violence as male privilege and the right to discipline, granting men's legal right to punish and abuse their wives within the home. Lutze and Symons (2003) label the second period as male power and the right to protect; due to pressure from the women's groups, court cases, and research, where these male-dominated organizations switched

from the right to discipline women to the mandate to protect women. This evolution of policies in domestic violence can be seen with the criminal pendulum swing which eventually ends with due process in which protection of women is more important than male dominance in politics.

Domestic violence has become a prevalent issue of growing concern in the family. Wolfe and Jaffe (1999) describe that domestic violence is so common in the fabric of many societies worldwide, it often goes unnoticed and it fails to receive the attention that it deserves. Stover (2005) showed that data from the Bureau of Statistics found that “691,710 nonfatal and 1,247 fatal violent victimizations were committed by intimate partners in the United States in 2001” (p. 448).

In Texas alone, 49% of all Texans report that they have either personally been severely abused or report that a family member has been the victim of domestic violence (Texas Counsel On Family Violence, 2003). This is an extraordinarily high number; half of all people that participated for the Texas Council On Family Violence (2003) survey have been a victim of domestic violence or know someone that has been. Yet, in many instances these cases could go unknown and unreported and then they become part of that dark figure of crime, in which law enforcement and academics will never truly know the exact number of victims of domestic violence. Stover (2005) found that “given the necessity of safety and security as a primary means of helping families, increasing attention has been given to the use of collaborative community responses to domestic violence... [such as] coordination among police, prosecutors, probation officers,

domestic violence advocates, mental health providers, and judges to develop policies and procedures in response to domestic violence cases...” (p. 451).

2.1.2 Domestic Violence Theories

Scholars have started to assign blame not on the batterer but on some sort of underlying cause of this process of domestic violence. This could take away from the idea of placing blame but it also helps describe why some men might commit domestic violence against someone with whom they are in a relationship. Rosenbaum & Hope (1989) and Perry (1997) both explain the cause of domestic violence on biological factors within the batterer. In this theory, violent behavior can be explained by genetics, biochemistry, and changes in brain development due to trauma. Rosenbaum & Hope (1989) look into the conviction that some abusive men have histories of head injuries, which therefore have affected their ability to solve problems and control impulsivity. Therefore, the explanation by these scholars is that abuse comes from a problem within the brain and that it is an uncontrollable factor they possess.

Scholars (Dutton, 1995; Holtzworth-Munroe, Stuart, & Hutchinson, 1997) have also looked into a psychopathology approach to why some abuse. This theory of psychopathology says that domestic violence is rooted in “individual psychopathology or dysfunctional personality structures, which are more likely than biological factors to be learned and shared by early childhood experiences” (Wolfe & Jaffe, 1999, p. 134). This approach to domestic violence can be seen as correlated within the learning theory in that early experiences help structure how one acts in the future.

Another theory addressing domestic violence is the couple and family interactions theory. Cahn & Lloyd (1996) suggest that domestic violence is rooted in bad interactions of a couple and family interactions, and that to understand an individual's reaction, you must first look into the family relationships. A fourth theory of domestic violence is through social learning and development. This perspective suggests "that domestic violence is learned behavior that is modeled, rewarded, and supported by families and/ or the broader culture" (Wolfe & Jaffe, 1999, p. 135). This is to say that people commit domestic violence because of learned behaviors which could be connected to the Social Learning Theory developed by Ronald Akers and Robert Burgess in 1966. This theory "explains deviancy by combining variables which encouraged delinquency (e.g. the social pressure from delinquent peers) with variables that discouraged delinquency (e.g. the parental response to discovering delinquency in their children)" (Wikimedia Foundation, Inc, 2006).

Finally, the societal structure theory suggests that domestic violence is a problem rooted in the inequalities of women and the reinforcement of this concept by various institutions (Wolfe & Jaffe, 1999). This perspective relates back to the male dominance and female suppression that was rooted in the United States in the early part of the twentieth century. During this time, a man's use of violence in the home was protected by the American courts which upheld the old English Common Law that believed a man was the master of the home (Johnson, 2002). Websdale and Johnson (1997) found in conjunction with this theory of batterers that "criminal justice policies will always be of limited utility in reducing the revictimization of battered women by their abusive partners

because those policies do not systemically address women's social and political disadvantage" (p. 54).

Demaris and Swinford (1996) used a self-efficacy theory in their work to explain domestic violence and a battered women's level of fear. The authors found that the "self-efficacy theory leads us to expect that the degree of fear women experience about future assaults by their intimate partners is a direct function of their confidence in their ability to cope with these situations" (p. 99). Demaris and Swinford (1996) explain that by coping they mean: "(a) preventing their partners from using violence as a tactic against them, (b) defending themselves in the event of an attack, or (c) leaving the relationship either temporarily or permanently and surviving on their own" (p. 99).

Zink et al. (2006) concur with Demaris and Swinford (1996) in their study on coping. Zink et al. (2006) found that "problem-focused coping leads to better adjustment when an individual faces a stressful situation that is within his or her control, whereas emotional-focused coping is a more adaptive approach to uncontrollable or unchangeable situations..." (p. 635). The authors concluded that a "key process in women's coping response was the reappraisal or reframing of important aspects of their situations (self, abuser, and relationships). Some reported simply refusing to 'let anything beat them down,' others suggested greater acquiescence, for example, by suggestions that one should 'know the things you can control and accept the things you can't" (p. 641).

The abuse from domestic violence does not end when a person leaves their abusive situation, it can continue on into their daily life, even years after leaving the violent relationship (Horton and Johnson, 1993). There are many factors that can still

harm that individual after the abuse has ended and these can be much more harmful than the previous physical abuse. Interviews with police, attorneys, or the court room where they see the abuser again can be examples of where a victim can recall all of that abuse again. Martin et al. (2000) report in their study that “in conjunction with the broader literature on battered women, results of [their] study suggest that there are similarities between the process of leaving an abusive relationship and the process of change examined with respect to other health risks, which may inform interventions in the field of domestic violence counseling” (p. 118). Texas Counsel On Family Violence (2003) found that Texans show a tragic willingness to blame victims for the abuse they suffer. This unwillingness to believe that there is domestic violence lies in the idea that many people wonder “why didn’t she just leave?” (Texas Counsel On Family Violence, 2003, p. 8).

Dunn’s (2005) study focused on the differences between the definitions of ‘victim’ and ‘survivors’ which were identified and discussed. Classifications such as this are relevant literature in understanding why women are classified under with the victim typology or the survivor typology. Dunn (2005) found that the “‘victim’ typifications account for the deviance of battered women who stay and shift blame for this behavior by emphasizing their emotionality, and especially their lack of choice. Framing victims as ‘survivors’ constructs a different, less pathetic and more reasonable battered woman embodying the cultural values of strength rather than weakness, and agency instead of passivity” (p. 21).

Domestic violence is not just a symptom that when fully researched and understood will be able to be repaired or fixed entirely. Domestic violence is full of underlying biological and psychological problems that affect those that are beaten, those that are the abuser, and those in the situation as onlookers; such as children and parents (Wolfe & Jaffe, 1999). In the study done by Wolfe & Jaffe (1999), these onlookers were treated on their prevalence of domestic violence and how to prevent this occurrence from happening again. The authors found that three preventions can be used for ending the cycle of violence by applying either a primary prevention which is targeted at populations before domestic violence occurs, a secondary which is targeted at individuals, following signs of domestic violence, or finally a tertiary model which is target to victims and perpetrators after domestic violence is evident. Schutte, Malouff, and Doyle (1983) concur with the statement above by providing results that “abusive behavior between parents’ sets a model of destructive communication for children, who as adults may be more likely to become involved in an abusive relationship themselves” (p. 606).

2.2 Batterers

Most victims of domestic violence only tell police about it once; even though they likely will face violence on multiple occasions (Cp, 2006). Belknap and Potter (2005) show through the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data, even with arrest policies in place, police were still less likely to arrest wife assaulters than other assaulters. This statistic relates to the theory on batterers in which the prevalence of male dominance overpowers women’s rights. Belknap and Potter’s (2005) study indicates that the “mandatory [domestic violence] arrest policies not only decrease the likelihood of

[domestic violence] abusers killing their wives and girlfriends, but also that wives and girlfriends are less likely to be in a position to kill abusive male partners in self-defense” (p. 561).

Wooldredge and Thistlethwaite (2002) found in their results from the “Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment [which] revealed that arrest, compared to separation and counseling, produced a significantly lower likelihood of re-arrest for intimate assault” (p. 46). In 1982, this six month study of the Minneapolis police with regards to domestic violence calls was investigated. The police were put into three different sections with three different styles of handling domestic violence calls. The first section was mainly to calm the parties and negotiate a peaceful resolution. The second section was to send one of the people involved away for the night to cool down. Finally the third section was to always make an arrest of the batterer. “The results of this study indicated that the strict enforcement option was the most effective means of reducing further violence... [therefore], this study suggested that arresting the abuser whenever there was sufficient probable cause resulted in far fewer repeat calls for police service for domestic violence situations” (Johnson, 2002, p. 64). In contrast, Sherman (1992) concluded in his research that mandatory arrest does not reduce recidivism and, with certain offenders, mandatory arrest actually increases recidivism. Therefore, the controversy of mandatory arrest will continue on with both sides of the issue having significant findings.

Holtzworth-Munroe and Stuart (1994) suggested that batterers can be differentiated effectively along three dimensions: (1) severity and frequency of the

husbands' marital violence, (b) generality of the man's violence, and (3) the personality disorder characteristics of the man. They assembled from this literature the three types of male batterers: (1) the generally violent and antisocial batterer (GVA), (2) the dysphonic or borderline batterer (BD), and (3) the family-only batterer (BA). "There is no single reason that men who are martially violent commit their acts of aggression, and the theoretical and empirical contributions of Dr. Holtzworth-Munroe have gone far in explicating fundamentally important distinctions" (Widiger & Mullins-Sweatt, 2004, p. 1396).

Men, who batter a female they are in a relationship with, can use their power of control over them, not just in a physical way but also emotional and psychological. Lewis et al. (2006) found that the majority of women in their study, "86.1% reported being kicked, bit, or hit with a fist, 68.3% reported being shocked, and 13.9% of shelter residents survived assault with a deadly weapon" (p. 347). Websdale and Johnson (1997) showed in their study that "traditionally, violence against women in families has been seen as a misdemeanor offense, even though the injuries sustained by many women would attract felonies charges if perpetrated by a man she did not live with or know well" (p. 54).

Stover (2005) discovered when evaluating data from the Bureau of Statistics that 691,710 nonfatal and 1,247 fatal violent victimizations were committed by intimate partners in the United States in 2001; therefore, programs (such as offender rehabilitation) are in place that can help the batterer seek counseling or specific help in their area of concern. These programs are needed in the community due to Griffing et

al.'s (2002) study in which they found that 30% of the women were likely to return to their abuser because he promised to seek counseling and that 45% of the women surveyed in their study had returned to their abuser in the past due to this reason. Bowen, Gilchrist, and Beech (2005) showed in their evaluation of British domestic violence offender rehabilitation programs that "in comparison to men who received other sanctions, 67% of the men who attended a pro-feminist programme were reported as being non-violent 1 year later, whereas 25% of the men subjected to other sanctions were" (p. 190).

The most commonly used batterer treatment program in the United States is the Duluth model (Stover, 2005). The Duluth model was "designed in 1981 as a coordinated community response of law enforcement, the criminal and civil courts, and human service providers working together to make communities safer for victims and hold offenders accountable for their behavior by: (1) focusing intervention on stopping an offender's use of violence, not fixing the relationship, (2) using the power of the state through arrest and prosecution to place controls on an offender's behavior, (3) providing victims of abuse emergency housing, protections orders, and information to increase safety, and (4) tracking cases and working with law enforcement, the courts, and advocacy programs to ensure interventions conform to agreed-upon policies" (Minnesota Program Development, 2006). Minnesota Program Development (2006) also states that "the success of this program, or any other batterers' program, relies on the cohesiveness of agencies in the criminal and civil justice systems in monitoring offenders' progress,

violation of court orders, failure to comply with the program rules, and any further acts of violence. This is then met with swift consistent consequences.”

Shepard, Falk, and Elliott (2002) found that men who were arrested, were court ordered to attend a Men’s Nonviolence Program, and completed the program were less likely to reoffend based on police records. The findings of Shepard, Falk, and Elliott (2002) can be used when trying to establish a mandated policy of arrest for domestic violence batterers. Schutte et al (1988) showed in their study on recidivism of battered women that the “great majority of battered women were exposed to the persuasive techniques batterers use to induce their partners not to leave the battering relationship or to return to the relationship and that, in most instances, batterers seemed to be effective in inducing their victims to stay or return to the relationship” (p. 609). Few (2005) found in her study that women who wanted to seek shelter for domestic violence were sidetracked by abusive partners who would feed them misinformation about who used shelters and what shelter life would be like.

