

BATTERED WOMEN'S DECISION TO LEAVE
OR RETURN TO ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

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BY
DIANE WIND WARDELL, R.N.,C., M.S.

DENTON, TEXAS

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TEXAS'S WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
DENTON, TEXAS

May 22, 1990
Date

To the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research:

I am submitting herewith a dissertation written by Diane Wind Wardell entitled "Battered Women's Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships." I have examined the final copy of this dissertation for form and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with a major in Nursing.

Terry A. Throckmorton
Terry Throckmorton, R.N., Ph.D.,
Major Professor

We have read this dissertation
and recommend its acceptance:

Diane Pagodale
Judith M. Farlane
Adams
Therese J. J. J.

Dean of College of Nursing

Accepted

Leslie M. Thompson
Dean for Graduate Studies and
Research

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A nonexperimental, descriptive, retrospective study was conducted using the records of 330 residents housed in a shelter for battered women during the year of 1984. Data were analyzed using descriptive and multivariate statistical techniques. The average participants were women who were: an average of 28 years old, married for one to five years with two children who had been abused, Anglo, economically dependent, physically and verbally abused, and abused during a pregnancy. Discriminant analysis results suggested that those women who reported being physically, verbally, and sexually abused were more likely to have experienced: sexual abuse as a child and during pregnancy, more severe forms of verbal abuse, more frequent batterings, jealousy as an issue in the relationship, and a high school education or less. Discriminant analysis results suggested that women who report they would leave the battering relationship were more

likely: to be dependent on self for income, to have child abuse present, to be Non-anglo, to stay in the shelter longer, to have no identified alcohol problems in the batterer, and to have had no negative experience with the police.

	Treatment of the Data	64
	Summary.	67
IV.	ANALYSIS OF THE DATA.	69
	Description of the Sample.	69
	Findings	97
	Summary	149
V.	SUMMARY OF THE STUDY.	151
	Summary	151
	Discussion of Findings	155
	Conclusions and Implications	172
	Recommendations for Further Study	176
	REFERENCES	178
	APPENDICES	
	A. Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence	189
	B. Abuse Assessment Inventory	198
	C. Approval Letter	205
	D. Derivation of Abuse Assessment Inventory	207

LIST OF TABLES

Table

1.	Variables Which May Affect the Battered Women's Decision to Leave or Stay in the Relationship . .	18
2.	Age of Battered Women and Batterers	70
3.	Ethnic Background of Battered Women and Batterers	71
4.	The Battered Women's Marital Status	72
5.	Length of the Relationship of the Battered Women	73
6.	Education of Batterers and Battered Women	73
7.	Income of the Battered Women	74
8.	Source of the Battered Women's Income	75
9.	Number of Children of the Battered Women	76
10.	Ages of Children: Range, Mean, Standard Deviation, Mode, and Median	77
11.	Gender of Battered Women's Children	78
12.	Children Admitted to Shelter With Their Mothers .	78
13.	Incidence of Child Abuse in Children of Battered Women	79
14.	Frequency of Child Abuse in the Six Months Prior to the Shelter Stay	80
15.	Reported History of Physical and Sexual Abuse by Parents of the Battered Women and Batterer. . . .	82
16.	Alcohol and Drug Problems of Battered Women and Batterers	83
17.	Types of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women . .	84

18.	Severity of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women	85
19.	Verbal Abuse Experienced by Battered Women . . .	86
20.	Type of Sexual Abuse Experienced by Battered Women	88
21.	Length of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women . .	88
22.	Frequency of Abuse Experienced in the Past Six Months	89
23.	Violence of Batterer Toward Others as Reported by Battered Women	90
24.	Issues that Contributed to the Abusive Incident Reported by Battered Women	92
25.	Actions Taken by Battered Women after the Abusive Incident	93
26.	Source of Income of the Battered Women When Leaving the Shelter	95
27.	Correlations Between the Study Variables According to the Type of Abuse Experienced	101
28.	Means and Standard Deviations of Discriminating Variables According to Group: Physically and Verbally Abused or Physically, Verbally and Sexually Abused	107
29.	Structure Coefficients and Standardized Discriminant Function Coefficients for Personal Interpersonal, and Social Variables in the Women Who Were Either Physically and Verbally or Physically, Verbally, and Sexually Abused . . .	108
30.	Classification Results by Discriminant Analysis for Prediction of Membership into Two Groups: Battered Women who were Physically and Verbally Abused or Physically, Verbally and Sexually Abused	109
31.	Ages of Battered Women and Batterers According to the Women's Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	111

32.	Ethnic Background of Battered Women and BATTERERS by Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	112
33.	The Battered Women's Marital Status According to the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	113
34.	Length of the Relationship of the Battered Women by the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	114
35.	Education of BATTERERS and Battered Women by the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	115
36.	Income of the Battered Women by the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships.	116
37.	Source of the Battered Women's Income by the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	117
38.	Number of Children According to the Battered Women's Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	118
39.	Ages of Children According to the Decision of Their Mother to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	119
40.	Gender of Battered Women's Children According to the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	120
41.	Children Admitted to Shelter for Women Who Decided to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	121
42.	Incidence of Child Abuse by the BATTERER for Women Who Decided to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	122
43.	Pregnancy Status of the Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	123

44.	Abusive Incidents During Pregnancy According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	124
45.	Complications from Abusive Incidents During the Pregnancy According to the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	125
46.	History of Physical and Sexual Abuse by Parents of the Battered Women and Batterer as Reported by Battered Women Who Decided to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	126
47.	History of Abusive Incidents Between Parents of Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationship	127
48.	Alcohol and Drug Problems of Battered Women and Batterers for Women who Decided to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	128
49.	Types of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	129
50.	Number of Days Since Last Battering Incident According to the Decision of the Battered Women to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	130
51.	Severity of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	131
52.	Verbal Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	132
53.	Type of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	133
54.	Length of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships.	134

55.	Frequency of Abuse Experienced in the Past Six Months by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	135
56.	Violence of Batterer Toward Others as Reported by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	136
57.	Issues that Contribute to the Battering Situation Reported by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	138
58.	Actions Taken by Battered Women After the Abusive Incident According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	139
59.	Attitude of the Police After or During Abusive Incidents Toward Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	140
60.	Number of Days the Battered Women Spent in the Shelter According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	141
61.	Batterer Receiving Counseling as Reported by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships.	142
62.	Source of Income of the Battered Women When Leaving the Shelter According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships	143
63.	Means and Standard Deviation of Major Discriminating Variables by Group: Battered Women Who Decided to Leave the Relationship and Battered Women Who Decided Not to Leave the Relationship	145
64.	Structure Coefficients and Standardized Coefficients for Personal, Interpersonal, and Social Variables in the Decision to Leave or Not Leave Abusive Relationships by Battered Women When Exiting a Shelter	147

65.	Classification Results by Discriminant Analysis for Prediction of Membership into Two Groups: Those Women Who Decided to Leave and Those Who Decided Not to Leave the Relationship	148
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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure

1. Wind Interaction Model	9
2. Wind Interaction Model Depicting a Bound Person	13

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Historically, men have used violence to exert power and control over women (Walker, 1979). Although illegal, the lack of legal ramifications for violence or abuse toward spouses provided validity for an atmosphere of leniency toward the batterers (Walker, 1979). Additionally, tolerance of abuse was demonstrated by the hesitancy of enforcement officials to enter homes or to arrest spouses. This tolerance contributed to the permission given men to batter their wives.

During the rise of the women's movement in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the issue of help for battered women began to be addressed. The first safe house or shelter for abused women was established in England in 1972 (Pizzey, 1975). Originally its purpose was to provide women and children a place to meet, discuss problems and get involved in the community. However, women soon began to ask to stay in the shelter for protection from their husbands. The public then became aware that some women were suffering physical abuse in their relationships.

Although women were seeking refuge from abusive relationships in both England and the United States, the prevalence of battering was not known in either country. The first nationally representative study in the United States was conducted in 1975, and found that approximately 12% of the wives in the 2,143 couples surveyed by telephone experienced physical battering by their husbands (Straus, Gelles, & Steinmetz, 1980). In a second telephone survey a decade later, Straus and Gelles (1986) found that 30 wives per 1000 (3%) experienced severe physical battering by the husband. The authors concluded that the incidence of severe violence had decreased by 26.6% but not the overall rate of husband to wife violence. Therefore, approximately 1.6 million American wives are beaten each year. Even pregnancy does not protect women from battering. In a study of 290 pregnant women, 24 or 8% (1 in 12 women) reported physical battering during their pregnancy (Helton, McFarlane, & Anderson, 1987). Of the pregnant women who were battered, 8 (33%) sought medical care for their injuries.

Battered women experience a wide spectrum of violence that includes physical, sexual and verbal abuse (Walker, 1979). Their self-worth and the integrity of their families are threatened (Meister, 1984). Despite this violence, many women either remain with their batterers or return to them

numerous times after a short absence (Gelles, 1976).

Although investigators have identified economic dependence and the frequency of physical abuse as contributing factors to women's decision to stay in an abusive relationship, they have not yet developed satisfactory explanations for the behavior of these women (Gelles, 1976; O'Leary & Curley, 1986; Strube & Barbour, 1984).

Research into the reasons why battered women leave abusive relationships has been focused primarily on a single explanation for their decision. However, battering is a multifaceted problem (Campbell, 1984), and various factors influence the decision to leave. The frequency and severity of physical and sexual abuse are influential in the decision to leave (Dulton & Painter, 1981; Gelles, 1976; Kalmuss & Straus, 1982) as well as verbal aggression with or without physical abuse (Straus, 1979). A family history of abuse has also been found to contribute to the decision of women to stay in abusive relationships (Gelles, 1976; Snyder & Fruchtman, 1981). Other variables that have been explored for their influence on a woman's decision to leave an abusive relationship include age, education, age of her children, presence of child abuse, economic situation, length of relationship, and alcohol or drug problems (Aquire, 1985; Gelles, 1976; Strube & Barbour, 1984). In

order to adequately explore the multifaceted dimensions of the decision a woman makes about whether to return to the abusive relationship, it is important to consider these variables as well.

The decision to leave the relationship may occur in the emergency room, shelter, or in contact with others. It is the role of the nurse to educate battered women about leaving the battering situation, identify women at risk, make referrals to social service agencies, manage health needs, and help prevent violence. To effectively relate to abused women, nurses must gain knowledge about the multifaceted problem of battered women by learning the influence of physical, sexual, and verbal abuse as well as demographic factors on the decision of battered women to leave or stay in the abusive relationships upon exiting a shelter. This knowledge will facilitate insight into ways in which nurses and other health care workers can identify abused women and assist them in the process of leaving abusive relationships. Increased awareness of the problems of battered women may help to promote effective strategies for the prevention of abuse.

Problem Statement

This study was focused on the decision of battered women to leave or return to abusive relationships after

stays in a shelter. Specifically, the problem statement for this study was: Do women who decide to return to an abusive relationship when leaving a shelter differ from those who decide not to return in terms of the abuse received and selected demographic characteristics?

Rationale for Study

Abuse in relationships can be both physical and psychological (Boulette & Anderson, 1985). Physical abuse involves various assaults to the body with the hands and feet, objects and weapons, or by rape (Walker, 1979). Physical abuse may directly result in the death of a woman or the death of the male partner through the woman's attempts at self-defense (Campbell, 1981). Psychological abuse includes: verbal abuse related to the woman's self-worth by indicating that she is undesirable, unable to satisfy her partner's sexual needs, lazy, or unable to live without him (Walker, 1979); and threats of violence toward her, her children, others, or toward himself if she threatens to leave (Straus, 1979).

Other factors can influence the woman's perceptions of the relationship and decisions she makes. Her age, education, length and type of relationship, economic situation, and presence or absence of children are factors (Bowker, 1983; Cate, Henton, Koval, Christopher & Lloyd,

1982; Gelles, 1976; Kalmuss & Straus, 1982; Levinger, 1966; Miller & Sperry, 1987; Strube & Barbour, 1983). A history of abuse as a child and drug usage by either the woman or her batterer may also influence perceptions and decisions (Bergman, Larsson, Brismar, & Klang, 1988; Carlson, 1977; Dulton & Painter, 1981; Gelles, 1976).

In addition to being in battering relationships, these women are alone and frightened. According to Campbell (1984), they usually do not admit to an abusive relationship and may become isolated and withdrawn from support systems. Frequently they do not know where to turn for help or do not see health professionals as being able to help (Snodgrass, 1986). In Bowker & Maurer's (1987) study of 1,000 battered women, the medical profession, which included both physicians and nurses, was ranked last in its effectiveness in providing assistance to battered women when compared to police, social services, lawyers, clergy, shelters, women's groups, and district attorneys. In a study of 290 randomly selected pregnant women, none of the 24 women who had been battered were accurately assessed by a health care provider for the presence of an abusive relationship, nor were they provided with community resources (Helton, McFarlane, & Anderson, 1987).

If nurses are to be recognized as sources of assistance for battered women, at least two things must be accomplished. First, it is imperative that nurses increase their assessment for abuse in order to identify potentially harmful situations. Secondly, nurses need to make themselves more available to battered women as sources for advocacy. The nurse is often the first health care worker the woman encounters when entering the health care system either via the hospital or the outpatient setting (Mahon, 1981). Assessment of battering must occur in order to determine those women who are in abusive relationships. Further assessment is then needed to identify the woman's readiness to leave the relationship. Direction can then be provided based on the woman's decision (King, 1981). The nurse's role is to promote life and health, which includes protecting the abused woman from injury and from causing injury to her spouse (Campbell, 1981).

The ultimate goal in obtaining information about battering is to apply knowledge in preventing abuse of women. Relationships that exist without violence will increase the possibility that women will have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential without fear (Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, & Tarule, 1986). A knowledge of physical abuse alone is not enough to

understand battering. A more comprehensive view of battered women can be achieved when the factors that influence the decision to leave or return to the relationship have been identified. Therefore, this study was designed to explore specific factors which may be related to this decision and thereby contribute to the development of more relevant assistance to battered women.

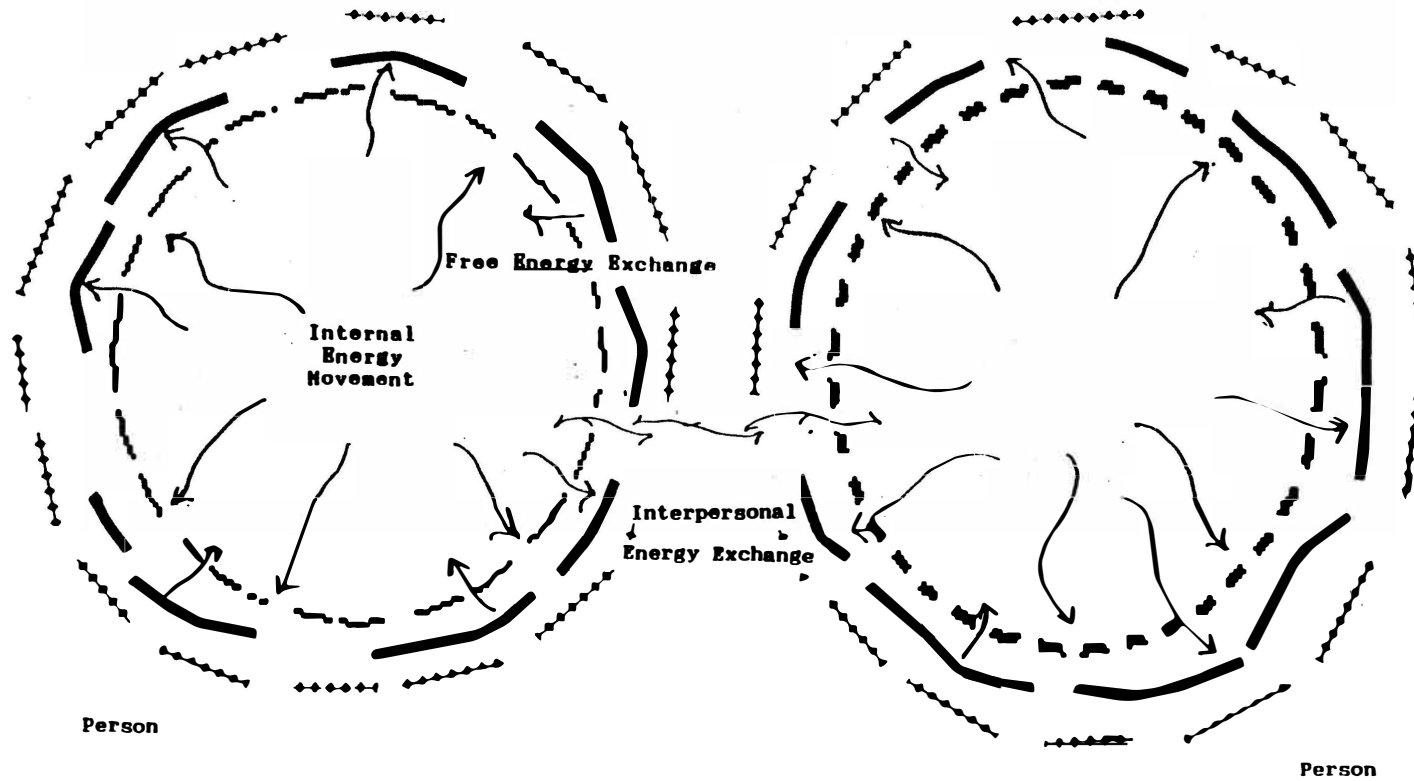
Conceptual Framework

The Wind Interactive Model (WIM) was used to organize this research. The WIM model was designed by this investigator to serve as the conceptual framework for this study. The works of Rogers (1970), Watson (1985), Parse (1981), and King (1981) were influential in the development of the framework, and aspects of their concepts in relation to the WIM are explored in paradigms. Overall, a holistic and humanistic approach to nursing is used to explain the unique nature of interaction.

Wind Interaction Model

The WIM depicts the energy present within each person and in their perceived world. The perceived world and the exchange of energy in and between persons are depicted in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Wind Interaction Model



Legend

- Person's Physical Boundary
- Interpersonal Energy Exchange
- Internal Energy Movement
- Spiritual Boundary
- Health

Person

A person is maintained by a biological energy system of interrelated parts which is unique and more than the sum of the parts (Rogers, 1970, Parse, 1981, & Chinn & Jacobs, 1983). The uniqueness of the person is depicted by the ovoid shape in the model. The interrelated parts within the biological energy or personal system includes an interplay of the physical, mental, spiritual, and social forces. The function of the interplay is to maintain health which is a balance of the four energy forces. Health is on a continuum and varies in amount. All four physical, mental, spiritual, and social forces must be recognized by the person or an imbalance will result. The amount of interaction between and within the four forces will vary.

Environment

Even though persons are maintained by their biological energy systems, another, open system interchanges ("to give and take mutually") with the environment (depicted by the dotted line in the model). The environment is the space not occupied by individuals and is defined by their perceptions. There is no known limit to the extent of the environment. However, only those elements which are believed to exist by individuals have the ability to directly interact or influence their perceptions of behavior (Zaner, 1970).

Concepts

Energy. Energy is conceptualized similarly to the "energy field" of Rogers (1970) and Parse (1981) in which the energy field is electrical in nature, in a continual state of flux, and constantly changing in intensity, density, and extent. Within the person is an "intrinsic energy" in which the balance of the internal energy circulation is a function (Yang, 1986). Energy also extends beyond the tangible physical sphere and creates a field which is interactive with the environment (depicted as the emitting rays from the person). The exact constitution of energy cannot be described as yet in scientific terms. When the energy is in such a balance it is "unbound" so that it is free to interchange with the environment.