2.3 Domestic Violence Shelters

Domestic violence shelters exist as a safe haven for women and, in some cases but not as often, men to enter after leaving an abusive relationship. Saathoff & Stoffel (1999) show that community-based domestic violence services have grown significantly since their emergence in the 1970’s. The authors demonstrate that now more than 2,000 in number, “domestic violence organizations have expanded their range of programs to include... crisis-oriented services, such as telephone hot lines and temporary shelter” (p. 97). Research indicates that shelters are beneficial for many women and shelter stays

dramatically reduce the likelihood of new violence (Few, 2005). The Texas Counsel on Family Violence (2003) found that these facilities are equipped with “security cameras, locked doors, bars on the window, and confidential locations... because of the very real danger faced by someone leaving an abusive relationship” (p. 8). These shelters do not just provide a safe place for battered women to stay, studies and surveys (Saathoff & Stoffel, 1999; Texas Counsel On Family Violence, 2003; Bybee and Sullivan, 2005; Few, 2005) have shown that these shelters also provide emotional support, crisis intervention, legal services, children programs, and domestic violence education.

Saathoff and Stoffel (1999) completed a study in which they looked at domestic violence community based shelters and their impact on victims of domestic violence. The authors found that “although there has been significant growth in services, substantial segments of the target population still are not reached, and most organizations do not yet have a sufficient range of services to meet... diverse needs” (p. 97). Saathoff and Stoffel (1999) did also find that “these agencies are expanding community outreach efforts and attempts to educate the public and professionals about domestic violence” (p. 97). Dutton (1995) recommend that when in counseling sessions counselors need to explain the process of domestic violence and attachment, so as to normalize those feelings and thereby help them cope with the difficulties that they will most likely experience in their efforts to leave the abusive relationship and continue on with their life.

Griffing et al. (2002) agree with this concept and the authors state that “it is important for counselors to be aware that there may be differences in the extent to which battered women with and without a history of past separation attempts will acknowledge

these feelings” (p. 315). Schutte, Malouff, and Doyle (1983) in their study on persuasive techniques of the batterer, found that these “are indeed a factor in a women’s decision to return to an abusive relationship, it seems that a novel and potentially effective way of breaking the cycle would consist of persuasive inoculation during counseling” (p. 609). Martin et al. (2000) concur with the stress that should be placed on counseling and how it should be delicately dealt with. The authors state that, “it seems especially important for counselors who work with abused women to be careful that their interventions allow, and where appropriate encourage, the exploration of ambivalent feelings” (p. 118).

New outreach programs have been established over the years to address domestic violence. Some of these include collaborations with the police, Family Services, and shelters in which the police would make referrals to Family Services every time they encounter a situation that involves domestic violence (Schneider, 2006). Schneider (2006) found that after a follow-up, as much as 30 percent of families accepted help after the referral was made. “Although educational and didactic interventions may be important, they will probably be of limited effectiveness in and of themselves, because health research shows that people do not tend to apply factual information about risk when they evaluate their own behavioral choices in their daily lives” (Martin et al, 2000, p. 117). Belknap and Potter’s (2005) found that research in the United States from “1976 to 1998 showed a significant drop in [domestic violence] fatalities and attributed them to the implementation of mandatory arrest policies and battered women’s shelters” (p. 561).

Few (2005) found in her research that shelters are beneficial for many women and staying at a shelter dramatically reduces the likelihood of new violence. The research also

states that battered women credit shelters for helping them secure employment, further their education, and lead healthier lives (Few, 2005). A stay at a domestic violence shelter may lead these women out of the fear of their daily lives and into a temporary stay with people willing to help them further their lives. Few (2005) found that shelter staff is credited “for providing a safe environment, effectively manning crisis telephone lines, maintaining emotional ties to and community resources for former residents, and training other professionals who service battered women” (p. 489).

These shelters are temporary as well as emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence and they are also places of refuge for the women that need it most. Few (2005) revealed from interviews in her study that five main themes emerged about participants’ shelter experiences: “(a) the shelter was a safe haven from intimate violence; (b) racial or cultural differences were not significant detractors from a satisfactory experience; (c) shelter residents and staff became a new family in this stressful time; (d) shelter residents experienced a positive, supportive relationship with shelter staff; and (e) shelter residents were highly satisfied with shelter service efficacy” (p. 494).

While domestic violence shelters are within themselves a safe haven for battered women to reside, they are not always a full proof plan to keep women out of that situation forever. Bybee and Sullivan (2005) found in their study on re-victimization of battered women that the risk of being re-abused is exacerbated by a woman “having difficulties accessing resources, having problems with the state welfare system, and having people in their social networks who make their lives difficult” (p. 85). Bybee and Sullivan (2005) mainly looked into the idea of welfare and employment as the only support keeping

battered women from returning to their batterers or becoming homeless. The findings that Bybee and Sullivan (2005) found supported the idea that access to resources and social support serve as protective factors against continued abuse.

With the options of a domestic violence shelter available, not all women in an abusive relationship understand that these resources are there for them. Women in a battered situation are mainly kept in isolation where transportation to the shelter, information about the services provided, and other social service providers are not readily available to them (Few, 2005), therefore they stay in these abusive relationships not knowing of a way to leave. Few (2005) provides implications to help in this situation; (1) provide greater visibility of services including the shelter and counseling, (2) include employment training, (3) offer shelter aftercare, (4) consider inspirational resources such as faith-based organizations.

Bybee & Sullivan (2005) found that the risk of being abused three years post-shelter stay was elevated by a number of factors present in women's lives one year prior which include "(1) having experienced abuse in the 6 months prior to that point; (2) having difficulty accessing resources; (3) having had problems with the state welfare system; and (4) having people in their social networks that made their lives difficult" (p. 93). The authors also found that women were at less risk of abuse if they "(1) reported higher quality of life 1 year prior to abuse; (2) were employed 1 year prior; and (3) had people in their social networks who provided practical and/ or who were available to talk about personal matters" (p. 93).

Many women who leave a battering relationship eventually return to the batterer (Schutte et al., 1988; Griffing et al. 2002) and are likely to be battered again (Schutte et al., 1988). Therefore, Schutte et al. (1988) show that by “understanding why many women who have left a battering relationship eventually return to the possibility of being battered again may be an important step toward helping them break out of a cycle of victimization” (p. 606). This is in correlation with what Horton & Johnson (1993) found in which many women feel they are unable or unwilling to end a violent relationship and that “because many victims return to their abusers after a shelter stay, effective methods for ending abuse without terminating the relationship need to be identified... [and] based on the longevity of these couple relationships and the need to provide interim solutions, agencies and practitioners are increasingly providing a wide range of support services for women and men who are attempting to end the cycle of abuse” (p. 482).

Even while some women are unaware of the services provided to them through shelters, Saathoff & Stoffel (1999) found that there are several limitations to a shelter-based service provider. The authors show that first the absolute number of shelter beds is inadequate to serve those women and children seeking shelter. Saathoff & Stoffel (1999) account that shelters report having to turn away many women and children seeking services; and that there are considerable discrepancies between those identified as needing service and the number of beds available. Secondly, Saathoff & Stoffel (1999) show that many shelters do not have a focused children’s program, but that over the past decade this problem has seen a turn around. Finally, Saathoff & Stoffel (1999) say that because shelter stays are typically 30 to 60 days, most of the services are crisis oriented

and not focused around the long term aspect of the battered women's future. This is in accordance to Wolfe & Jaffe (1999) who found that "while crisis intervention is a necessary response to domestic violence and can be highly effective at particular points in time, it alone cannot address the complex dynamics of domestic violence... [t]here is also a strong need for proactive strategies of prevention" (p. 134).

2.4 Reasons to Leave or End the Abuse

Strength and courage that an individual has to leave a relationship and venture into the unknown facilities of a shelter and bring their children into that environment is what it takes for a battered woman to finally decide that its time to leave. A woman, who has made that decision to leave her abusive relationship and end the abuse, has already placed herself outside the sphere of being a victim and into the new category of a survivor. While, at the beginning of the relationship a women is unwilling to end the relationship due to emotional commitment (Griffing et al., 2002; Horton & Johnson, 1993), this changes as the progression of abuse continues. Horton & Johnson (1993) found that there was personal, community, legal, and professional counseling resources utilized by survivors of domestic violence. A majority of women (96.1%) in Horton & Johnson's (1993) study who had left an abusive relationship reported that they discussed their abuse with someone or some agency. Another large statistic that Horton & Johnson (1993) report is that of the women that left, 61.8% had seen a social worker, marriage counselor, or [another] clinician. Griffing et al. (2002) found that "the process of leaving an abusive relationship typically involves numerous stressors, such as relocation, economic instability, legal actions, child custody issues, distributions of social networks,

and possibly difficulties involved in terminating the emotional connection with the batterer” (p. 307).

The decision to leave an abusive relationship, “particularly the degree to which one feels ready for, certain about, or committed to this decision, also has important implications for risk assessments and the process of change” (Martin et al., 2000, p. 111). Martin et al. (2000) use Prochaska and DiClemente’s model of the change process to relate back to a woman leaving an abusive relationship. In this model change begins with “*contemplation*, in which a person who may have been previously unaware of a problem or a need for change begins to consider, with ambivalence, whether a problem exists. The person [then] moves on to the phase of *determination*, when he or she reaches a decision to change and makes a commitment to change-directed actions” (p. 111).

Burman (2003) also describes the stages of change that occur throughout the experience of leaving an abusive relationship. The first stage is seen as precontemplation in which the battered woman will minimize the abuse, source, consequences of the problem, and will the defense mechanism that she will use if anyone suspects abuse. Contemplation is the second stage in which the denial and its adaptive mechanisms weaken as the abuse continues. The third stage Burman (2003) illustrates is determination/ preparation in which the battered woman starts to understand the consequences of staying and a decision to leave is formulated. Action is the fourth stage in which taking action means energy is now directed away from staying in the abusive relationship and now focused on leaving. The fifth stage is maintenance which shows the goal of successfully leaving the abusive relationship depends on preparation and a belief

in the guarantee of change. The final stage Burman (2003) describes is termination in which she says that “if termination of the battering experience can be achieved, an empowering grasp of self-efficacy, self-confidence, and a positive self-image can emerge” (p. 87).

Once a woman decides to leave their abusive relationship, there could be behavioral changes that are decided and acted upon. Martin et al. (2000) showed that “previous research in the health field has shown that “risk reduction is significantly influenced by operation of optimistic biases in people’s perceptions of risk and their commitment to a change decision” (p. 110). Martin et al.’s (2000) research showed “that the likelihood of returning to the batterer is substantial but is inversely associated with the number of prior separations; possibly, each separation may make it easier to stay away from the batterer by increasing the women’s self-sufficiency for remaining outside the relationship and decreasing her ties to it” (p. 118).

If a woman who had left her batterer minimizes the difficulties she will encounter throughout this experience, “she is more likely to be unprepared for the feelings that may arise during the struggles and may be more vulnerable to making a sudden decision to return to her batterer” (Griffing et al., 2002, p. 307). Griffing et al. (2002) continue that the findings they have uncovered “underscore the important role that domestic violence survivors’ internal process may play in these decisions, above and beyond the role of external factors” (p. 307).

Burman (2003) illustrated a decisional balance chart in which the advantages of leaving were compared to the disadvantages of leaving. On the latter side, Burman (2003)

found that “fear of making it alone, financial insecurity, and fear of stalking/ increasing abuse” (p. 86) were disadvantages of leaving while some advantages of leaving are “feelings of empowerment, improved coping, decision-making, problem-solving skills, greater opportunities for advancement, renewed hope for a better life, only survival/ safety option left for [their] children and [their self], [and] breaking the intergenerational cycle of violence” (p. 86). Therefore, “the process of leaving an abusive relationship typically involves numerous stressors, such as relocation, economic instability, legal actions, child custody issues, disruption of social networks, and possible difficulties involved in terminating the emotional connection with the batterer” (Griffing et al, 2002, p. 307).

A woman’s level of fear can have an impact on whether a woman decides to leave the abusive relationship. “A woman can be afraid that if she does not leave her abuser, the violence will continue. However, for some victims, leaving the husband is no guarantee that the violence will cease” (DeMaris & Swinford, 1996, p. 98). Yet, those who successfully terminate the abusive relationship have cited the importance of learning about themselves and about the truth of their victimization and the batterer’s responsibility for the abuse (Short et al, 2000).