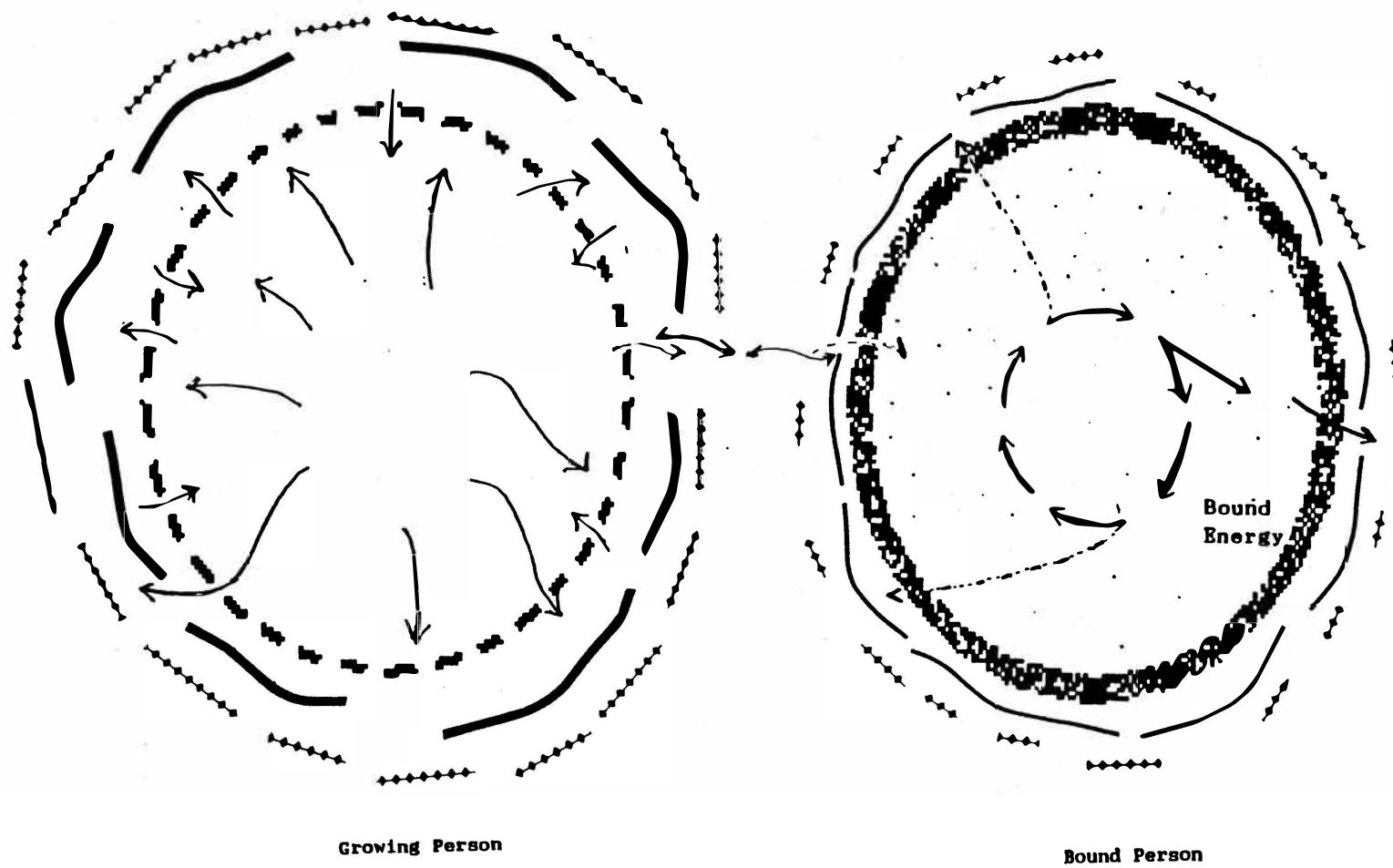
Energy interchange. Energy interchange occurs through communication with the environment and others in the interpersonal system (King, 1981, p. 113). Energy interchange can result in a positive or negative energy exchange. Relationships with others in the interpersonal system are a primary source of this energy transfer. This exchange occurs with communication which may be verbal, physical, or metical (a term developed by the author to describe spiritual, psychological, astrological, or any other aspect not depicted in verbal or physical transfer

which may or may not have been described). Therefore, through physical touch energy transfer can determine the structure of the environment and influence growth and development (King, 1981, p.71). One example of the transfer of energy is therapeutic touch in which energy patterns are assessed and realigned.

Growth. Growth is possible with unbound energy flow. In this way, persons interchange energy with others and the environment in such a manner that the experience of "being in the world" expands. This experience is the person's perceptions of others and self (Zaner, 1970). Additionally, social systems influence a person's perceptions, judgments, and behavior by defining the types of relationships that will be developed (King, 1981). A person grows or matures through interaction with the environment during energy transfer. The decision to interact is a freely given choice (Heidegger, 1962).

Energy can become "bound" within the person so that interchange with others or the environment is decreased (Figure 2). If the energy becomes bound, then the full potential for energy interchange with another is lost. This interchange applies to the environment as well as to other persons. The binding of energy may be protective as people seek to shield themselves from the destructive influence of

Figure 2. Wind Interaction Model depicting a bound person.



the environment. However, growth cannot occur in the bound energy state.

Communication tactics used to bind personal energy are seen as those that seek to: provide dominance, isolation, fear, guilt, loyalty to an aggressor, powerlessness and helplessness; express jealousy; offer rewards for unreasonable demands; provide hope instilling behaviors; and maintain secrecy (Boulette & Andersen, 1985). Destructive factors hinder collaboration and tend to diminish the probability of achieving goals (King, 1981).

Nursing

Nursing is a process in which, through communication, interactions use direct or indirect nurturing and knowledgeable activities, processes and decisions related to goal attainment. This process of interaction is reflected by such attributes as empathy, support, compassion, protection, and education (Leininger, 1981; King, 1981). Nurses also receive energy from these interchanges and can use this energy to evaluate future interactions. The overall positive effect of nursing care is beneficial for both the person and the nurse so that energy is not bound in either person. Bound energy can be manifested as illness. This occurs when there is an imbalance, either from energy that is directed outward and energy input from the other person,

or from the resources in the interplay of the physical, mental, spiritual, or social energy forces.

Goal of Nursing

The goal of nursing is to foster healing and growth. A positive interaction between clients and nurses occurs when both are able to receive and incorporate elements of energy interchange in relation to their own goals. Nurses use verbal, physical, and metical forces which result in the transfer of energy. Unbound energy interchanges assist clients to obtain a balance of intrinsic energy flow within the physical, mental, spiritual, and social energy systems.

Conceptual Basis

A battered woman initiates energy interchange by entering a shelter and communicating perceptions during the interview about certain select aspects of person, interpersonal relationships, and social systems. The information gathered from the interview provides a data base for the nurse to use to develop mutual goals through transactions with the client (King, 1981). Transactions involve the interchange of energy between client and provider. However, the interplay of the personal, interpersonal, and social systems may have bound the energy within the battered woman so that the interchange is decreased.

Study Variables

The variables identified in this study can be identified within the personal, interpersonal, and social systems of the battered woman. All of the systems involve energy transfer through interaction; therefore, they may be referred to as energy systems as well. The personal energy system is made up of the person's unique physical characteristics, actions, and perceptions which interact with the environment. The interpersonal energy system comprises those things which are in the acknowledged physical space of the person, and include characteristics of others and manner in which the person may interact. The social energy system is characterized by interaction with groups which then may influence the personal and interpersonal energy systems. Table 1 identifies each variable, the system source, and reference citations where appropriate.

Personal system variables. The personal system variables of the battered women in this study included age, education, the use of drugs or alcohol, and the presence of pregnancy. The issues perceived by the battered women to have contributed to the abuse and actions taken after the abuse incident were considered as additional personal system variables.

Interpersonal system variables. The interpersonal variables of the battered women included the batterers' age, education, ethnicity, alcohol or drug use, history of abuse, violence against others and use of counseling. Additional interpersonal variables included the length and type of the relationship, and variables affecting relationships with children, which are their ages, number, and whether they were admitted to the shelter with their mothers, as well as types and frequency of child abuse. Since violence is a method of communication in the interpersonal system (King, 1981), the variables included were the type of abuse, severity of injuries, and length, frequency and time since last abusive incident.

Social system variables. The social system variables included family variables, which were ethnicity, abuse between parents, and being abused by parents. An additional social system variable included the attitude of the police as a representative of an authority figure. The economic level or income variable was used to depict social standing in the community both on entering and exiting the shelter. The final social system variable was the length of the stay in the shelter.

Table I
Variables Which Affect the Person and Environment
in an Abusive Relationship

Variable	System*	Reference
Length of shelter stay	S	Aguirre (1985); Berk, Newton, & Berk (1986)
Children admitted	I	**
Age of woman	P	Bowker (1983)
Age of batterer	I	**
Number of children	I	Strube & Barbour (1983 & 1984)
Ages of children	I	Gelles (1976); Strube & Barbour (1983)
Ethnic origin	S	Miller & Sperry (1987); Strube & Barbour (1983)
Types of abuse	I	**
Education level	P	Gelles (1976); Levinger (1966); Miller & Sperry (1987)
Economic (income)	S	Kalmuss & Straus (1982); Miller & Sperry (1987); Strube & Barbour (1983)
Relationship to batterer	I	Cate, Henton, Koval, Christopher & Lloyd (1982)
Length of relationship	I	Strube & Barbour (1983)
Number of days since last incident	I	**
Severity of injuries	I	Gelles (1976); Kalmuss & Straus (1982)
Length of abuse	I	**

Frequency of abuse	I	Gelles (1976); Dulton & Painter (1981)
Pregnancy status	P	**
Perceived issues related to abuse	P	Bergman, Larsson, Brismar, & Klang (1988)
Violence of batterer against others	I	**
Response to abuse	P	Aguirre (1985)
Attitude of police	S	Gelles (1976)
ETOH or drug use by woman	P	Bergman et al. (1988)
ETOH or drug use by batterer	I	Bergman et al. (1988)
Abuse as a child-batterer	I	**
Abuse as a child-woman	I	Gelles (1976)
Abuse between parents	S	Carlson (1977); Dulton & Painter (1981)
Abuse of children	I	Rounsaville (1978)
Frequency of child abuse	I	**
Batterer in counseling	I	Aguirre (1985)
Source of income when exiting shelter	S	Gelles (1976); Strube & Barbour (1983)

*P=influences within the person. I=influences from interpersonal relationships. S=influences from the social system.

Note. Interchange between the systems is continuous.

Therefore, the categories are only suggestions and not limited to the ones identified.

**=not studied or identified in the literature as a variable in the decision to leave or return to the relationship.

Summary

Since abused women are often found to be in an early stage of moral development, which is manifested by powerlessness and dependence on others for survival, further exploration is needed to understand factors that influence their behavior (Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, & Tarule, 1986). Therefore, the communications of battered women about their perceptions concerning abusive relationships were analyzed to determine which factors influence their decision to stay or return to the relationship.

Assumptions

The following assumptions were made for this study:

1. Human interchanges produce responses (King, 1971).
2. When there is transfer of energy between persons and/or the environment, the response alters the person/environment (Rogers, 1970).

Research Questions

The following research questions were investigated in this study:

1. What is the relationship of personal, interpersonal, and social variables in a sample of battered women to the types of abuse they

experience?

2. What personal, interpersonal, and social variables discriminate between women who report that their decision is to leave the battering relationship and those who report that they will return to the battering relationship when exiting from a shelter residence?

Definition of Terms

The following definitions of terms were used for the purpose of this study:

1. Abuse is improper treatment (Morehead & Morehead, 1981). In this study three types of abuse were used: physical, sexual, and verbal.
2. Abuse, physical is the use of force to assault the woman (Walker, 1979). Physical abuse can range from slaps, pinches, kicking and punching, to choking, breaking bones, or causing internal injury. For the purpose of this study physical abuse was that experience identified in the response of the battered women to the question: "If physically abused which of the following happened?"
3. Abuse, sexual is an unwanted sexual experience in which physical force or threat is used (Burgess,

1984). It was operationalized for this study as the response of the battered women to the question: "If you were sexually abused which of the following happened?"

4. Abuse, verbal is the use of spoken communicative techniques to maintain verbal dominance (Boulette & Anderson, 1985) including threatening, blaming, degrading comments and expressions of jealousy. Verbal abuse involves either verbal communication or the withholding of verbal communication (Straus, 1979). For the purpose of this study, verbal abuse was that experience identified by the response of the battered women to the question: "If you have been verbally or emotionally abused which of the following happened?" and the response of the survivor to the question: "Immediately after the abusive incident what did the batterer do?" Even though verbal or emotional abuse responses were solicited, only responses that involved either verbal communication or withholding of verbal communication were provided.
5. Battered Woman: to batter is to beat persistently (Morehead & Morehead, 1981); therefore a battered woman is one who is beaten. The battered woman is

one who is "repeatedly subjected to any forceful physical or psychological behavior by a man in order to coerce her to do something he wants her to do without any concern for her rights" (Walker, 1979, p. xv). Women who have been admitted into a protective shelter were considered to be battered.

6. Personal, interpersonal, and social variables are attributes that describe the dynamic interacting systems in King's (1971) conceptual framework for nursing. The dynamic interacting systems of King are the personal (individual), interpersonal (groups) and social (society) systems. In this study the personal, interpersonal, and social variables were the selected recorded responses of battered women to the Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence (Appendix A), which were then recoded as the Abuse Assessment Inventory (Appendix B).
7. A shelter is a refuge (Pizzey, 1975). In this study a shelter was a protective environment which provided the necessities of daily living such as food, clothing, and housing for battered women and their children.

Limitations

The limitations of this study were the following:

1. A convenience sample of all women at one shelter who met the study criteria during one year of operation from a population of women who sought refuge from an abusive relationship with their partner was used. The use of a convenience sample limits the generalizability of the study to this shelter population.
2. The subjects voluntarily sought to leave the abusive relationship. This self selection bias prohibits the generalizability of this study to the general population of abused women. However, many abused women who have left a relationship will return to it (Gelles, 1976; Walker, 1979).
3. The data were retrospective and contained questions about the women's perceptions of the abusive relationships after the events had occurred. The request for information during the time of stress from leaving the relationship may have influenced the women's responses.
4. Data were collected by multiple interviewers who had varying degrees of expertise in the interview process. The interviewer may have influenced the

battered women's responses to the questions by providing clarification of the questions and by encouraging them to be more expressive.

Summary

Society permits physical, sexual, and verbal abuse of women. Abuse may result in severe physical and psychological trauma. Some nurses have recognized the extent of this problem and are attempting to develop an understanding of abusive relationships as well as ways in which to identify and assist abused women. This study was designed to increase understanding of battered women.

The conceptual framework for this study was the Wind Interaction Model. In the WIM, energy can be bound or unbound in an interactive situation. The influence of select variables from the personal, interpersonal, and social systems of battered women may bind them so that they are unable to fully interact with the environment and others. Growth, in which the individual strives for a higher developmental status, may be thwarted when energy is bound.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The available literature on abuse of women is mainly limited to the period from the mid 1970's to the present time. The literature includes various theories on the development of abusive relationships, why women stay, therapeutic modalities, and research on the incidence and prevalence. Information is also available on behaviors that exist in abusive relationships as well as descriptions of the batterers and women involved with them. There is a paucity of information on the effects of the different types of abuse: sexual, physical and verbal on battered women. Further, the research that has been conducted only partially explains why women choose to stay or return to the batterer (Cate, Henton, Kowval, Cristoper, & Lloyd, 1982; Goldstein & Rosenbaum, 1985; Kaufman & Zigler, 1987; Wetzel & Ross, 1983).

This chapter includes an overview of the development of abusive relationships and theories of violence against women. The theories provide a background for the various methodologies that have existed in the search for the cause

of violence as well as why women stay in these relationships. Influencing factors which may also impact the abusive relationship, such as characteristics of the batterer and seasonal variations, are then reviewed. Additionally, information about abuse is reviewed according to the type of abuse which includes physical, sexual, and verbal abuse. In conclusion, a discussion of the experience of violence as described in a theory on the moral development of women will be presented. The intent of this review is to provide a holistic view of the effects of violence on women. The conceptual framework was developed within this context.

Conceptual Frameworks for the Development of Abusive Relationships

Three conceptual frameworks that relate to the development of abusive relationships were selected for review because of their applicability to nursing research. Walker's (1979) conceptual framework is included because it provided nursing with a basis for understanding battering and was therefore included in many nursing texts. Campbell's (1984) conceptual framework is discussed because it represents nursing's ongoing attempt to describe the phenomenon of battering. Additionally, the Silverman Grief Model (1981) is reviewed as a comparison to Walker's Learned

Helplessness Theory.

Learned Helplessness and Cycle Theory of Violence

One of the foremost researchers in the area of battered women is Walker (1978, 1979) who developed the Learned Helplessness Theory in relationship to battered women. Walker modified Seligman's theory (1975) which was developed from animal studies on the influence of negative reinforcement on motivation. Walker's theory contains three components. The first component is information about what would happen. The second is thinking or cognitive representation about what will happen. This second component involves learning, expectation, belief, and perceptions, and is the phase in which "the faulty expectation that response and outcome are independent occurs" (Walker, 1979, p.47). The woman does not feel that she has control over the outcome. This feeling can also affect problem solving behavior so that the choice of responses narrows. Essentially, "women who have learned to expect battering as a way of life have learned that they cannot influence its occurrence" (Walker, 1979, p.48).

Walker also described the "Cycle Theory of Violence" in which a woman learns to adapt to the violence in her relationship with learned helplessness. In the violence cycle the abuse is not continuous, but appears to happen in

different intensities and for different lengths of time for each survivor (the term victim is no longer used). The first phase of the cycle is the tension building state in which minor incidents of battering take place. The woman tries to placate her partner during this time, feeling that abusive attacks are due to outside events. As the incidents become more intense, she separates from others for fear of harm to them and of them knowing that she is abused.

Walker described the second phase as the time in which a woman is severely beaten. During this phase the man's intention is to "teach her a lesson". The physical injuries are most likely on the face, breasts, chest and abdomen. Some attackers strategically direct the assault to areas of the body that are covered by clothes. The battering usually lasts for 2 to 24 hours but may last longer. After the beating, the woman does not usually seek help unless she has severe injuries. She may feel shock, disbelief and possible guilt for what has happened. Long term effects may include headaches, anorexia, depression, withdrawal, and helplessness.

During the third phase, the batterer may express sorrow for his actions, promise never to do it again, and may be loving and kind. According to Walker, the man believes that he will not beat his wife again and she wants to believe

that it is true. During this phase, it is difficult for the woman to leave for she sees the vulnerable man who is expressing his love for her.

Additional Conceptual Frameworks

Campbell (1984) described a conceptual framework in which "machismo" or "compulsive masculinity" is the unifying concept in viewing violence against women (p.94). Campbell defined machismo as "male attitudes and behavior arising from and supported by the patriarchal social structure which expresses sexism and male ownership of women, glorifies violence, emphasizes virility, and despises gentleness and the expression of any emotions except anger and rage" (p. 96). The expression of machismo is often displayed in the individual by the carrying of a gun, and in the society or region by the presence of a high rate of violence. Campbell indicated that machismo characteristics are also found at a higher rate in murderers using such phrases and adjectives as "confusing gentleness with weakness," "hypermasculine," and tolerant of brutality, frequently drunk, wifebeater, robber, murderer, and rapist (p.96). Campbell also linked aggressive behavior and the culture of low socioeconomic groups and black males to machismo characteristics.

In summary, Campbell viewed the patriarchal system as supporting sexist machismo attitudes which allow the

expression of violence against women. This process can be seen in the control that men seek over women by using violence in order to maintain their sense of power.

Use of Conceptual Models in Studying Battering

Campbell (1989) applied Silverman's Grief Model (1981) and Walker's (1979) Learned Helplessness Model in analysis of the difference in abused and nonabused women. Ninety-seven battered women were compared to 96 nonbattered women who were also having severe difficulty in an intimate relationship. Campbell described the grief model as one in which battered women experience depression as the response to the loss or anticipated loss of the relationship. Grief was conceptualized to be the result of stressors such as income and number of children, powerlessness in controlling the relationship and self-care agency, and perceived loss in the cultural importance of the wife-mother role as well as self-esteem. The Learned Helplessness Model was conceptualized to include: lack of control in the relationship; internal, stable, and personal attributions for failure such as internal blame; and negative self-evaluation and lack of the ability to care for oneself.

The results of the study indicated that the two groups had many similar responses. However, the battered women were more likely to be severely depressed, experience an

increase in frequency and severity of symptoms of stress and grief, and to have thought of or tried more solutions to the problems in their relationships. The dependent variables included self-esteem as measured by the Tennessee Self Concept Scale, self-care agency (Denyes Self-Care Agency Instrument), depression (Beck Depression Inventory), physical symptoms of stress and grief as measured by a modification of the SCL-90 which is a self-report symptom scale, frequency and severity of conflict (Conflict Tactics Scale). The variables of control in the relationship and self blame were assessed by interview questions.

Both models were more useful frameworks to explain variables within the relationships of battered women than for those with relationship difficulties. The author suggested that future research should be conducted to identify physical, emotional, and behavioral responses to battering. Therefore, this study was conducted to identify the variables that influence a woman's decision to leave or return to the abusive relationship.

Characteristics of Battered Women and Batterers

Characteristics of battered women were described by Brismar, Bergman, Larson, and Strandberg (1987). They conducted a study in which 117 battered women seen in a Scandinavian emergency room were offered hospital admission

and a treatment program. A control group of an age-matched group from the same sociodemographic region was also included. A number of significant differences were found. More foreign-born women and women with more divorces were found in the battered women group. The women who dropped out of treatment were either less severely injured or had more previous psychiatric morbidity. The battered group had more treatment for somatic and psychiatric complaints than did the control group. However, this is not to say that all women of every race and class are not equally abused (Walker, 1979).