Strube & Barbour (1983) found that economic dependence and psychological commitment were significantly related to a woman’s decision to leave and end the abusive relationship. Strube & Barbour (1983) also found that women, who were employed and had not been in the relationship as long as others, were more likely to leave the relationship. These findings are correlated with Horton and Johnson (1993) who

found in their study that women who had been able to end the abuse for at least a year were “considerably older, married longer, better educated, and working outside the home” (p. 487). Horton and Johnson (1993) also found that those who remained in the abusive relationship “reflect the ‘trapped’ quality and psychological dependency often associated with abuse survivors: more children, fewer job opportunities, fear of failure, child abuse, and sexual abuse” (p. 488).

When women are in an abusive relationship and rely heavily on the male for economic dependence, these factors could very well prevent the women from leaving the relationship. This is in correlation with Strube & Barbour (1984) in which they found that “women who had left the relationship at follow-up were more likely than were those who remained to be employed, to have been in their relationships for a shorter period of time, to be nonwhite, and to have tried a greater number of other coping strategies to alleviate the abuse” (p. 837). Strube & Barbour (1984) found that “women who indicated ... that they were living with their partners because of love, economic hardship, the belief that the abuser would change, or because they had nowhere else to go were likely to be still with their assailants at follow-up” (p. 837).

2.5 Reasons to Return or Stay

Burman (2003); Ferraro (1997), and Miller (1999) show that a woman on average will leave her abusive relationship five to seven times. Griffing et al. (2002) found in their study that “the majority of participants (66.7%) reported that they had left and returned to the batterer on at least one prior occasion. Most participants (88.3%) with a history of prior separations reported at least two previous attempts at terminating the

relationship and a considerable number (33.5%) reported five or more such experiences” (p. 310). Yet, Griffing et al. (2002) conclude that “there were no significant differences between participants with and without a history of returning in the total number of reasons that they identified as potentially influencing a future decision to return” (p. 310).

Schutte et al (2001) describe the four major studies that have examined predictors of whether a woman will return to an abusive relationship after leaving it. Berk, Newton, and Berk (1986) found that battered women who sought help by going to the police were less likely to be battered again. Hilbert and Hilbert (1984) reported that the women likely to return to a battering relationship had experienced more severe abuse, had longer relationships, were younger, experienced less frequent abuse, were unemployed, and had short crisis shelter stays. Schutte, Bouliege, Fix, and Malouff (1986) found that victims who attributed the abuse to the situation were more likely to return. And Snyder and Scheer (1981) reported that the relationship of the victims to the batterer, the length of the marriage, previous separations, religious affiliation, length of stay at the shelter, living plans at discharge, and plans for the marriage were related to whether the women were battered after leaving a shelter.

Schutte et al. (1988) showed in their study that the correlation between the number of separations and intent not to return seems to suggest that battering victims may be slow to leave the batterer permanently but tend to increase their resolve in that digestion over time. “Hence, women who return to a batterer after prior separations may not be hopelessly locked into being a victim. They may be moving slowly toward leaving permanently” (Schutte et al., 1988, p. 609). Domestic violence is the number one cause of

injury requiring serious medical attention for women ages 18-49, more than car accidents, rapes, and mugging combined (Texas Counsel On Family Violence, 2003). While though some battered women do stay in an abusive relationship, Zink et al. (2006) found that many of the women in their study sought outside support from such places as: “12-step groups, ministers, therapists, physician, other professionals (chiropractor and masseuse), police, courts, and social agencies (such as Catholic charities and domestic violence crisis agencies)” (p. 646).

“Ego-deflating and in incriminating element can serve to keep a woman trapped in a situation that she may view as being incapable of ending herself, and even one that is justified due to her own faults and imperfections” (Burman, 2003, p. 83). Therefore, a common theme needed for most battered women when they leave is a support system to help them through their upcoming decisions. Demaris and Swinford (1996) found that sources of outside support are viewed by battered women as more effective than others. The authors showed that women reported “their friends, women’s advocacy groups, the batterer’s relatives, family therapists, and social service agencies to be most effective in dealing with partner violence. Less effective [the authors found], from women’s viewpoints, are the police, the legal system, and clergy” (p. 100). These results are in conjunction with what Horton & Johnson (1993) found in their study. The authors found that of the women who left in their study (n=462), “23% stated that ‘a friend’ was the most helpful resource for ending the abuse, whereas 50% of those remaining... found a counselor to be the most helpful” (p. 486).

Griffing et al. (2002) showed that a majority of participants in their study (66.7%) reported that they had returned to their present/ most recent abusive relationship at least once prior to their current admission to the shelter, and most participants who had previously returned had done so on multiple occasions. These findings are consistent with previous findings (Schutte et al., 1988; Strube, 1988), which indicates that many women who leave abusive partners subsequently return. Griffing et al.'s (2002) major finding was the high number of battered women who returned to their abusive relationship due to emotional attachment. The authors show that the "majority of participants who had previously returned to the batterer indicated that emotional attachment played an influential role in their decision to do so" (p. 313). On the contrary, Griffing et al. (2002) state that only a small percentage of women (10%) leaving the abusive relationship for the first time believed that emotional attachment might lead them to consider returning to their relationship in the future.

Ellsberg, Pena, Herrera, Liljestrand, & Winkvist (2000) found in their study that more often [women remain in an abusive relationship because of]... the fear of retaliation, the fear of losing their children, the financial dependence, the lack of support from friends and family, and the constant hope that 'he might change.' In relation to this Ruiz-Perez et al (2006) found that at the "same time, denial of the situation and fear of social rejection very often prevent women from seeking help" (p. 1157).

The Texas Counsel On Family Violence (2003) found that domestic violence is related to many other societal factors. "Up to one-half of all homeless women and children are victims of domestic violence. Children who grow up with domestic violence

are much more likely to perpetrate violence. Husbands who batter their wives are far more likely to abuse their children. Victims of domestic violence often turn to alcohol or drugs to cope with the terror of domestic violence” (p. 6). These factors mentioned above are just some of the reasons as to why women would rather stay in the abusive relationship than leave for the streets or for what they feel is an even more unsafe environment for her children. Yet, as Dunn (2005) explains in her research, the women who stay in this violent relationships, when looked at through the idea that people that free will, are going against the “normative expectation that people ordinarily act in their own best interest” (p. 4).

Women who leave abusive relationships might return to those relationships in the future (Griffing et al. 2002; Martin et al., 2000). Bybee & Sullivan (2005) show that “survivors’ decisions surrounding help-seeking are influenced by the women’s fear of repercussion from the assailant, her belief in the likelihood of success, and her emotional attachment to the perpetrator” (p. 87). Griffing et al. (2002) found that “the fact that continued emotional attachment appears to play a critical role in past and future decisions to return to abusive relationships stands in contrast to the central focus in the literature on external factors, such as economic dependence, lack of safe haven, and fear of further abuse” (p. 315). Griffing et al. (2002) found that the most frequent reasons for a battered woman to return to her abuser in the past were: “the batterer’s expressions of remorse, continued emotional attachment to the relationship, and economic need” (p. 311). Griffing et al. (2002) showed that women were most likely to return in the future

“because of their continued emotional attachment, the batterer’s promises to seek counseling, and their sense that the batterer had suffered enough” (p. 311).

Martin et al (2000) estimated that half of all attempts to leave an abusive relationship result in a reunion with the batterer. These researches have attempted to identify the factors associated with an increased risk of reunification have focused primary on social and demographics variables. Griffing et al. (2002); Martin et al. (2000); and Strube & Barbour (1984) revealed that battered women are more likely to return to an abusive relationship if they limited economic resources, which is also a reason as to why women do not want to leave these abusive relationships. In Griffing et al.’s (2002) study, it was found that a “majority of participants (66.7%) reported that they have returned to their present/ most recent abusive relationship at least once prior to their current admission to the shelter, and most participants who had previously returned had done so on multiply occasions (M= 4.5). These figures... indicate that many women who leave their abusive partners subsequently return” (p. 313).

Strube & Barbour (1984) found that decisions to leave an abusive relationship are on the objective measures of length of the relationship and employment and the subjective measures of love and economic hardship. This study concurred with the Griffing et al. (2002) study which found that the majority of participants they surveyed had previously returned to the batterer because of emotional attachment. Griffing et al. (2002) found that “given the complex and personal nature of attachment, it is possible that feelings of attachment to or connection with the batterer may become more apparent in retrospect and may be difficult to recognize among those who have not experienced

and been influenced by them previously” (p. 314). These researchers also found that women who were leaving the relationship for the first time appeared the most likely to underestimate the degree to which feelings of attachment might surface in this process. These results relate to the idea that women will return to their abusive situation an average of five to seven times (Burman, 2003; Ferraro, 1997; Miller, 1999). Zink et al. (2006) found that “living with the ‘simultaneity of love and violence’ for the long haul required employing coping strategies that involved appraising the relationship to find meaning and create boundaries that make the situation tolerable” (p. 628).

Griffing et al. (2002) show in their study that “given the complex and personal nature of attachment, it is possible that feelings of attachment to or connection with the batterer may become more apparent in retrospect and may be difficult to recognize among those who have not experienced and influenced by them previously” (p. 314). Yet while battered women perceive that they themselves will not return to their abusers, they do state that “most battered women” are at a greater risk to return to their abusive situation (Martin et al., 2000). This statement does show that most battered women realized there is a great chance that battered women will return to their abuser; they do just not believe those women will be them.

Strube & Barbour (1983) found that economic dependence and psychological commitment have a high rate on why battered women return to their abusers. These two factors relate to the issue that women are so entangled within the relationship that they cannot see themselves leaving on their own. Within these issues it was found that tolerance of abuse, motivation to obtain employment, and emphasis placed on husband/

wife roles (Strube & Barbour, 1983) are factors related to staying in an abusive relationship. These three issues mentioned above, when a low focus is placed on them, results in more of a likelihood that the battered woman will stay with her abuser. An emphasis on husband and wife roles in a relationship can result in this dominance from the man over the women that she must stay in her specific place and that if she is to go outside of those bounds then she can be ‘punished’ (Strube & Barbour, 1983). Research further indicates that, in many cases, leaving an abusive relationship involves a number of preliminary separations before the relationship is permanently terminated (Martin et al., 2000).

Fearfulness is another major reason why women stay in an abusive relationship or why they then decide after leaving to return. Fear creates a sense that she cannot do it on her own, that her children need the father figure in their lives, and that if they do not go back they might end up getting more harm done to them or someone they love (DeMaris & Swinford, 1996). DeMaris & Swinford (1996) continue in their study on fear that “whether or not [a woman] leaves an abusive relationship may depend upon her level of fear... women can be afraid that if she does not leave her abuser, the violence will continue... however, for some victims, leaving the husband is no guarantee that the violence will cease” (p. 98). A woman in a situation of this has learned what some scholars (Demaris & Swinford, 1996) would call ‘learned helplessness,’ which would prevent the women from taking any action against her abuser.

Websdale and Johnson (1997) found that “psychological explanations have tended to identify battered women as accomplices to their own victimization. They

become emotionally paralyzed and unable to work their way out of abusive situations because they suffer from learned helplessness” (p. 55). Yet, some scholars (Griffing et al., 2002) conclude that a woman who eventually leaves her partner may experience a decrease in acute fear but an increase in hidden feelings of attachment that may render her vulnerable to a sudden decision to return.

Bybee & Sullivan’s (2005) study, which looked into employment and quality of life as predictors of recidivism, the authors found that “quality of life may simply be a reflection of the adequacy and relevance of women’s resources and supports to their needs and desires; such as, quality of life may be protective against re-abuse because it can predict women’s ability to obtain needed resources and mobilize support in time of future need” (p. 94). These findings relate to what Griffing et al. (2002) conclude from their study that the comparative lack of endorsements of external factors in decisions to return may be related to “participants’ having relatively low expectations that they could avoid poverty and danger by returning to the batterer” (p. 316). Martin et al. (2000) found that “leaving an abusive relationship is not a matter of simple resolution but a complex, ongoing process of decision and changes in all aspects of daily life (e.g. relocation, financial crisis, legal actions, and disruption of a multitude of personal patterns and social connections)” (p. 118).

Strube & Barbour (1983) looked into the relationship decisions as a function of employment and length of relationship. What they found coincides with other literature (Griffing et al. 2002; Schutte, Malouff, & Doyle, 1988; and Strube & Barbour, 1984) that when a woman was both unemployed and in a long term relationship, it is particular

unlikely that she would leave. Women leaving the relationship for the first time appear to be at the greatest risk of underestimating the role that feelings of attachment may play in a decision to return to the relationship (Griffing et al. 2002). Griffing et al. (2002) found that “women with a history of returning, were significantly more likely to report that they might be influenced by emotional attachment in the future: (p. 314).