According to Snyder & Fruchtman (1981), women may be more tolerant of abuse if they have been exposed to parental violence. Gelles (1976) found that women who observed spousal violence in their family were more likely to be abused in their current relationship. O'Leary and Curley (1986) however, found that, in the 72 couples they evaluated, violence in the family of origin was not a critical factor for women in an abusive relationship.

Rosenbaum & O'Leary (1981) stated that abusive husbands were more likely to have been abused as children and to have seen an abusive act in their family of origin. Assessment of abuse included the administration of standardized measures and demographic items in a questionnaire to 52

abused wives and 20 abusive husbands. This finding of abuse in the family of origin was supported by O'Leary & Curley in 1986. Rosenbaum & O'Leary (1981) also found that discord was not associated with abuse but that there was a strong association between alcoholism and both discord and abuse. In a study of 234 male batterers who had charges filed against them, substance abuse was found to be present in significantly more of the men who had more violent offenses (Roberts, 1988).

Goldstein & Rosenbaum (1985) studied 20 abusive husbands, 20 satisfactorily married husbands, and 18 discordant, nonabusive husbands to determine their levels of self-esteem. The abusive men had lower self esteem and were more likely to perceive their wife's behavior as self-esteem damaging. The authors suggested that this finding was due to a "signal detection alternative" in which the behavior of the wife may or may not be damaging but is perceived that way by the husband (Goldstein & Rosenbaum, 1985, p.428).

In 1984, O'Leary & Curley (1986) studied 72 couples. Men in abusive relationships were found to fear their wives more than those men in non-abusive relationships. However, wives feared their husbands to an even greater degree. Characteristics of abusive men in this study were found to be higher levels of aggression, violence in the family of

origin, poor communication skills and lack of self-esteem.

Kaufman and Zigler (1987) reviewed the literature on abused children as parents including those who were physically abused, sexually abused, or extremely neglected as children. The authors' findings supported the theory that abused or neglected children are more likely to become abusive parents. The authors provided an estimate of the rate of "intergenerational transmission" of 30% plus or minus 5% which is approximately six times that of the general population (Kaufman & Zigler, 1987, p. 190).

Physical Abuse

Various factors have been associated with the occurrence of physical abuse in relationships. The following section includes a discussion of the onset and patterns of physical abuse as well as the characteristics of physical abuse identified in the literature.

Onset and Patterns of Abuse

Questions have been raised as to when the abuse starts in a relationship. Cate et al. (1982) stated that most (72%) abusive relationships that start during premarital dating occur once the relationship becomes more serious as compared to 28% during casual dating. The authors surveyed 355 college students from a large state supported university in the northwest United States. Dating and courtship abuse

were found in 23% of the respondents, and in over half of the cases the abuse was likely to be reciprocal in nature.

The occurrence and frequency of abuse have been attributed to various factors. In a study of 27,000 reports by 23 shelters in the United States, Michael and Zumpe (1986) found violent attacks against women to be rhythmic and to increase in the summer months. The authors found a different pattern for child abuse. They hypothesized that these abuses were different forms of male aggression with wife abuse being "an expression of a temperature-related seasonal change in the aggressivity of a subset of the male population" (p.640).

Characteristics of Physical Abuse

Women experience anger as often as men but express that anger in different ways (Star, 1980). Although women use physical force, it is men who commit more serious injuries. This finding may be due to the way women are socialized as well as the decreased muscle mass they possess in relation to men. Men are more likely to be taught to be aggressive and dominant and to preserve their authority with force if necessary (Dobash & Dobash, 1978). In a study conducted in East and Central Africa by Mushanga (1978), the wife was found to be the most victimized person within the family. Straus (1976) reported that even when husbands were killed

by their wives, the killings were largely in self-defense.

The types of physical injuries may vary. The skilled batterer, in order to keep the battering a secret, will inflict injury where it is not visible when the woman is clothed (Hendrix, 1981). In addition to caring about the site of the injury, Bowker (1983) in a study of 149 abused women, found that some of the husbands avoided hitting their wives in the company of others and assaulted their wives only when their children were asleep. Other batterers are indiscriminant and will strike anywhere, using the most convenient and accessible areas. Helton et al (1987), in a study of 292 randomly selected pregnant women, reported that for battered women the most common sites of abuse were the face and head, breasts, and buttocks.

In early reports, blame for the violence was placed on the woman, especially if she used nagging (Gelles, 1972). However, investigators have not been able to identify nagging as a causative factor that provoked the rage and abuse that followed. Gayford (1975), in a study of 100 abused women, found that in 77% of the cases violence was not preceded by verbal arguments. Wardell, Gillespie, and Leffler (1982) in a review of the literature, surmised that the fault is not the wife's whether she nags or not.

Fagan, Stewart, and Hansen (1983), in a study of 290 face to face interviews of battered woman, used severity of violence in analyzing their data. Severity was described as the most serious past injury to the victim. Injury was defined as "bruises, lacerations, or more serious harm" (p.53). There was a strong relationship between severity of violence inside the home and involvement in violence outside the home. Exposure to violence in childhood, younger age, white race as compared to black, and lower education were more often associated with severe violence.

Sexual Abuse

The battered woman has trouble telling when sex is going to be pleasurable due to the batterer's unpredictable behavior (Walker, 1979). In addition, sex that was good in the beginning of the relationship can gradually turn into assaultive behavior. The batterer often accuses the woman of being sexually provocative and of being unfaithful.

Forced sex in marriage may vary from the batterer demanding sexual gratification to the batterer forcing the abused woman to have sex with objects, others, or animals. Russel's (1982) interviews of 930 randomly selected women resulted in reports of forced sex by 14 percent of the interviewed women. Burgess (1984) reported that public attitude on a national level has not advanced sufficiently

to recognize the problem. Few states have laws that protect women from rape in a marital relationship.

In a study of 146 battered women, Bowker (1983) found that sexual perversion and rape were important components in some of the relationships. Bowker defined rape as "use of overt physical aggression instead of or in addition to verbal manipulation to compel the women to participate against their wills" (p. 45). It was found that the rate of marital rape would have been much higher if women who had been badly beaten prior to having sex were able to resist their husbands' demands. The authors considered a sexual act as rape only if the wife attempted to resist.

Verbal Abuse

Another type of abuse, verbal abuse, is also included in this study. Therefore, the literature that is available on this type of abuse will be discussed. This literature includes research on verbal abuse in adults and children, and mind control.

Characteristics of Verbal Abuse

Straus (1974) reported that as verbal aggression increased (arguing, yelling, insults, sulking, refusing to talk, stomping out of the room, and throwing or smashing something), the level of physical aggression also dramatically increased. The connection between verbal

aggression and violence can be understood from the process of socialization of anger and aggression. The socialization of anger and aggression was described by Miller and Sperry (1987) in their account of 3 mothers and their children. They stated that when violence occurred, it was often seen as a result of verbal aggression. Additionally, anger was taken to be valid when it could be linked to a convincing cause or an intentional and unwarranted transgression.

Therefore, the initial move toward physical violence may be seen in the verbal attacks on the woman. Verbal abuse is an attempt to discredit the battered woman, which may result in her lowered self esteem and her willingness to believe that her partner may be right in his assessment of her (Walker, 1979).

Verbal abuse has been included in two questionnaires developed for the evaluation of spousal abuse: the Conflict Tactics (CT) Scale and the Index of Spouse Abuse (ISA). The CT Scales developed by Strauss (1979) have been used more extensively than the ISA and were designed to measure the use of reasoning, verbal aggression and violence within the family. The CT may be scored in a number of different ways, but the simplest method is to add the response category code values for the items making up each scale. The items for wife to husband verbal abuse include "insulted or swore at

the other one, sulked and/or refused to talk about it, stomped out of the room or house, cried, did or said something to spite the other one, threatened to hit or throw something at the other one, and threw something or hit or kicked something" (Strauss, 1979, p. 87). For husband to wife verbal abuse the items include "argued heatedly but short of yelling, yelled and/or insulted, sulked and/or refused to talk about it, stomped out of the room, and threw something or smashed something" (Strauss, 1979, p. 87-88). The alpha coefficient of reliability for the Verbal Aggression Scale of husband to wife was .80. The internal consistency varied from .44 to .81 for wife to husband using a correlation of the items with the total score. The CT scale does not evaluate the perceptions of the other person about the event.

The Index of Spouse Abuse is a self-report measure developed by Hudson and McIntosh (1981) to monitor and evaluate progress in treatment for the individual. The ISA is a 30 item, summated-category, partitioned scale that was designed to measure the severity of both physical and nonphysical abuse by the batterer. The scale produces two different scores: one represents the severity of the physical abuse and the other the severity of the nonphysical abuse. The scores range from 0-100 where a low score

indicates relative absence of abuse. The items are weighted depending on the severity of abuse measured by the behavioral items. The beta weights were developed by having the responses of 188 women rate the items in two steps using ratio estimation and Thrustone's law of comparative judgement. The nonphysical abuse questions begin with "my partner" and then proceed with (beta weights are in parentheses): belittles me (1); demands obedience to his whims (17); becomes very upset if dinner, housework or laundry is not done when he thinks it should be (4); is jealous and suspicious of my friends (8); tells me I am ugly and unattractive (26); tells me I really couldn't manage or take care of myself without him (8); acts like I am his personal servant (20); insults or shames me in front of others (41); becomes very angry if I disagree with his point of view (15); threatens me with a weapon (82); is stingy in giving me enough money to run our home (12); belittles me intellectually (20); demands that I stay home to take care of the children (14); feels that I should not work or go to school (21); is not a kind person (13); does not want me to socialize with my female friends (18); demands sex whether I want it or not (52); orders me around (29); has no respect for my feelings (39); treats me like a dunce (29); and acts like he would like to kill me (80) (Hudson & McIntosh, 1981,

p. 888).

The subscale reliability for the ISA using alpha was $r=.90$ and $r=.91$ for the 398 college students and $r=.94$ and $r=.97$ for 107 women, 64 of whom were identified by therapists as victims of abuse and 43 of whom were classified by therapists as being free of any clinically significant abuse. Many of the items are similar to the verbal aggression items in the CT Scale. The scale did not differentiate between individuals who had verbal or physical abuse as the two were highly correlated ($r=.86$).

Verbal Abuse and Children

The effects of verbal abuse on children have received recent media attention. Ney (1987) found that verbal abuse of children may have a greater impact for a longer period of time because the children have greater difficulty defending against attack. In a study of 57 children five to twelve years old, verbal abuse also was noted to have a greater impact on the children's view of themselves and the world (Ney, Moore, McPhee, & Trought, 1986). This effect was reflected in the children's behavior by the expression of more anger and pessimism about their future.

Verbal Abuse in Mind Control

Verbal abuse is found to be a technique of mind control to maintain submission of the victim and adherence to a

relationship which most would find intolerable (Boulette & Andersen, 1985). According to Farber & Harlow (1957), mind control, as described in cultic systems, includes the elements of debility, dependency and dread. The authors stated that individuals who are subjected to this kind of environmental condition have "reduced viability, are helplessly dependent on their captors for the satisfaction of many basic needs, and experience the emotional and motivational reactions of intense fear and anxiety" (p. 272). The reinforcement process is successful because it is not consistent.

Andersen and Zimbardo (1980) stated that effective mind control exists when information is "systematically hidden, withheld, or distorted, making unbiased decisions virtually impossible" (p. 44). Mind control can then be associated with a specific type of battering based on the number of features of psychologic coercion and deception which are present.

Sixteen features may be involved: (1) isolation of members from past and external sources of social support; (2) love and support that is contingent; (3) powerful pressures to maintain group unanimity; (4) threat of physical harm; (5) threat of spiritual, mystical, or psychological punishments; (6) eliciting of confessions or

extensive past histories; (7) systematic induction of psychological duress in the form of anxiety, guilt, or confusion; (8) division of the world into the half that is "good, aware, and wonderful to us" and the half that is the "evil, unaware, ignorant them"; (9) continual verbal and sensory barrage; (10) deprivation of food or sleep; (11) lying about the purpose of the organization; (12) provision of inaccurate information and misleading identifications; (13) rendering of potential converts and new converts ignorant of the end results of the conversion; (14) belief that there is only one true authority for all potential decisions, i.e., the system; (15) convincing of members that they are just like other members, even when they are not; and (16) specification of a set of alternatives for members to choose from while conveniently omitting certain legitimate options. Mind control exists when a total of eight of the sixteen features exist, which are enough to identify the system as cultic (Andersen, 1985).

Boulette and Andersen (1985) described the specific elements or techniques of mind control in battering relationships as those which seek to provide dominance, isolation, fear, guilt, and loyalty to the aggressor. These techniques promote powerlessness and helplessness. Additionally, there is an expression of jealousy by the

abuser and the woman gives in to demands in order to be "loved." Finally, the abuser provides hope-instilling behaviors and secrecy. Wetzel & Ross (1983) described the techniques of isolation, unrealistic expectations, accusations and mind games as being similar to brainwashing. The result is that the woman internalizes the abuse, thinking that she is crazy and becomes more vulnerable.

Reasons for Staying

Gelles (1976) was an early investigator into why women stay in abusive relationships. Gelles interviewed members of 80 families, 20 of which were from the files of a private social service agency and were suspected of using violence, another 20 from a police blotter of incidents in which police had been summoned for violent disputes, and 40 neighboring families of those selected. The author stated that the sample was without a class bias. The decision of a woman to seek outside assistance was related to the severity of the violence and the frequency with which she was hit. Also related, but less influential in why she may leave, is having older children (teenage) whom Gelles saw as becoming "embroiled" in the physical violence. Factors related to the decision not to seek outside help included frequent experience with violence as a child, not completing high school, and unemployment. Verbal abuse was not described.

Strube & Barbour (1984) studied 251 caucasian women who contacted a unit associated with the county attorney's office. Seventy percent (176) of these women decided to leave their abusive partner; 29.5% (74) stayed. A number of factors were related to their decision to leave the relationship. The factors were employment, length of relationship (more likely in the short term relationship), economic hardship, love, noncaucasian race, nowhere else to go, fewer coping strategies, and the promise of the partner to change. These factors accounted for 25% of the variance by stepwise multiple regression analysis. The study was limited since it was mostly caucasian women who voluntarily sought help.

Janoff-Bulman (1979) identified two types of self-blame: behavioral and characterological. The presence of behavioral self-blame, an adaptive and control oriented attribute in which there is a belief in future avoidability of a negative outcome, may indicate a positive psychological mechanism because the victim has a belief in control of the outcome. However, self-blame in which the person blames herself 'characterologically' is an esteem-related type in which one's character is deemed to deserve the negative outcomes. It is concerned with the past, particularly deservingness for past outcomes (p.1800). In a study of 129

undergraduate women, the author found that depressed students were more likely to use characterological self-blame. It may be that women who experience frequent personal attacks, both verbally and physically, are more likely to be depressed and blame their character for the actions of the batterer.

Aquirre (1985) completed a study using a subset of responses from shelters throughout Texas for a total of 312 subjects. The FUNCAT procedure was used to test previous experience with violence, number of injuries, issues, and economic dependence. This procedure provides an estimate of the overall goodness of fit of the proposed weighted least-squares model in the form of a residual estimate and operates like an analysis of variance with nominal and ordinal data. A second set of variables included number of shelter services, number of decisions made during the stay, extent to which they thought shelters were useful, and whether the batterer was in counseling. The author found that the only statistically significant indicator was the spouse's income and that financial dependence almost always ensures return ($p=.0001$). The author did not address verbal abuse and its influence on decisions to return to the relationship.

Turner and Shapiro (1986) described the reaction to battering in terms of a loss which the women must resolve through the mourning response described by Kubler-Ross (1969). The losses included the loss of the idealized relationship and security. For each stage of grief, specific implications for the social worker were described. The aspect of a grieving response to loss is a relatively new one in the literature on abuse, and it does not relate clearly to the various factors that have previously been found to exist in research studies, such as economic dependence and previous experiences with abuse as a child. The theory is partially supported by DeLorto & LaVioletta (1980) who proposed that the woman stays in a violent relationship because of the way she looks at herself as a wife and mother.

Another reason why women stay in an abusive relationship was reported in a study of 101 abused women by the National Organization of Women's, Wife Assault Task Force, in Ann Arbor, Michigan (Carlson, 1977). It was observed that there was an intense attachment to and concern for their children. The author felt that attachment contributed to the fear of leaving the batterer and living independently. The number and ages of the children in this study were not reported. Additionally, it was found that an

increase in frequency and severity of abuse was a factor in the woman's decision to seek outside intervention.

In a study of 49 women who attended a surgical emergency department after being battered, it was found that both the men (88%) and the women (51%) were heavy consumers of alcohol, and over half of the batterings occurred when both had been drinking (Bergman, Larsson, Brismar, & Klang, 1988). The authors concluded that social heredity, heavy consumption of alcohol and emotional dependence on the batterer were major reasons for the woman to stay in the relationship. This study involved only a small sample and may reflect the severity of the batterings with alcohol consumption or the possibility that alcohol may have an effect on the willingness of the couple to be exposed to the health care system. Coleman, Weinman, and Hsi (1980) in a study of 60 couples also found frequent alcohol use and drug use by abusing husbands.

The abusive relationship must be based on a strong bond or the woman would leave the first time violence was used against her. Factors that aid in the development of a bond are described by Wetzel & Ross (1983) as fear, religion, societal value of a nuclear family, isolation, mutual dependency, and intermittent reinforcement created by drastic changes in personality of the abuser from kindness

to mistreatment. The combination of these factors is not necessarily the sign of a healthy relationship. The authors derived their descriptions of the relationship and its bond from their observations in working with abused persons. They did not identify the numbers of clients with whom they worked or any methodology used to establish their profiles and guidelines.

Growth

A discussion of the moral development of women is presented to provide a holistic view of the issue of violence against women. The work of Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, and Tarule (1986) was based on the work of Gilligan (1982), therefore Gilligan's work will be briefly discussed. The work of Gilligan (1982), In a different voice, was a major breakthrough in the study of the development or growth of women. It identified, among other things, the stages of development for women as well as the central focus of most women's lives as one of relationships. It allowed for the evaluation of women's lives in terms that were specific with respect to the direction that women's lives were apt to take in the search for meaning and growth.

Gilligan spoke of the developmental stages as having three levels with two transitions. Level one is selfishness in which individual survival and focus on self is apparent.

The first transition is from selfishness to responsibility in which self worth is enhanced in trying to do the right thing. In level two, goodness as self sacrifice is manifested by the adoption of societal values. The second transition is goodness to truth in which the morality of the action is assessed, not in terms of others but in terms of its intentions and consequences. The third level is morality of nonviolence in which caring becomes a universal obligation.

The work of Gilligan is often referenced in the later work by Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, and Tarule entitled Women's ways of knowing: The development of self, voice, and mind(1986). These authors addressed the development of women by describing five stages. These stages may overlap and there may be movement between one stage and another. The stages are perspectives of silence, received knowledge, subjective knowledge, procedural knowledge, and constructed knowledge. In the first stage, women experience themselves as mindless, voiceless, and subject to external authority which they are to obey without question. Progression occurs until the last stage, constructed knowledge, in which the integration of analytic ability and emotions plus the recognition that they are creators of knowledge occurs.

In the first developmental stage, which is the one of silence, the authors described the women as often being the victims of physical violence. The women see survival as their primary goal. Silent women see words as "weapons" "used to separate and diminish people, not to connect and empower them" (p.24). The authors did not address the effect of verbal abuse on women. However, it may be the effect of the verbal abuse that often accompanies physically violent relationships that has engendered the sense of words as weapons.

Summary

From the review of literature, it can be identified that no single explanation for violence against women is known, as no theory thoroughly explains the phenomenon. Also, all of the factors that contribute to the establishment of an abusive relationship and why women choose to stay with the batterer are not known. The fact that abuse is a frequently occurring event and worthy of study is evident in the numbers of women who annually report being abused by their partners.

Although a combination of factors seems to be responsible for the devastating effects that violence has on women, it is important to establish which ones contribute to maintaining the relationship. The various aspects of

physical, sexual, and verbal abuse have not been sufficiently explored as factors in why women stay in abusive relationships. Verbal and physical abuse may lead to the arrest of women in the "silent" phase of moral development. This effect leaves the women without the power to effectively communicate with others.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE FOR THE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF DATA

A nonexperimental, descriptive, retrospective study was conducted to determine the personal, interpersonal and social variables that contribute to the decision of battered women to leave or return to the abusive relationship when exiting a shelter. This descriptive study was designed to gain more information about the characteristics of battered women by identifying the relationship between the variables so that an overall picture of the phenomenon could be obtained (Burns & Grove, 1987). This study was also designed to achieve a clearer picture of the characteristics which influence the women's decision to leave or return to their relationships. The study was nonexperimental and descriptive because there was no manipulation of any of the variables that were measured. In this retrospective study, both the proposed cause, battering, and the proposed effect, decision to leave or return to the abusive relationship, had already occurred (Burns & Grove, 1987). Therefore, the investigator began with a description of the situation and attempted to identify the previously occurring causative

factors (Polit & Hungler, 1987). The battering was the situation. Multiple variables were assessed as to their relationship to the battered women's decisions to leave or return to the abusive relationship.