Strube & Barbour (1983) looked at percentages of self-reported reasons for initially remaining in an abusive relationship. They concluded that love, promises that [the batterer] would change, and economic hardship were among the top reasons as why a women would choice to stay in the abusive relationship. While women do stay because the abusive partner does say that he will change or promise to seek counseling if she stays is at first a very good argument, yet due to the findings on the differential percentages for those leaving and those remaining in these relationships indicate that it is not a very convincing or salient reason (Strube & Barbour, 1983).

When surveying women who have stayed in abusive relationships most common are answers that reflect how they feel towards their relationship and if they feel as though they can leave and make it on their own. Common categories researchers (Griffing et al, 2002; Horton & Johnson, 1993 & Strube & Barbour, 1983) have found are: (1) keeping their children from them or threatening to do so, (2) denying responsibility, (3) promising to change, (4) giving or promising gifts or privileges, (5) threatening harm to someone, (6) mentioning difficulties the women would have living independently without him, (7) apologizing, and (8) mentioning family responsibilities (Schutte, Malouff, & Doyle, 1988). Prevalent categories of why women might endorse the idea of returning to her

abuser include some of the categories mentioned above but also include the batterer expressing remorse, emotional attachment, pressure from others, fear, and legal intervention (Griffing et al., 2002; Demaris and Swinford, 1996; Martin et al., 2000).

2.6 Summary

The previous section provides support for hypothesis 1 by presenting an overview on the broad issues of: domestic violence; batterers and how they affect the recidivism rate of survivors; the places that women find shelter when they decide to leave; a look into women who have left and permanently ended the relationship; and finally, a look at reasons why battered women consider returning and some research on why women stay in these abusive relationships. A presentation of the sample, methods, and analytical techniques will be discussed in the proceeding chapters.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

The author provides in this chapter a description of the methodology used to test the hypothesis developed in Chapter I. Accordingly, the following is organized into four sections: (1) sample description; (2) survey description; (3) measures; and (4) statistical analysis.

3.1 Sample Description

The target subjects for this study were women that lived in a battered women's shelter in North Texas between November 2006 and February 2007. The locale was chosen due to the author's availability to the shelter and the willingness of the shelter to participate in the study. (See Appendix C for approval letter) All potential subjects were screened in two ways initially. First was to identify those who have left and subsequently returned to an abusive partner in the past. Second, those who passed the first screen were then asked if they had previously left their current abuser for any sort of safe place (i.e. shelter, friend/ family home) and if they answered yes they were asked if they were willing to participate in the survey. These two initial screens were put in place so as to create a sub sample of all the battered women in the shelter. The author wanted only those who have sought some sort of shelter in the past. Therefore, the initial sample size was determined by those women that entered the shelter during the observation window and met the above two requirements.

All who agreed to participate were assured of confidentiality and were further informed that answering the survey would not affect their stay at the shelter, and that they may quit the survey at anytime. During the observation window 101 women and 2 men entered the shelter and 50 women passed the first screen and completed the survey (neither of the men were asked to be in the survey because of the female gender focus). Accordingly 49.5% of the women that entered the facility had previous experience with abusive partners and were willing to take the survey. Only one principal researcher was involved in all phases of the survey data gathering and administration.

This study is aimed at understanding women's perceptions of why they had returned and not the perceptions of all battered individuals. Another restriction imposed was that of a language barrier. During the three month observation window there were some women who only spoke Spanish and since the survey was created in English only, women who only spoke Spanish were not asked to participate in the study (this reduced the sample by 10%). Thus creates the limitation of the study to women who have left their abusive relationship more than one time, and spoke at least some English.

For this study, Cohen's power sample was used to validate the number of surveys used. Built on Cohen's sampling technique, a total of 44 subjects are necessary when the study is using one treatment (Cohen, 1988; Keppel, William, & Tokunaga, 1992). During the study time period 50 surveys were completed. Figure 3.1 (Keppel et al, 1992, p. 210) shows Cohen's power sample. Cohen's figure shows the sample size needed for one treatment based on a .05 and .01 level of significance and the corresponding power. Figure 3.1 (p. 43) demonstrates this study's power level is approximately .85 with a level

of significance of .05. Therefore, if this study were to be replicated, there is a greater than 85% chance that the results would be validated.

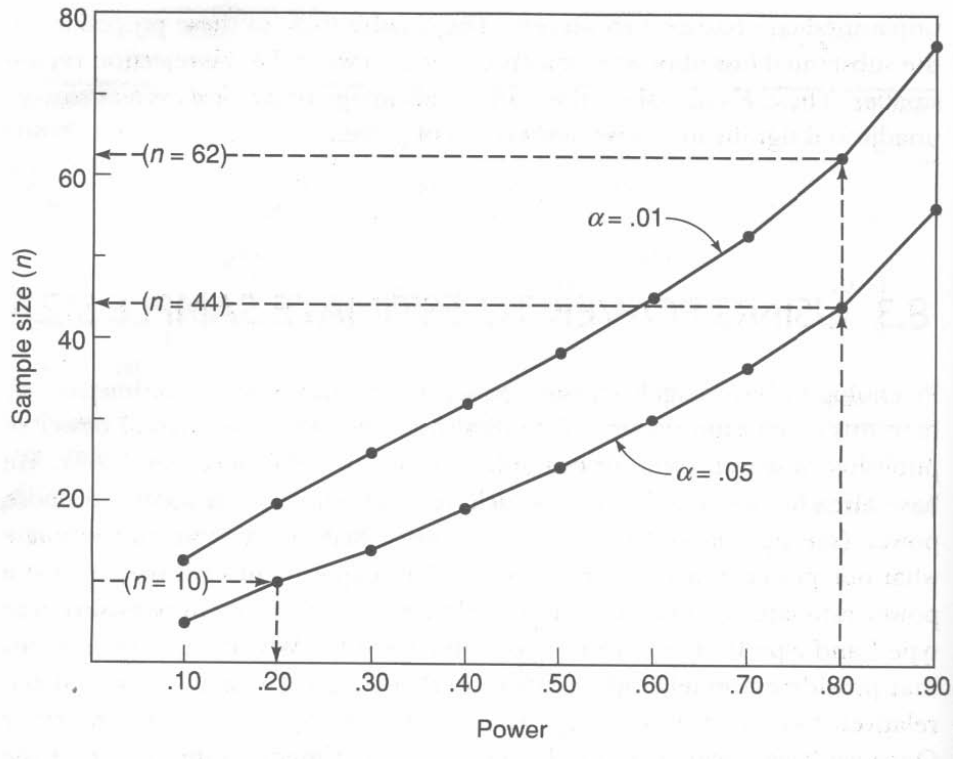


Figure 3.1 Cohen's Power Sample

3.2 Survey

3.2.1 The Survey Instrument

The survey is a three page twenty-five question instrument (see Appendix A for measuring instrument). To ensure construct validity questions were based upon previous research (Griffing et al, 2002; Schutte et al, 2001; Strube & Barbour, 1983; and Strube & Barbour, 1984). Questions selected were from each particular study that complimented the hypotheses developed in Chapter I arguing that women return to their abuser multiply times due to dependency on, or for, others.

Subjects were not physically harmed by answering the survey, but the possibility of emotional trauma was a consideration. Therefore, a full review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) was completed. After a letter of letter of compliance from the women's shelter was obtained the IRB sent full approval on both the study design and methodology (see Appendix B).

3.3 Measures

Variables used in this study were identified from previous research. In particular this study employed variables from Griffing et al (2002) and Strube & Barbour (1984). Griffing et al. (2002) provided the main empirical foundation for this study. Griffing et al (2002) sought to answer why a battered woman might return to their abuser after leaving, therefore they utilized many of the same questions that were vital to the study at hand. The latter study helped the author gain an understanding of what battered women had cited as reasons to return in the future, therefore a correlation could be drawn that they also are reasons battered women had returned in the past.

3.3.1 Dependent Variable

The dependent variable in this study measures the number of times a subject previously returned to an abusive relationship. This variable is categorical measuring from 1 to 5. An answer of 1 indicates the woman previously returned to an abusive relationship two times before, an answer of 2 suggest three times and so on. The question asked, 'I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge (i.e. - for shelter, family/ friend house, or another residence) due to a domestic violence situation the following number of time.'

3.3.2 Independent Variables

Questions used to identify the independent variables were; (1) pressure from others (Griffing et al, 2002), (2) felt it was in the best interest of the children (Strube & Barbour, 1984), (3) no other good alternatives (Strube & Barbour, 1984), (4) abuser promised to seek counseling (Griffing et al, 2002), (5) abuser expressed remorse (Griffing et al, 2002), (6) religious convictions, (7) belief in covenant of marriage, (8) financially unable to make it on their own (Griffing et al, 2002 and Strube & Barbour, 1984), (9) feared retaliation (Griffing et al, 2002 and Strube & Barbour, 1984), and (10) continued emotional attachment/ love (Griffing et al, 2002 and Strube & Barbour, 1984). A Likert scale was utilized on all the above and ranged from 1, strongly agree, to 5 strongly disagree.

A Reliability Analysis was performed in an effort to uncover any underlying constructs. Questions (7), 'Returned to abuser due to lack of good alternative,' and (12), 'Returned to abuser due to financial need' loaded well together, resulting in an alpha of .657. Therefore a new variable was created and labeled *Help*. Questions (8) 'Returned to abuser due to the abuser promising to seek counseling,' (9) 'Returned to abuser due to the abuser expressing remorse,' and (14) 'Returned to abuser because of continued emotional attachment/ love' also loaded together resulting in an alpha of .812. Therefore, questions (8), (9), and (14) were added together to form the new variable, *Control*. Finally, questions (10) 'Returned to abuser because of my religious convictions' and (11) 'Returned to abuser because of my belief in the covenant of marriage' loaded resulting in

an alpha of .948. Therefore, questions (10) and (11) were added together to form the new variable, *Attachment*.

3.3.3 Control Variables

An additional five variables were used as controls. *Age* (measured as chronological age), *education* (measured as quantity of schooling), *ethnicity* (measured as different ethnic groups with an ‘other’ available), *status of relationship* (measured from single, married, divorced, widowed, or other), and *children* in household (measured as categorical from zero to four or more) were the controlled variables.

3.4 Statistical Analysis

For this study, SPSS version 12.0 is utilized for all analysis. The author first ran a Reliability Analysis in order to investigate important relationships between survey questions. The questions that were found to be significant were loaded together to make the three dependency variables that were used for some of the analysis to come. Additionally a Pearson's R correlation was employed in order to ascertain the relationship between all pairs of variables. Finally, an ANOVA test was run to test for significant relationships regarding the dependent variable and provide a test of hypothesis (1): There is a positive statistical relationship between abused women who return to their abuser multiple times and the woman's dependency on, or for, others.

3.5 Summary

The previous discussion provided a description of the methodology used to test the hypotheses developed in Chapter I. The author laid out the analytical progress in this

chapter and then showed the process of relating dependency of the abuser to the amount of times a women has returned to that abusive relationship. The results and findings that were obtained from the measures found above will be presented in the following chapter. Then a summarization of those finding and results will be discussed in which the paper will finish with a discussion about the findings.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS

The author discusses in this chapter the findings which resulted from the analysis undertaken in Chapter III. By testing the dependent and independent variables and running the data through SPSS, the author was able to determine whether the hypothesis is confirmed. Accordingly, the following is organized into five sections: (1) frequency distribution; (2) demographic analysis; (3) Reliability analysis; (4) table of correlations; and (5) the ANOVA test.

4.1 Frequency Distribution

Following output was obtained by analyzing the first four questions from the main study survey. The following investigates: (1) the frequency of how many times a woman has previously left her abuser; (2) communication with abuser frequency; (3) shelter type most often sought; and (4) typical length of stay at safe place. Figure 4.1 (p. 49) displays the frequency distribution of their return.

Women in this study left their current abusive relationship an average of 2.60 times, with each time consisting of the woman leaving and then returning to the abusive relationship. Interestingly, women who left two times and those who left six or more times comprise 56% of the women in the shelter. The most prominent category was women who had left for two previous times (34%).

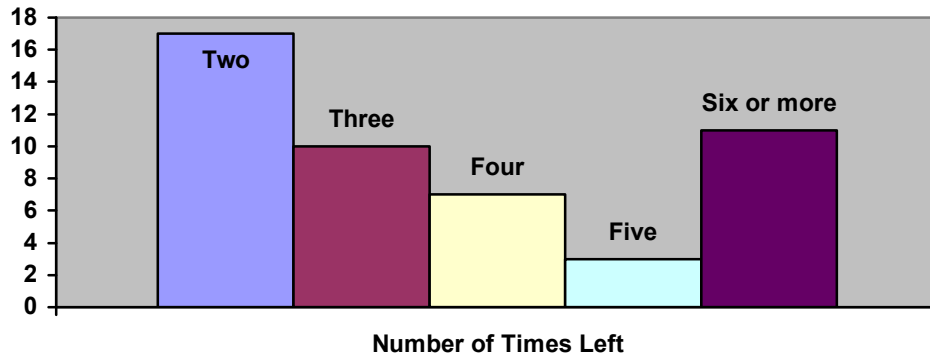


Figure 4.1 Return Frequency

In an effort to replicate Griffing et al. (2002) findings on hidden attachment the survey asked how often subjects communicated with their abuser during their time apart.

Figure 4.2 shows the results of this.

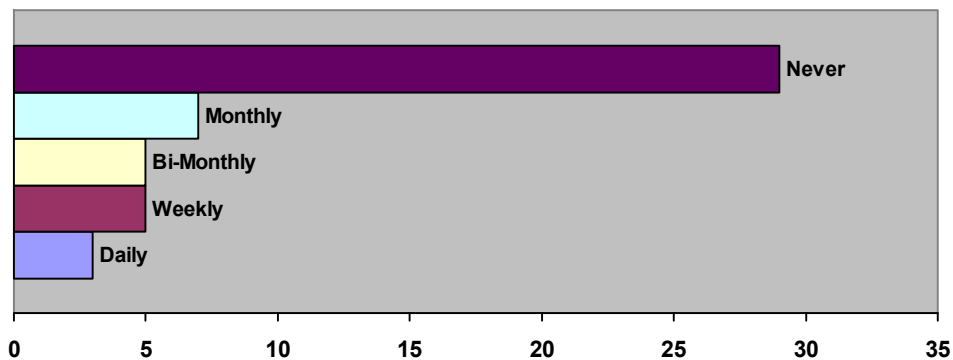


Figure 4.2 Communication Frequency

An overwhelming majority (58%) stated that while apart from their abuser they intended to ‘never’ communicate with him. Only about one in five (22%) of the women in the subject sample intended to talk to their abuser more often than once a month. However, these findings must be viewed with some caution. The survey was administered very soon upon the woman’s arrival at the shelter and sentiments and emotions were

expectedly quite high. A more fine grained analysis of this variable would take into consideration intent at shelter intake and then also measure the actual occurrence, or not, of direct communication with the abuser during the woman's stay. In all actuality this measure is one of intent.

Additionally, the survey asked for a description of the location at which women were most likely to seek shelter. Moreover, there might be a possible connection between the type of shelter sought and the number of times a woman returned to an abusive situation. Figure 4.3 displays the frequency.

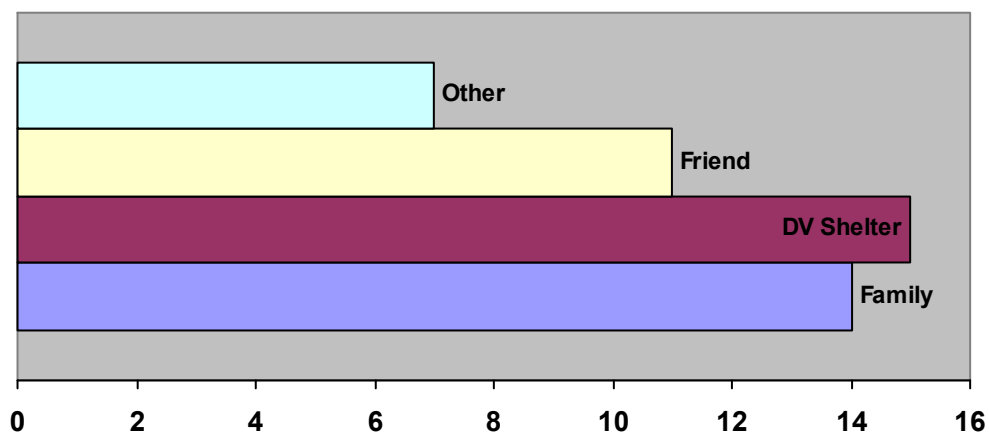


Figure 4.3 Refuge Frequency

Less than one in three (33%) of the women either went to a family members household or to a shelter for domestic violence. Additionally, approximately one in five (22%) stayed with a friend. While seven of the women surveyed stated that they stayed at a place other than the listed categories. The category identified as 'sought refuge at a shelter for the homeless' or 'was able to stay in the home' had no respondents.

Finally, the women were asked to state the duration between the time they left their abuser and then subsequently returned. Figure 4.4 shows that most women (24%) returned to their abuser after one to six days. Seven of the women (14%) did state that they waited six months till they returned to their abusive relationship. Yet, most women (57%) waited longer than a month to return.

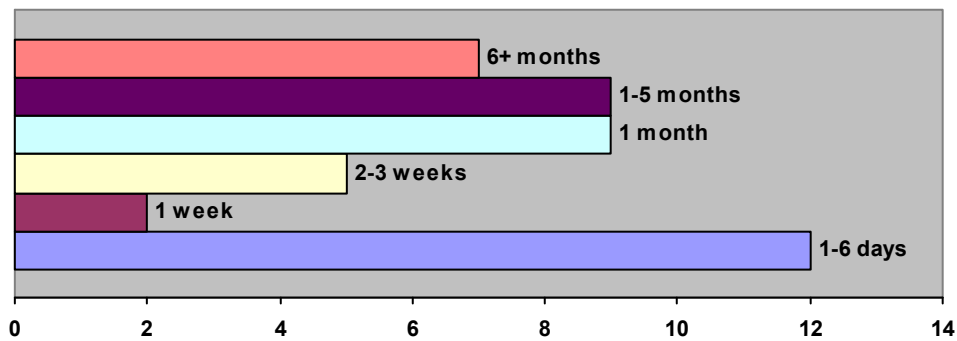


Figure 4.4 Return Time Line Frequency

4.2 Demographics

This section presents results from the answers concerning demographics, which are important in that they help understand the subjects that answered the survey and provide the author with some characteristics of the subject at hand. (See Appendix D for SPSS data) Figure 4.5 (p. 52) shows the frequency of age in a bar chart.

Age was almost evenly split at 35 as 46% of the women who answered this survey were under the age of 35. The highest percentage category of women's age (32%) is 35-44. This measure has an overall standard deviation of 1.082.

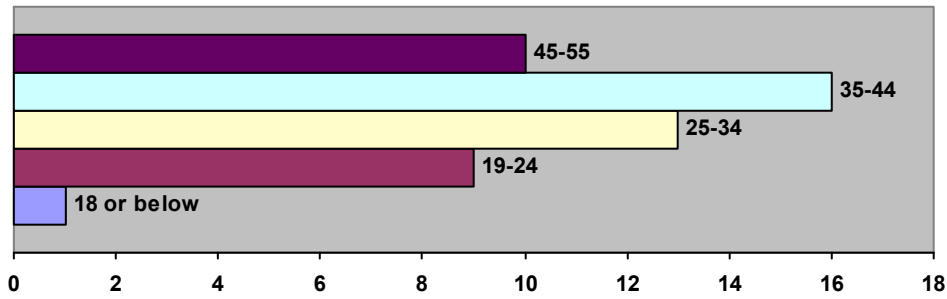


Figure 4.5 Age Frequency

Kurz (1998) argues that “male violence is a problem for women of all income, race, and ethnic groups... (p. 105). Figure 4.6 shows the distribution of education in relation to the women who answered the survey at the domestic violence shelter.

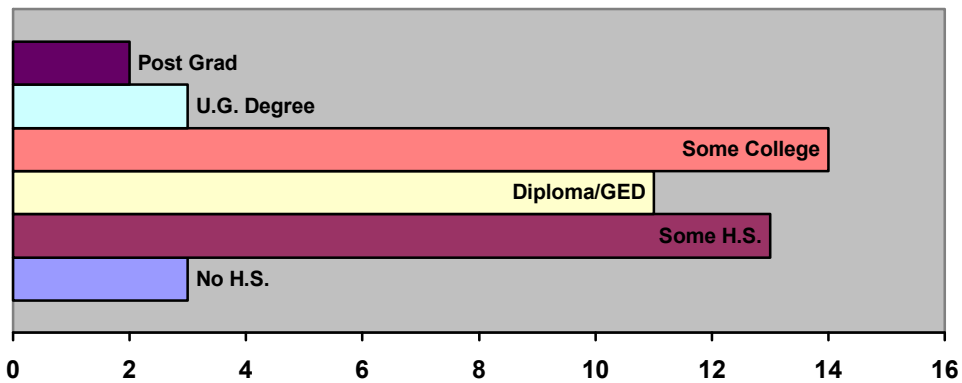


Figure 4.6 Education Frequency

A high percentage of the women (83.1%) answered that they at least had some high school to some college. Most women answered that they have had some college (28%) and only 10% of the subjects had no high school (6%) or post-graduate or beyond (4%).

Figure 4.7 (p. 53) shows the dispersion of ethnicity for the sample respondents.

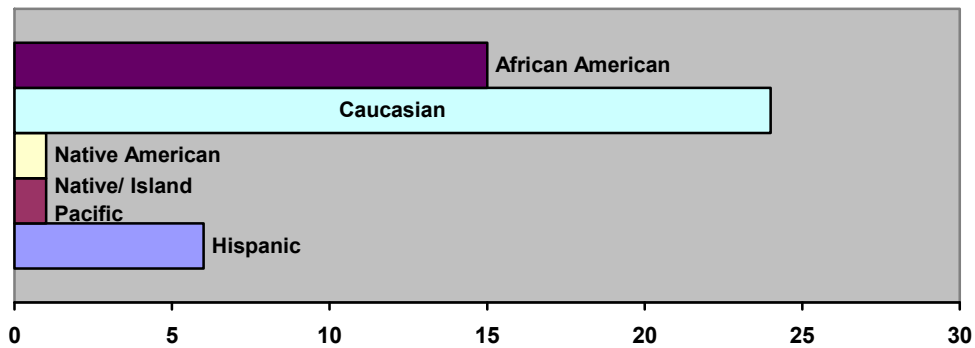


Figure 4.7 Ethnicity Frequency

Almost half of the women (48%) that answered the survey were Caucasian with a little less than a third of them (30%) African American. Those that answered they were Hispanic, Native/ Island Pacific, and Native American amounted to 16% of the survey population. One side note to remember is that while surveying the clients at the shelter, this survey was administered in English, so those that did not speak English could not participate.

Figure 4.8 shows the distribution of the status of the women’s relationship at the time of the abusive incident.

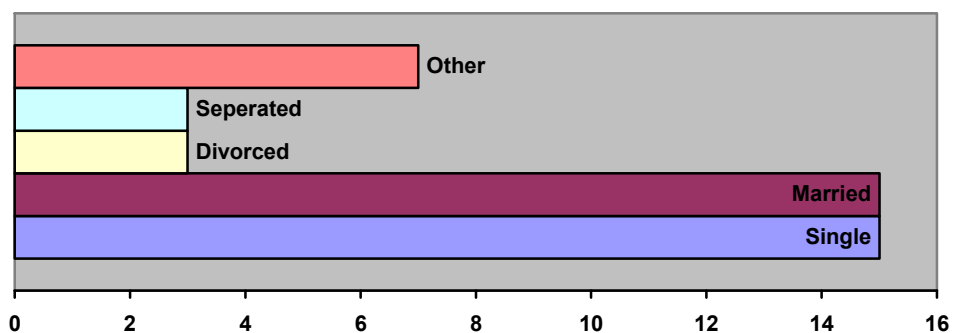


Figure 4.8 Status of Relationship Frequency

While most women (60%) who participated in this survey were either single or married the women that selected ‘other’ (14%) informed the author that they considered themselves married by common law. In this section, seven women either failed too or decided against answering the question which could have had an inverse effect on the results. The median of this demographic was 2.00 with a standard deviation of 1.764.

Figure 4.9 shows the categorization regarding the number of children each woman had living with her at the time the current incident of abuse occurred.