Setting

The setting was a shelter for battered women located in a large metropolitan city in the southwest United States with a population of 1.8 million people. Supported by state funds and community donations, the shelter houses approximately 40 women and their children for up to 30 days for each admission. Under special circumstances, the stay can be extended for an additional 30 days. Each year, approximately 400 women utilize the shelter services. The clients are referred by police, human service centers, and women's centers. To protect the clients and the staff, the whereabouts of the shelter is confidential, and all women who use the shelter gain access by referral through a telephone hotline. Only the residents, staff, volunteers, and administrators know the telephone number and address of the shelter. The door is locked at all times, and opened only when the visitor is known or properly identified with a name badge.

There is no charge for the services provided at the shelter. To offset costs, the residents must be able to

perform chores such as cooking and cleaning. The women are provided with food, personal items, and clothing. The shelter provides a supportive atmosphere created by a house management staff, social services, and volunteers. It has 12 bedrooms, a community kitchen, lounge, playroom, play-yard, laundry facilities, and a meeting room for the residents.

The data were collected in the business office of the house management staff. In the office were two desks, four chairs, and shelves with supplies. Privacy was maintained by closing the door during the interview and posting a sign that interruptions were not permitted unless there was an emergency. Only infants and toddlers were allowed in the room with their mothers; all other children were taken to another part of the shelter.

Population and Sample

Over 2,000 women have utilized the shelter over the last five years. The women in the shelter represent all sociodemographic classes, have experienced abuse of varied types, frequency and severity, and are in imminent danger of bodily harm. The women were unable to identify a place other than the shelter where they could be safe from harm. They may also have identified the need for a safe place for their children.

The sample was obtained from records of residents housed in a shelter for battered women during the year of 1984. The 1984 form was selected as the database because it contained more interview information concerning the woman, batterer, and social systems than later forms. Limiting the time frame to one year also served to decrease the number of interviewers by whom the data were collected. The data base consisted of interviews from approximately 350 women.

All potential residents were screened by telephone interviews prior to their acceptance into the shelter. The criterion for acceptance into the shelter were that the women were in immediate danger, had no medical and psychological conditions that would prohibit their participation in chores and group living, and had no other resources for living arrangements. The criterion for inclusion in this study was that the battered women must be in a relationship with the batterer. Exclusion from the study occurred if the woman was raped by an assailant other than her partner or was abused by a person other than her partner.

A preliminary record review was performed to determine the percent of women who decided to return to or leave the batterer after exiting the shelter. A convenience sample of 39 interviews was reviewed. The response of the woman

during the discharge interview to the question "what arrangement have you made?" was analyzed. Of the 39 women, 30 (77%) responded that they would seek other living arrangements and 9 (23%) responded that they would return to the batterer when leaving the shelter. Therefore, the selected database appeared adequate to answer the proposed research questions.

Protection of Human Subjects

The study followed the Texas Woman's University's Human Subjects Review Committee guidelines established for the protection of human subjects. Agency approval was obtained prior to collecting data from the records (Appendix C).

A retrospective study using existing data on adult subjects was conducted. Therefore, no manipulation of the environment or subjects which would require explanation and instruction took place. Subjects signed a consent form when admitted to the shelter for complete release from "any and all claims, demands and cause of action whatsoever resulting out of the stay of the undersigned and any children of the undersigned..."

Benefits of this study for abused women are indirect in that the information will assist nurses to better understand their behaviors and thus be better able to assist them in protecting themselves and their children. Nurses may gain

an increased understanding of the relationship of types of abuse and the characteristics of the relationship to the battered woman's decision to leave or return to the batterer. This information could be used to assist in designing effective programs for prevention and management of abuse in women.

The confidentiality of the subjects was maintained by entering the data using a document number from the chart. No names of the women or the shelter personnel were used in reporting the results. Pseudonyms are often used on the charts to provide confidentiality. Additionally, data were reported only in group format.

Instruments

The database for this study included the Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence (Appendix A) and the Abuse Assessment Inventory (Appendix B). The original instrument used to conduct interviews with the battered women was the Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence.

Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence

Content validity was established in the development of the form by select professionals who worked with battered

women. The professionals included such individuals and groups as Dr. Michelle Sabino and members of the Houston Police Department who reviewed the interview questions. This form is also evaluated and revised yearly by the Department of Human Resources of the State of Texas. The questionnaire contains three parts with a total of 45 questions.

Part one of the questionnaire is completed when the woman enters the shelter and contains demographic information on the woman, batterer, and her children. Part two contains information on self reports of physical, verbal, and sexual abuse to self, children, and others by the batterer as well as police response. Part two is usually completed at the same time as part one; however if the woman is extremely upset it is completed the next day. The third part is the discharge information which consists of arrangements made and evaluation of services, and is completed when the woman is exiting the shelter.

Abuse Assessment Inventory

A data form, Abuse Assessment Inventory (AAI), was developed to abstract information from the interview form (see Appendix B). The specific questions used directly from the interview form were the demographic data: age of woman and batterer; number, ages, presence in shelter, and sex of

children; frequency and type of abuse experienced by the children; length of the relationship with the batterer; length of stay in the shelter; education of the woman and the batterer; use of alcohol and drugs by the woman and/or batterer; family history of abuse to the woman as a child or witness of family violence as a child; type of abuse experienced; frequency and length of physical abuse; length of sexual abuse; and living arrangements after leaving the shelter (see Appendix D for the derivation of the AAI).

Additionally, responses were developed on the AAI by collapsing data into categories. The question on economic dependency (#13) is the combination of two interview questions which addressed the amount of earnings and source of income of the woman. The verbal abuse question (#18) was derived from the interview form questions on verbal/emotional abuse. The responses were placed in rank order based on the beta weights in the Index of Spouse Abuse (ISA) developed by Hudson & McIntosh (1981) for the associated response on the AAI. Additional information on verbal abuse was obtained from the response of women to the question on behaviors exhibited by the batterer after the abusive incident (#19). The severity of physical injuries (#17) was taken directly from the interview question on types of injuries received; however injuries were collapsed

into categories ranging from the absence of injury to permanent disabilities received as a result of a battering incident. If more than one response by the woman was selected, the most severe physical injury identified was used. The responses for question #27 on the AAI, which identifies the immediate response to the abusive incident, were formed by developing categories that include independent, dependent, and self-destructive strategies. Leaving home is categorized as an independent strategy and attempting suicide as a self-destructive strategy.

Data Collection

Data were obtained from information generated during interviews of women staying in a shelter from January through December, 1984. Approximately 35 interviewers collected information from the women on admission into and discharge from the shelter. The interviewers were either staff members of the shelter or trained adult volunteers. Volunteers were selected by the shelter staff after the completion of 16 hours of training and were supervised during the interviews until they were able to appropriately conduct an interview as judged by a senior staff member. No method of inter-rater reliability was established.

A structured interview with a set of fixed response questions was used by interviewers for each client (Appendix

A). All questions were asked of each battered woman and the appropriate areas marked by the interviewer. However, certain questions allowed for an "other" selection. These responses were recorded as they were stated by the women. Each respondent was also given the opportunity to add additional information in a "comments" question.

The admission interview was conducted immediately upon entering the shelter. The discharge interview was conducted with the client at the time of exiting the shelter, or completed by the staff if the woman left without a formal interview. Both interviews were part of the database used for this study. Information obtained from the admission and discharge interviews was coded according to the AAI. Data analysis was then conducted.

Treatment of the Data

The descriptive statistics of frequency and percents were used to describe the demographic data of the study sample. In regard to personal characteristics of the battered women, frequency and percents were used to describe: ethnicity, education, pregnancy status, abusive incidents and complications while pregnant, alcohol and drug problems, income, length and type of relationship, physical and sexual abuse as a child, and abusive incidents between parents as a child. The batterer was described as to:

ethnicity, education, income, physical and sexual abuse as a child, and abusive incidents between parents as a child. Frequency and percents were used to describe the children's: sex, presence in the shelter, and frequency of child abuse in the past six months. Means and standard deviations were used to describe the demographic data in regard to: age of the woman, batterer and children, and number of children.

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the types of abuse. Frequency and percents were used to describe the length of abuse, the frequency of abuse within the last 6 months, severity of physical injuries, types of sexual abuse, issues related to the abusive incident, presence of violence toward others and things, types of response to the abusive incident, attitudes of police toward the women, types of verbal abuse, arrangements made after exiting the shelter, counseling of the batterer and source of income when exiting the shelter. Means and standard deviations were used to describe the number of days since the last battering incident. The various combinations of sexual, verbal and physical abuse were also described using frequency and percents.

Research question #1, what is the relationship of personal, interpersonal, and social variables in a sample of battered women to the types of abuse they experienced was

analyzed using descriptive statistics. Since all of the women were physically abused, the two groups consisted of those who were sexually, verbally and physically abused and those who were verbally and physically abused. The data was then analyzed using discriminant analysis. This method of analysis allows for the "best" set of discriminating variables to be selected (Klecka, 1975). Discriminant analysis is used to predict group membership in which discrete groups can be identified, such as religious affiliation (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). "The mathematical objective of discriminant analysis is to weight and linearly combine the discriminating variables in some fashion so that the groups are forced to be as statistically distinct as possible" (Klecka, 1975, p.435). The significant variables are given weights which reflect their appropriate contribution to the factor. All statistical computations were done using the computer program of SPSS-PC (1988).

Research question #2, what personal, interpersonal, and social variables discriminate between women who report that their decision is to leave the abusive relationship and women who report that they are returning to the abusive relationship when exiting from a shelter residence, was first analyzed using descriptive statistics. Descriptive techniques were used to describe the women according to

their decision to leave the relationship, return to the relationship, or if they were undecided. The data was then analyzed using discriminant analysis which is used to predict group membership in which discrete groups can be identified (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). Membership was in two groups. One group was the battered women who decided to leave the relationship and the second was the battered women who decided to return to the relationship when exiting the shelter. The independent variables included the personal, interpersonal and social variables in the AAI.

Use of discriminant analysis may provide association but not causality since other populations may have differing results. The SPSS-PC program DISCRIMINANT (1988) was used. The use of nominal or ordinal level data in discriminant analysis is found in the text, Statistical methods for health care research in which demographic variables such as sex and race were entered into the discriminant functions in the example provided for readers (Munro, Visintainer, & Page, 1986).