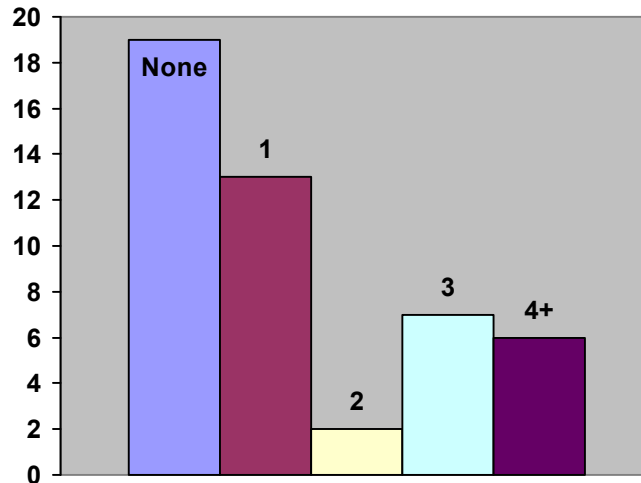


Figure 4.9 Number of Kids Frequency

The highest percentage of women (38%) did not have any children living with them at the time of the abusive incident. Due to the small number of respondents for this question no discernable conclusions were drawn concerning women with children and the likelihood of return to an abuser.

4.3 Reliability Analysis

A reliability analysis to determine if some of the questions would load together was undertaken. Those questions that did load well together were combined and a new

independent variable was created. In order to determine this, all survey questions were first analyzed, the results are replicated in Table 4.1. This table indicates that no one variable by itself substantially improves the alpha characteristics.

Table 4.1 Reliability Analysis: All Questions

Name in Label	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Pressure	45.78	79.080	.038	.591
Children Interest	46.41	73.926	.259	.551
Lack of good alternative	47.22	74.176	.267	.550
Abuser promised to seek counseling	47.44	73.673	.362	.539
Abuser expressed remorse	47.34	68.233	.565	.502
Religious convictions	46.09	74.152	.250	.553
Belief in marriage	46.22	73.918	.271	.549
Financial need	47.09	70.991	.330	.537
Fear retaliation	46.66	71.652	.293	.544
Continued emotional attachment/ love	47.13	65.403	.592	.487
Communicate	45.38	80.113	.044	.584
Escape	47.03	80.676	.012	.590
Return	46.03	85.128	-.162	.628
Threat	47.41	84.249	-.125	.606
Return	47.31	76.286	.191	.563
Others/ Help	47.00	72.194	.374	.534
Positive return	47.91	78.281	.203	.562
Return No Abuse	45.00	83.161	-.069	.593

Since Table 4.1 provided ambiguous results, the questions were broken down in smaller groups to determine if any of the questions would improve the loading factors. Table 4.2 (p. 56) shows questions (7), 'Returned to abuser due to lack of good

alternative,’ and (12), ‘Returned to abuser due to financial need’ run together through reliability analysis.

Table 4.2 Questions (7) and (12)

Name in Label	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	Cronbach's Alpha
Lack of good alternative	2.36	2.602	0.493	.(a)	0.0657
Financial need	2.36	2.031	0.493	.(a)	

When questions (7) and (12) were analyzed two questions loaded well resulting in an alpha of .657. These were added together to form the new variable, *Help*.

Next questions (8) ‘Returned to abuser due to the abuser promising to seek counseling,’ (9) ‘Returned to abuser due to the abuser expressing remorse,’ and (14) ‘Returned to abuser because of continued emotional attachment/ love’ together and ran them through the reliability analysis. Table 4.3 shows the results of this test and Cronbach’s Alpha.

Table 4.3 Questions (8), (9), and (14)

Name in Label	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	Cronbach's Alpha
Counseling	4.5	7.643	0.591	0.81	0.812
Remorse	4.44	6.374	0.749	0.648	
Continued emotional attachment/ love	4.46	6.662	0.652	0.752	

When questions (8), (9), and (14) were analyzed they loaded well together resulting in an alpha of .812. Therefore, these questions were added together to form the new variable, *Control*.

Finally questions (10) ‘Returned to abuser because of my religious convictions’ and (11) ‘Returned to abuser because of my belief in the covenant of marriage’ were run analyzed. Table 4.4 shows the results of this test and Cronbach’s Alpha.

Table 4.4 Questions (10) and (11)

Name In Label	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	Cronbach's Alpha
Religious convictions	3.2	2.457	0.901	.(a)	0.948
Covenant of marriage	3.39	2.451	0.901	.(a)	

When questions (10) and (11) were analyzed they also questions loaded well together resulting in an alpha of .948. Therefore, these questions were added together to form the new variable, *Attachment*.

In order to make further analysis more easily understood, the author took the three new variables mentioned above (*Help*, *Control*, and *Attachment*) and divided them by the number of items in order to make the results more interpretable and consistent with the original Likert scale. For example, *Help* was divided by 2, *Control* divided by 3 and *Attachment* was divided by 2. These new independent variables were labeled, *newhelp*, *newcntl*, and *newattachment*, accordingly.

4.4 Pearsons R

Pearsons R was run after the reliability analysis to see if any correlations exist between any of the variables. First all the questions were run by one another to see if any conclusions could be drawn. Table 4.5 (p. 58) illustrates this test of Pearsons R.

Table 4.5 Pearsons R: All Questions

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
1 Lv																											
2 Cm	.021																										
3 Es	.057	.228																									
4 RD	.199	.209	-.112																								
5 Ps	-.163	.055	.077	-.163																							
6 Ch	-.124	.120	-.085	.218	.188																						
7 Alt	-.231	.114	-.090	.023	.151	.100																					
8 Cs	-.235	.239	.141	-.049	.079	.050	.280*																				
9 Rm	-.145	.320*	.131	-.207	.125	.170	.389**	.604**																			
10 RI	-.093	.194	.042	-.113	.218	.180	.228	.404**	.193																		
11 Mg	-.230	.235	.029	-.150	.246	.230	.268	.471**	.224	.900																	
12 Fn	-.193	.106	-.279	-.260	.125	-.020	.492**	.166	.412*	.096	.129																
13 Fr	-.060	-.031	.103	.160	.014	.040	.295*	.311*	.048	.278	.304	.135															
14 Em	-.213	.205	-.060	-.012	.119	.100	.408**	.481**	.681*	.233	.270	.459**	.218														
15 Th	.096	-.145	.145	-.120	-.239	-.090	-.288	-.316	-.142	-.289	-.351*	.131	.148	-.027													
16 NR	-.168	-.246	-.074	-.105	.077	.200	-.080	-.021	.210	-.281*	-.233	.198	.025	.223	.248												
17 HB	-.076	-.020	.001	-.235	.100	-.010	.116	.164	.240	.339*	.167	.221	.102	.286*	.029	.151											
18 PR	.083	-.284*	-.064	.161	-.326*	.230	-.046	-.062	-.022	-.338*	-.355*	.054	.164	.014	.286*	.318*	.022										
19 AR	.103	.139	.075	-.080	.146	.250	-.013	.105	.029	.256	.250	-.033	.194	.155	-.093	-.100	-.087	-.212									
20 Ag	-.215	.027	.030	.200	.098	.290	-.082	.142	.120	-.027	.034	-.043	.081	.142	.072	.456**	.150	-.015	.174								
21 Edu	-.253	.020	.187	-.001	.292*	.100	-.024	.152	.113	.166	.150	-.267	-.089	.023	-.085	.214	.297*	-.241	.190	.509**							
22 Et	-.011	-.124	-.269	-.334*	.131	.140	.132	-.024	-.008	.268	.292*	.035	.111	-.078	-.069	.111	.267	-.177	.096	.090	.180						
23 St	.421**	.148	-.017	-.125	-.280	-.280	-.104	-.241	.003	-.069	-.118	.048	.067	.055	.454**	-.070	.181	.050	.133	.060	.030	.047					
24 Kd	.163	-.035	-.025	-.015	-.014	-.360	.122	-.092	.021	-.205	-.152	.039	-.087	.044	-.173	-.080	-.266	-.149	-.273	-.260	-.290	.036	-.092				
25 Nh	-.241	.127	-.224	-.150	.159	.040	.845**	.254	.464*	.183	.226	.881**	.244	.503**	-.079	.077	.200	.008	-.027	-.070	-.180	.093	-.027	.090			
26 Nc	-.230	.299*	.080	-.107	.127	.130	.423**	.805**	.895*	.321*	.373**	.411**	.223	.854**	-.182	.166	.270	-.026	.114	.150	.110	-.043	-.065	-.009	.480**		
27 Na	-.164	.225	.038	-.137	.240	.210	.252	.454**	.218	.974**	.974**	.112	.297**	.259	-.333*	-.260	.258	-.354*	.266	.006	.160	.285	-.094	-.180	.200	.400*	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

The three main dependency groups (*newhelp*, *newcntl*, and *newattachment*) were then analyzed against the primary dependent variable (leaving) to determine if any correlations existed between the groups that would affect the regression analysis. The mean and standard deviation were also computed.

Table 4.6 *Leave* with Dependency Variables

		Mean	Std Deviation	1	2	3
1	Leave	2.6	1.58			
2	Newhelp	2.36	1.313	-0.241		
3	newcntl	2.23	1.254	-0.23	0.482	
4	newattachment	3.29	1.527	-0.164	0.206	0.36

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a negative however insignificant correlation between the main three dependency groups and the dependent variable leave, as presented above. Those that have left on multiple occasions have a small negative correlation with dependency. Put differently, those that left more times are not significantly correlated with dependency on, or for, others.

4.5 ANOVA

For the final statistical test an ANOVA (analysis of variance between groups) was undertaken. The purpose of an ANOVA, in general, is to test for statistical significance. A One-way ANOVA is used in this research “to test for differences among three or more independent groups” (Wikimedia Foundation, Inc, 2007). For purposes of interpretation a dummy variable was created from the original *Leave* dependent variable. A new variable was created from those who responded to (1) ‘I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge... due to a domestic violence

situation the following number of times:’ noting they had returned to an abuser three or more times. Three was chosen due to its closeness to the mean of the original leave variable. Table 4.7 shows the results from the ANOVA test with the new *leave2* and the three main dependency groups (*newhelp*, *newcntl*, and *newattachment*).

Table 4.7 *Leave2* with Dependency Variables

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Newhelp	Between Groups	5.632	1	5.632	3.290	.076
	Within Groups	78.738	46	1.712		
	Total	84.370	47			
Newcntl	Between Groups	3.716	1	3.716	2.417	.127
	Within Groups	70.720	46	1.537		
	Total	74.435	47			
Newattachment	Between Groups	2.426	1	2.426	1.030	.316
	Within Groups	105.978	45	2.355		
	Total	108.404	46			

The above table depicts the relationships between women who have left their abuser three or more times and those who have sought help, faced with control issues and been dependent upon their commitment to their abuser. At $p < .10$ the table highlights that there is a positive and significant relationship between women who have returned to an abusive relationship three or more times and those women who lacked adequate alternatives and were in what might be considered dire financial need. No significant findings were uncovered between women who left more than three times and love, control, marriage, and religious convictions.

4.6 Summary

The author provided in the previous section a detailed look at the results and findings found in this study. The four tests that were run, (1) Frequencies; (2) Reliability Analysis; (3) Pearsons R; and (4) ANOVA, provide a picture of the data and allow for drawing some conclusions to be discussed in Chapter V. These results will help the author make references towards the hypothesis of this study. This will also led to a look at where the research of domestic violence needs to go from here.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The author provides in this chapter a discussion of the results and findings described in Chapter IV and how those apply to the relevant literature and the hypothesis of this study: (H1) There is a positive statistical relationship between abused women who return to their abuser multiple times and the woman's dependency on, or for, others. Accordingly, the following is organized into four sections: (1) Findings applied to relevant literature; (2) Policy and Implications; (3) Limitations; and (4) Conclusion.

5.1 Findings Applied to Relevant Literature

5.1.1 Previous Research

The results of this investigation provide some support for the hypothesis developed in Chapter I, yet also highlights some areas of difference from previous research. The main focus of the previous work is aimed at why women leave or stay and this study was related to the number of times a battered woman had left her abusive relationship and her perceptions as to why she returned; therefore, some differing results were obtained. Scholars (Griffing et. al., 2002; Strube & Barbour, 1983; and Strube & Barbour, 1984) found that economic hardship or dependence was a significant factor by battered women in making their relationship decisions. Those authors also found that economic hardship or love was cited as a reason for initially remaining in the

relationship. Moreover, those women were likely to still be in that relationship at a follow-up (Strube and Barbour, 1983).

This study looked at economic hardship inside one of the three dependency category that consisted of financial need and a lack of a good alternative. When run through SPSS correlations, it was found that there was a negative relationship. The more times a woman had left her abuser and returned, the less likely she was to say it was due to a lack of a good alternative or financial need. Yet, when the ANOVA was run with the dummy dependent variable, formed from the dependent variable by only those who answered three times or more, and the help dependent category it was found that at $p < .10$, there is a positive and significant relationship between women who have returned to an abusive relationship three or more times and those women who lacked adequate alternatives and were in what might be considered dire financial need. This suggests that there is a positive relationship between women who return to an abusive situation multiple times and their lack of having good alternate choices. Griffing et al. (2002) did find that “participants were considerably less likely to report they had previously returned because of emotional attachment” (p. 316), which could be related to the findings in this study but more thorough research, needs to be completed. Yet, Strube and Barbour (1984) results concur with the regression findings in that it found “women who claimed they had nowhere to go at intake were likely to still be with their partners at follow-up” (p. 842), which could relate to their lack of a good alternative.

The present study was concerned with self-reported perceptions regarding the reasons as to why woman in Tarrant County had returned to their abuser. Therefore,

another dependency category was an abusers control over the woman and /or her continued emotional attachment. Schutte et al (2001) found that “a great majority of battered women were exposed to the persuasive techniques batterers use to induce their partners not to leave the battering relationship... and that, in most instances, batterers seemed to be effective in inducing their victims to stay or return to the relationship” (p. 609). However, when measures of control were correlated with the measure of a woman’s number of times returned to an abusive relationship a negative relationship was found. Therefore, as the number of times a battered women leaves and returns to her husband increases, the less likely that she is to perceive he has control over her and the less likely to suggest her love for him played a role in that decision.

5.1.2 Interpretation of Findings

Women in this study have returned to an abusive relationship, on average, 2.60 times and then subsequently return again within one to six days. Most women surveyed were between 35-44 years of age, predominately Caucasian, and have some college education. A high percentage (38%) stated they did not have children living with them at the times of the abusive incident and most were either single or married (60%) at the time of the incident.

The reliability analysis and Pearson’s R were run to gather information about the perception of battered women who return. The reliability analysis found that two or three questions loaded well together and therefore produced a high alpha. As shown in Table 4.6 (p. 59) when these three variables were run against the dependent variable, leave, an inverse reaction occurred. This result does not support previous literature in

which Griffing et al (2002) found in their investigation that “the majority of the participants (73.3%) who had previously returned to the batterer indicated that emotional attachment played an influential role in their decision to do so” (p. 313). Furthermore, Strube and Barbour (1984) found that “women who claimed they stayed with the abuser because he promised he would change were also likely to remain in the relationships” (p. 842). This study differs in that the two previous investigations found an overwhelming majority of the women citing that an emotional attachment and/ or his promises to change played an influential decision to return; while this study found no data to show that emotional attachment nor promises played any kind of role.

However there were some interesting correlations when the variables were analyzed together. The more a woman was to select that she had previously returned because her abuser had expressed remorse was correlated to those that selected that he had also promised to seek counseling (see Table 4.7, p. 60). Also, remorse was correlated to their selection of a greater attachment and love for their abuser. These results show the consistency of the reliability analysis because these three questions loaded well together to produce a high alpha and eventually became the new dependency variable, *newcntl*. This, therefore, helps the reliability of the three measures of dependency the researcher created from the results of the ANOVA test.

An unusual correlation was found when women who selected they had returned in the past due to fear of their abuser correlated to those who also selected they returned because the abuser promised to seek counseling. Interesting, some variables that one would think would have a high correlation, in fact, did not. Returning to their abuser

due to the sake of the children had no correlation with any other variable measured in this study. This could be due to the low number of women that answered they had had children living with them at the time of the abusive incident. Or the results could have resulted because some of those that selected that did not have children with them still answered the question pertaining to the children's role in their decision making. Therefore, the answers relating to children were skewed by this unintended consequence. Also when a woman selected she had returned to her abusive relationship due to pressure from others, there was no correlation found against any other independent variables. This survey tries to understand the perceptions of a woman's decision to return to her abuser. Therefore, when asked if pressure from others played a role in their decision, most of the women might have been reluctant to put blame on others.

The failure to find a significant impact on relationships for some of the remaining independent variables in this study is also revealing. For example, the number of children was theorized to be a dependency variable but only 38% of the women surveyed had children with them at the time of the abusive incident, therefore; children were less influential than hypothesized. Furthermore, the failure of the other variables to influence the return decision does not necessarily mean that these variables are of little significance. This relates to the negative relationship seen when the three main dependency variables were placed against the main dependent variable, *leave*. This negative relationship could be due to such things as outside factors, sample size, and/ or the survey instrument itself.

5.2 Implications

5.2.1 Policy Implications

The overall objective of this study was to investigate the perceptions of battered women regarding the reasons they stated for returning to their abusers in the past. Past work mostly investigated why battered women might one day return to her abuser but little work focused on why she already had. From the results of this research it is clear that more research needs to be completed before definitive conclusions may be reached.

The present study adds to our knowledge towards women's recidivism rates regarding abusive relationships. Regressions tests confirmed that there is a positive and significant relationship between women who have returned to an abusive relationship three or more times and those women who lacked adequate alternatives and were in what might be considered dire financial need. Yet, the correlation matrix did result in a negative relationship between the dependency variables and how many times a woman had returned to her abusive relationship.

The results from the study indicate that more work is to be done. However, from this study one can look into how policy is handled and see how change might be for the better. It wasn't until the 1970's that "researchers, clinicians and educators identified wife abuse as a significant problem and attempted to define, explain, and, more recently, treat and prevent it" (Horton & Johnson, 1993, p. 481). So just as this major breakthrough in the 1970's dealing with how domestic violence is viewed and studied there will come one day when researchers will truly be able to help and, hopefully,

reduce the number of times a women leaves her abusive relationship to only return; five to seven times (Burman, 2003; Ferraro, 1997; Miller, 1999).

Griffing et al (2002) show that “investigations of the relationship between emotional attachment and domestic violence have been controversial because of concerns that the findings could be used to blame victims of abuse for not terminating the relationship” (p. 315). Therefore, investigations such as this and Griffing et al (2002), Strube & Barbour (1984), and Schutte et al (2001) help start the groundwork for future research to come that deals with implications into women and domestic violence. Finally by evading this topic, “both within the empirical research and within clinical interventions with domestic violence survivors, [researchers] may inadvertently undermine our own efforts to help battered women in the process of terminating abusive relationships” (Griffing et al, 2002, p. 315).

5.2.2 Educational Implications

Progress made through research can be influential in other areas outside a research based one. Educational development, such as more classes on domestic violence or more police training on how to handle calls of martial abuse, can be effected through advancements made from investigations such as this. Then in turn, as awareness and education increases on the subject of domestic violence, an increase will surge in the research that is done on the issue. This advancement is needed to highlight the issue of domestic violence and the side effects that can occur needs to be taught in classrooms and investigated further when a woman claims to be in an abusive relationship.

Education in classrooms is just one way to advance knowledge. Domestic violence shelters and counselors can benefit from research done on the issue of why battered women return an average of five to seven times (Burman, 2003; Ferraro, 1997; Miller, 1999). Shelters may be able to establish better policies to keep and maintain women who have left from returning once again. To understand why someone might leave and return is a step in helping prevent this action from taking place in the future. Counselors can benefit from the research as well. If they know why a woman is more likely to return after they have left, then they might establish tools to counteract this occurrence.

5.3 Limitations

As with most research, there are some cautions that need to be kept in mind while interpreting the results. This survey was limited to one city in North Texas and while some of the women did come from other cities to this specific shelter, it makes it difficult to generalize these results to the entire population of battered women beyond those of North Texas. As mentioned in Chapter III, a restriction that was imposed was that of a language barrier. During the survey, there were some women who only spoke Spanish and since the survey was created in English only, women who only spoke Spanish were not asked to participate in the study. There are also a number of men who become the victim in an abusive relationship and while two entered the shelter during the sample times, neither were asked to participate. Thus creates the limitation of the study to women who have left their abusive relationship more than one time, and spoke at least some English.

While the sample size did meet Cohen's (1988) power sample, a small sample size makes it difficult for the author to survey enough subjects in order to generalize it to the entire population. Therefore, in this instance, a long-term and longitudinal survey of battered women relating to their perception of dependency would benefit the literature. The dependency variables were created from the analysis run in SPSS by the author; therefore, it will be important for further research to develop a clearer definition of dependency as it relates to the recidivism rate.

5.4 Conclusion

The present study adds to our body of knowledge regarding domestic violence in general and the perceptions of dependency from battered women on why they have returned to their abuser in the past in particular. The ANOVA test showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between women who have returned to an abusive relationship three or more times and those women who lacked adequate alternatives and were in what might be considered dire financial need. Therefore, those that seek to help battered women from returning, such as shelters and counselors, should focus on decreasing a women's dependency to her abuser by teaching these women confidence and empowerment. Contrary to the hypothesized predicted, battered women were found to return to an abuser for reasons other than dependency; yet, these results are able to shine light on the perceptions that some battered women feel as to why they had returned to their abusive relationship in the past. Consequently, a battered woman's perception of why she has returned to her abuser might not be the actual justification.

The author does maintain that these results are a starting off point for future investigations to use to begin their research, due to some differing points of this study to other scholarly literature. These future researches are needed to further investigate whether a battered woman perception of dependency plays a role in her decision to return to her abuser on multiple occasions. As such, policies and procedures aimed at reducing violent abuse towards women, along with services assisting a women's decision to leave, may be important contributions in the field of reducing domestic violence.

APPENDIX A

MEASURING INSTRUMENT

After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because:

1=Agree Strongly 2=Agree 3=Neither Agree or Disagree 4=Disagree 5=Disagree Strongly

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
| 8. Abuser promised to seek counseling: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Abuser expressed remorse: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. Of my religious convictions: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. Of my belief in the covenant of marriage: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. Of financial need: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. I fear retaliation: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. Continued emotional attachment/ love: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. Other reasons (please list): | _____ | | | | |

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER IN RESPONDING TO THE DEGREE IN WHICH THE STATEMENT IS CORRECT WITH REGARDS TO YOUR PREVIOUS ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP.

16. When in the past my abuser has threatened to hurt or kill me, I believed that this was a credible threat:

Agree Strongly 1 2 3 4 Disagree Strongly 5

17. The first time I left my abuser, my intention was to never return:

Agree Strongly 1 2 3 4 Disagree Strongly 5

18. The people who wanted to and/ or helped me leave in the past, now do not believe me when I say that I am leaving my abuser permanently:

Agree Strongly 1 2 3 4 Disagree Strongly 5

19. At this point in time, I am positive that I will not return to my former abusive relationship:

Agree Strongly 1 2 3 4 Disagree Strongly 5

20. If I do return to my former abuser, I am confident that further abuse will not occur:

Agree Strongly 1 2 3 4 Disagree Strongly 5

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER:

21. How old are you?

- 18 or below
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-55
- 56 and above

22. What is your highest level of education?

- No High school
- Some High school
- Diploma/ GED
- Some college
- Bachelors degree
- Post-graduate or beyond

23. What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic
- Native/ Island Pacific
- Native American
- Caucasian
- African American
- Oriental
- Other

24. At the time of the abusive incident, were you:

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed
- Other

25. At the time of the abusive incident, how many children did you have living in your household?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more

APPENDIX B

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD OF FULL REVIEW



THE UNIVERSITY
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AT ARLINGTON

Office of Research
Integrity and Compliance

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November 3, 2006

Kristen A Lester
Alex Del Carmen, PhD
Criminology and Criminal Justice
19595

RE: Expedited Approval of Protocol

Title: *Returning to the Abuser: The Cycle of Violence Continues*

IRB No.: 06.291s

This approval letter has been revised to include the protocol title and number. The University of Texas at Arlington Institutional Review Board (UTA IRB) Chair (or designee) has determined that this research is eligible for expedited review in accordance with Title 45 CFR 46.110(a)-(b)(1), 63 FR 60364 and 63 FR 60353. The IRB Chairman (or designee) approved the protocol effective July 31, 2006. It is further found that the above referenced study also qualifies for a waiver of the requirement to obtain Informed Consent under the federal guidelines for the protection of human subjects as referenced at Title 45 CFR 46.116(d)(1)-(4). The procedures indicated in the study provide that:

- (1) the research involves no more than minimal risk to the subjects;
- (2) the waiver will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects;
- (3) the research could not practicably be carried out without the waiver, and
- (4) whenever appropriate, the subject will be provided with additional pertinent information after participation.

Pursuant to §46.117(c)(1), the only record linking the subject and the research would be the consent document and the principal risk would be potential harm resulting from a breach of confidentiality. In this case, each subject will be asked whether the subject wants documentation linking the subject with the research and the subject's wishes will govern.

Pursuant to §46.117(c)(2), the research presents no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects and involves no procedures for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context.

Your study is approved for a period not to exceed one year. Please note that your study will be scheduled for continuing review before July 30, 2007. Please be advised that as the principal investigator, you are required to report local adverse (unanticipated) events to this office within 24 hours. In addition, pursuant to Title 45

CFR 46.103(b)(4)(iii), investigators are required to, “ promptly report to the IRB ***any*** proposed changes in the research activity, and to ensure that such changes in approved research, during the period for which IRB approval has already been given, are **not initiated without prior IRB review and approval** except when necessary to eliminate apparent immediate hazards to the subject.”

All investigators and key personnel identified in the protocol must have documented *CITI* Training on file with this office.

If applicable, approval by the appropriate authority at a collaborating facility is required prior to subject enrollment. If the collaborating facility is *engaged in the research*, an OHRP approved Federalwide Assurance (FWA) may be required for the facility (prior to their participation in research-related activities). To determine whether the collaborating facility is engaged in research, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/assurance/engage.htm>

The UTA Office of Research Integrity and Compliance appreciates your continuing commitment to the protection of human research subjects. Should you have questions or require further assistance, please contact this office by calling (817) 272-2335 or (817) 272-3723.

Sincerely,



Dr. Roger Mellgren
Professor
UTA IRB Chair

Federal Reference: 45 CFR 46.116 (d)(1)-(4) waiver for requirement of informed consent
45 CFR 46.117 (c)(1or 2) waiver for the investigator to obtain a signed consent form



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TO: Kristen A Lester
Alex Del Carmen, PhD
19595

FROM: Roger Mellgren, PhD 
Chair – UTA Institutional Review Board

DATE: November 3, 2006

SUBJECT: *Returning to the Abuser: The Cycle of Violence Continues*

Re: Requested Revisions Received

IRB No: 06.291s

This correspondence is to confirm that the revisions requested by the UTA IRB reviewer(s) on August 10, 2006, were received by the Office of Research Integrity & Compliance on November 3, 2006. This office acknowledges the protocol identified above.

Your study is approved for a period not to exceed twelve months (determined by the date of approval). Please note that your protocol will be scheduled for continuing review in July 2007.

If you have any questions please call Karshena Valsin, Compliance Manager, at 272-1235.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON

INFORMED CONSENT

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kristen A Lester

TITLE OF PROJECT: Returning to the Abuser: The Cycle of Violence Continues

This Informed Consent will explain about being a research subject in an experiment. It is important that you read this material carefully and then decide if you wish to be a volunteer.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this research is to examine the rationale of battered women and their decisions to return to their abusive relationships. Previous research on battered women has looked at why battered women might return to her abuser in the future while this study's main objective is to uncover why a battered women has returned in the past.

DURATION: The survey should take from five to ten minutes to complete.

PROCEDURES: A three page survey (25 questions) will be given to you with an explanation of how to answer each section.

POSSIBLE RISKS/DISCOMFORTS There is no possible risk or discomfort involved in this research.

POSSIBLE BENEFITS There are no direct benefits to the individual subject.

ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES / TREATMENTS There are no alternative procedures or treatments.

CONFIDENTIALITY Every attempt will be made to see that your study results are kept confidential. A copy of the records from this study will be stored in University of Texas at Arlington, University Hall, Rm. 303 for at least three (3) years after the end of this research. The results of this study may be published and/or presented at meetings without naming you as a subject. Although your rights and privacy will be maintained, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the UTA IRB, and personnel particular to this research, Kristen Lester, have access to the study records. Your survey and informed consent document will be kept completely confidential according to current legal requirements. They will not be revealed unless required by law, or as noted above.

FINANCIAL COSTS There are no possible financial costs to you as a participant in this research study.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS If you have any questions, problems or research-related medical problems at any time, you may call Kristen Lester at 817/795-7572, or Dr. del Carmen at 817/272-3318. You may call the Chairman of the Institutional Review Board at 817/272-1235 for any questions you may have about your rights as a research subject.

JUL 3 0 2006

Last Revised 11/03/06
Page 1 of 2

APPROVED BY THE UTA - IRB
The IRB approval for this consent
Document will expire on

_____ Subject Initials

JUL 3 0 2007



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kristen A Lester

TITLE OF PROJECT: Returning to the Abuser: The Cycle of Violence Continues

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION Participation in this research experiment is voluntary. You may refuse to participate or quit at any time. If you quit or refuse to participate, your stay at SafeHaven will not be affected. You may quit by handing the survey back to Kristen at any time. You will be told immediately if any of the results of the study should reasonably be expected to make you change your mind about staying in the study.

By signing below, you confirm that you have read or had this document read to you. You will be given a signed copy of this informed consent document. You have been and will continue to be given the chance to ask questions and to discuss your participation with the investigator.

You freely and voluntarily choose to be in this research project.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF VOLUNTEER _____ DATE _____

JUL 3 1 2006
APPROVED BY THE UTA - IRB
The IRB approval for this consent
Document will expire on

JUL 3 0 2007

APPENDIX C

APPROVAL LETTER FROM SAFEHAVEN OF TARRANT COUNTY



Monday, May 08, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Kristen Lester has the permission of this agency to implement this confidential survey into our intake process. Feel free to contact me in the event you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vickie Wolfe".

**Vickie Wolfe
Hotline Supervisor**

APPENDIX D

SPSS DATA

Frequencies

Statistics

		I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge (i.e.- for a shelter, family/ friends house, or another residence) due to a domestic violence situation the following number of times:	On average, once in a safe place, I communicate with my abuser	Most often when seeking shelter and escape from a domestic violence situation I will go to a:	In the past, after seeking shelter, I have returned to my abuser after the following period of time:
N	Valid	48	49	47	44
	Missing	2	1	3	6
Mean		2.60	4.10	2.77	3.50
Std. Deviation		1.581	1.295	1.760	1.849

Frequency Table

I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge (i.e.- for a shelter, family/ friends house, or another residence) due to a domestic violence situation the following number of times:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Two Times	17	34.0	35.4	35.4
	Three times	10	20.0	20.8	56.3
	Four times	7	14.0	14.6	70.8
	Five times	3	6.0	6.3	77.1
	Six or more times	11	22.0	22.9	100.0
	Total	48	96.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	2	4.0		
Total		50	100.0		

On average, once in a safe place, I communicate with my abuser

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Daily	3	6.0	6.1	6.1
	Weekly	5	10.0	10.2	16.3
	Every two weeks	5	10.0	10.2	26.5
	Monthly	7	14.0	14.3	40.8
	Never	29	58.0	59.2	100.0
	Total	49	98.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	1	2.0		
Total		50	100.0		

Most often when seeking shelter and escape from a domestic violence situation I will go to a:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Family member household	14	28.0	29.8	29.8
	Shelter (for domestic violence)	15	30.0	31.9	61.7
	Friend Household	11	22.0	23.4	85.1
	Other	7	14.0	14.9	100.0
	Total	47	94.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	3	6.0		
Total		50	100.0		

In the past, after seeking shelter, I have returned to my abuser after the following period of time:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1-6 days	12	24.0	27.3	27.3
	1 week	2	4.0	4.5	31.8
	2-3 weeks	5	10.0	11.4	43.2
	1 month	9	18.0	20.5	63.6
	1-5 months	9	18.0	20.5	84.1
	Longer than 6 months	7	14.0	15.9	100.0
	Total	44	88.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	6	12.0		
Total		50	100.0		

Frequencies

Statistics

		How old are you?	What is your highest level of education?	What is your ethnicity?	At the time of the abusive incident, were you:	At the time of the abusive incident, how many children did you have living in your household?
N	Valid	49	46	47	43	47
	Missing	1	4	3	7	3
Mean		3.51	3.15	3.87	2.51	2.32
Median		4.00	3.00	4.00	2.00	2.00
Std. Deviation		1.082	1.229	1.262	1.764	1.461

Frequency Table

How old are you?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 or below	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
	19-24	9	18.0	18.4	20.4
	25-34	13	26.0	26.5	46.9
	35-44	16	32.0	32.7	79.6
	45-55	10	20.0	20.4	100.0
	Total	49	98.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	1	2.0		
Total		50	100.0		

What is your highest level of education?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No High school	3	6.0	6.5	6.5
	Some High school	13	26.0	28.3	34.8
	Diploma/ GED	11	22.0	23.9	58.7
	Some college	14	28.0	30.4	89.1
	Bachelors degree	3	6.0	6.5	95.7
	Post-graduate or beyond	2	4.0	4.3	100.0
	Total	46	92.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	4	8.0		
Total		50	100.0		

What is your ethnicity?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hispanic	6	12.0	12.8	12.8
	Native/ Island Pacific	1	2.0	2.1	14.9
	Native American	1	2.0	2.1	17.0
	Caucasian	24	48.0	51.1	68.1
	African American	15	30.0	31.9	100.0
	Total	47	94.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	3	6.0		
Total		50	100.0		

At the time of the abusive incident, were you:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Single	15	30.0	34.9	34.9
	Married	15	30.0	34.9	69.8
	Divorced	3	6.0	7.0	76.7
	Separated	3	6.0	7.0	83.7
	Other	7	14.0	16.3	100.0
	Total	43	86.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	7	14.0		
Total		50	100.0		

At the time of the abusive incident, how many children did you have living in your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	19	38.0	40.4	40.4
	1	13	26.0	27.7	68.1
	2	2	4.0	4.3	72.3
	3	7	14.0	14.9	87.2
	4 or more	6	12.0	12.8	100.0
	Total	47	94.0	100.0	
Missing	-1	3	6.0		
Total		50	100.0		

Reliability

Warnings

The space saver method is used. That is, the covariance matrix is not calculated or used in the analysis.

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	50	100.0
	Excluded (a)	0	.0
	Total	50	100.0

a Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.657	2

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because of a lack of good alternative?	2.36	2.602	.493	.(a)
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because of financial need?	2.36	2.031	.493	.(a)

a The value is negative due to a negative average covariance among items. This violates reliability model assumptions. You may want to check item codings.

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	50	100.0
	Excluded (a)	0	.0
	Total	50	100.0

a Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.812	3

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because abuser promised to seek counseling?	4.50	7.643	.591	.810
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because abuser expressed remorse?	4.44	6.374	.749	.648
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because of continued emotional attachment/ love?	4.46	6.662	.652	.752

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	49	98.0
	Excluded (a)	1	2.0
	Total	50	100.0

a Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.948	2

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because of my religious convictions?	3.20	2.457	.901	.(a)
After seeking refuge, I returned to my abuser largely because of my belief in the covenant of marriage?	3.39	2.451	.901	.(a)

a The value is negative due to a negative average covariance among items. This violates reliability model assumptions. You may want to check item codings.

Correlations

Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
newhelp	2.36	1.313	50
newcntrl	2.23	1.255	50
newattachment	3.30	1.527	49
I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge (i.e.- for a shelter, family/ friends house, or another residence) due to a domestic violence situation the following number of times:	2.60	1.581	48

Correlations

		newhelp	newcntrl	newattachment	I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge (i.e.- for a shelter, family/ friends house, or another residence) due to a domestic violence situation the following number of times:
newhelp	Pearson Correlation	1	.483(**)	.207	-.242
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.154	.098
	N	50	50	49	48
newcntrl	Pearson Correlation	.483(**)	1	.361(*)	-.230
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.011	.116
	N	50	50	49	48
newattachment	Pearson Correlation	.207	.361(*)	1	-.164
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.154	.011	.	.270
	N	49	49	49	47
I have in the past physically removed myself and sought refuge (i.e.- for a shelter, family/ friends house, or another residence) due to a domestic violence situation the following number of times:	Pearson Correlation	-.242	-.230	-.164	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.098	.116	.270	.
	N	48	48	47	48

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Oneway

ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
newhelp	Between Groups	5.632	1	5.632	3.290	.076
	Within Groups	78.738	46	1.712		
	Total	84.370	47			
newcntrl	Between Groups	3.716	1	3.716	2.417	.127
	Within Groups	70.720	46	1.537		
	Total	74.435	47			
newattachmen t	Between Groups	2.426	1	2.426	1.030	.316
	Within Groups	105.978	45	2.355		
	Total	108.404	46			

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Kristen Lester received her bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in 2004 with a major in Sociology and a minor in Criminology. Her focus was on early childhood education. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Kristen volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and within a local nursing home.

Kristen then took a year to work with juveniles at a group home in Louisiana. She was responsible for their administration, security, and safety. Adolescents were sent to the home by the Louisiana Department of Social Services, the Office of Correctional Services, or private family placement to establish and implement a treatment plan for their emotional and physical issues.

Kristen received her masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice from University of Texas at Arlington in May of 2007. While attending UTA, she received the UTA Graduate Dean Masters Degree Fellowship for the academic years of 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. During her graduate studies she worked at a battered women's shelter. Kristen was accountable for the hotline crisis calls and the clients throughout the shelter. Woman and children who are involved in a domestic violence altercation are brought into the shelter where they receive counseling, legal advice, a children's program, and assistance in their situation. The knowledge gained from this experience became the focus of Kristen's thesis.