Summary

A database collected from interviews of battered women in a shelter population was analyzed to determine the relationship of select variables to types of abuse experienced by the battered woman and the decision to stay

or leave the abusive relationship when exiting the shelter. The specific demographic variables in the AAI, which include age, number of children, length of relationship, length of stay in the shelter, education, alcohol and drug use, and family history of abuse were described. Discriminant analysis techniques were used to identify the variables associated with the type of abuse the woman experiences. Additionally, discriminant analysis was used to determine the association between the variables and the decision to leave or return to the relationship when exiting the shelter. Information was sought as to what variables affect the battered woman's decision to leave the relationship.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The purpose of this chapter is to present the results of this study including a description of the sample and analysis of the data for each research question. A summary of the findings concludes the chapter.

Description of Sample

Data from this study were obtained from the records of women admitted to a select shelter during 1984 (n=330). Women with records of abuse by a relative (n=5), rape by an assailant (n=3) or for whom the data were missing concerning identification of their batterer (n=1) were not included in this study. For the remaining 321 battered women, the dependent variable of decision to leave or return to the relationship was assessed. Forty-six women either did not respond to the question or gave a response of other to the question on what their living arrangements would be when they exited the shelter. The total number of cases omitted from the study was 55 (16.7%). Therefore, the total sample for this study was the records of 275 battered women. There were missing data for many of the other responses on the

questionnaire; however these records were included in the analysis in order to provide an adequate sample size.

The ages of the women varied from 17 years to 61 years, with a mean of 28.94 and a SD of 7.28. The ages of the batterers varied from 17 years to 71 years with an average age of 32.45 and a SD of 8.67. Not all of the women reported the birth date of the batterer which was used to calculate the age of the batterer. The ages of the batterer and battered women were similar (see Table 2).

Table 2
Age of the Battered Women and Batterers

	<u>n</u>	Range	Mean	S.D.	Mode	Median
Woman	275	44	28.94	7.28	25.0	28.0
Batterer	258	54	32.45	8.67	28.0	31.0

The battered women were predominantly Anglo (123; 44.7%); however this number is an under representation of this category in the general population. Blacks and Hispanics were over represented in the sample with 31.3% (86) and 19.6% (54) respectively. The remaining racial groups comprised 4.3% (12) of the sample. Table 3 shows the ethnicity of the women and the batterers. The sample had more Anglo women than Anglo batterers, and more Black

batterers than Black battered women.

Table 3
Ethnic Background of Battered Women and Batterer

	Frequency	Percent
Woman n=275		
Batterer n=271		
White		
Woman	123	44.7
Batterer	105	38.8
Black		
Woman	86	31.3
Batterer	104	38.4
Hispanic		
Woman	54	19.7
Batterer	56	20.6
Oriental		
Woman	7	2.5
Batterer	6	2.2
Other		
Woman	5	1.8
Batterer	0	.0
Totals		
Woman	275	100
Batterer	271	100

Most of the women were married (158; 57.5%). Only two women (.7%) were divorced. Married or not married and living together made up 88% (n=242) of the sample. Table 4 shows the relationship of the battered women to the batterer in the sample.

Table 4
The Battered Women's Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent
Married/together	158	57.5
Separated	18	6.5
Divorced	2	.7
Not married/together	84	30.5
Not married/not together	9	3.3
Common law	4	1.5
Totals	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>

The length of the relationship was most often one to five years (137; 49.8%). See Table 5. New relationships of less than one year comprised 14.6% (40) of the sample.

Most of the women reported that they (107; 38.9%) and their batterer (116; 43%) both had high school educations. Twenty percent (57) of the women had some college education compared to 14% (39) of the batterers (see Table 6).

Table 5
Length of the Relationship of the Battered Women

Years	Frequency	Percent
< one year	40	14.6
1-5 years	137	49.8
>5 years	98	35.6
Totals	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 6
Education of Batterers and Battered Women

Years	Women		Batterer	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<12 years	95	34.5	102	37.8
High School	107	38.9	116	43.0
College	57	20.7	39	14.4
Vocational	16	5.9	13	4.8
Totals	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>100</u>

Economic dependence was derived from the amount that the women earned. Only 10.7% (29) of the women's individual income allowed them to live above the poverty level (see Table 7). The source of the women's income is shown in Table 8. The source of this income included either no

source, a job, her partner or other category. The other category included governmental support, family, child support, and savings. A correlation technique was selected to determine the amount of association between the two variables. Using Kendall's tau, $p=.05$ indicating that the two variables were significantly correlated.

Table 7
Income of the Battered Women

	<u>n</u> = 272 Frequency	Percent
none	154	56.6
< \$5000	56	20.6
5000-10000	33	12.1
10001-15000	23	8.5
15001-20000	1	.4
>20000	5	1.8
Total	<u>272</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 8
Source of the Battered Women's Income

	Frequency	Percent
None	103	37.5
Job	66	24.0
Partner	74	26.9
Other	32	11.6
Total	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>

The data on the number of children and their ages, sex, and shelter stay were inconsistent. Eighty-nine (32.4%) of the women reported having a greater number of children than they actually described in the questions on age, sex, and shelter admittance of the children. Additionally, for 15 (8.2%) of the children, information on either their age, sex, or shelter admittance was omitted.

The number of children varied from one to six (Table 9). The mean number of children was 1.90. Two hundred and thirty-nine women (86.9%) had at least one child, only five women (1.8%) had five children, and one (.4%) had six. No further data was available for the sixth child. Most of the women (91) who had children had two (33.1%).

Table 9
Number of Children of the Battered Women

Number of Children		Frequency	Percent
0		36	13.1
1		74	26.9
2		91	33.1
3		43	15.6
4		19	6.9
5		11	4.0
6		1	.4
Totals		275	100

<u>n</u>	Range	Mean	S.D.	Mode	Median
275	5	1.90	1.28	2.0	2.0

The ages of the children varied from one month to 22.1 years. The ages were recorded by year and month. For the purposes of this study, the ages were recorded with the oldest child as the first child. The range of the children's ages decreased as their number increased (Table 10). The mean ages for the second through the fifth child were similar.

Table 11
Gender of Battered Women's Children

	f	%	f	%	f	%
	Male	n=160	Female	n=186	Totals	
Child 1	82	44.1	104	55.9	186	100
Child 2	53	49.5	54	50.5	107	100
Child 3	17	48.6	18	51.4	35	100
Child 4	6	46.2	7	53.8	13	100
Child 5	2	40.0	3	60.0	5	100

Table 12
Children Admitted to Shelter With Their Mothers

	f	%	n=342	f	%	f	%
	Yes		No	Totals			
Child 1	180	95.7	8	4.3	188	100	
Child 2	100	96.2	4	3.8	104	100	
Child 3	33	100.0	0	0.0	33	100	
Child 4	13	100.0	0	0.0	13	100	
Child 5	4	100.0	0	0.0	4	100	

Of the 239 women who had at least one child, 110 women (46%) reported that they had children who experienced some type of abuse. Therefore, in battered women with children, abuse occurred in almost one-half of the families. All types of abuse, physical, sexual, and verbal/emotional were reported (Table 13). If abuse occurred among the children,

it was more likely to be the verbal and emotional type (53; 48.8%). Some form of physical abuse occurred in 44.5% and sexual abuse in 10.8% of the children.

Table 13
Incidence of Child Abuse in Battered Women's Children

	Frequency	Percent
Verbal/emotional	53	48.2
Physical	7	6.5
Sexual	4	3.6
Verbal/emotional, physical	38	34.5
Verbal/emotional, sexual	4	3.6
All	4	3.6
Totals	<u>110</u>	<u>100</u>

The frequency of child abuse in the past six months in the sample was only reported by 56 of the battered women, about half of those who indicated that there was some type of child abuse (Table 14). Of those who reported the frequency of child abuse, it was most often reported to happen once (30.4%) or two to four times per month (28.6%).

Table 14
Frequency of Child Abuse in the Six Months Prior
To the Shelter Stay

	Frequency	Percent
Once	17	30.4
<once/month	11	19.6
2-4x/month	16	28.6
2-6x/week	5	8.9
Daily	6	10.7
Don't know	1	1.8
Totals	<u>56</u>	<u>100</u>

Of the 275 women, 261 (94.9%) responded to the question concerning pregnancy status. Twenty-three or 8.8% were currently pregnant. Nineteen women (7.3%) were not sure if they were pregnant.

Abusive incidents while pregnant occurred in 139 (53.2%) of the 261 battered women who responded to the question. Although not all of the 275 women in the sample responded to this question, the number of women abused during pregnancy represents an incidence of at least 50% of the total sample.

Complications resulting from abuse during pregnancy were reported by 42 or 16.1% of the 261 women who responded

to the question on abuse during pregnancy. Another 8.8% (23) were unsure if a complication had resulted since they were still pregnant.

Table 15 shows the incidence of abuse during childhood for both the battered women and batterers as reported by the battered women. Of the 258 women who responded to the question concerning physical abuse as a child, 27.1% (70) reported that they were abused. The women reported that 35.3% (91) of their batterers were abused as children. Sexual abuse was reported by 23.2% (60) of the 258 women who responded. Sexual abuse of the batterer either did not occur (133; 51.6%) or it was unknown (119; 46.1%) to the battered women.

Women were asked about their perceptions of being exposed to abusive incidents during childhood. Of the 258 battered women who responded to the question of whether they had seen abusive incidents between their parents, 101 (39.1%) women said yes, 116 (56.6%) said no, and 11 (4.3%) did not know.

Table 15
Reported History of Physical and Sexual Abuse by Parents
of the Battered Women and Batterer

	f	%	f	%
<u>Physical Abuse</u>				
Women			Batterer	
Yes	70	27.1	91	35.3
No	184	71.3	64	24.8
Don't know	4	1.6	103	39.9
Totals	258	100	258	100
<u>Sexual Abuse</u>				
Women			Batterer	
Yes	60	23.2	6	2.3
No	194	75.2	133	51.6
Don't know	4	1.6	119	46.1
Totals	258	100	258	100

A history of drug and alcohol problems for both the battered women and the batterers as reported by the battered women is depicted in Table 16. Overall, the women reported that there was a high incidence of alcohol (140; 54.1%) and drug (83; 32%) problems in their batterers but reported a low incidence of such usage for themselves (17; 6.6% alcohol and 13; 5.0% for drug usage).

Table 16
Alcohol and Drug Problems of Battered Women and Batterers

	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<u>Alcohol</u>				
Women			Batterers	
Yes	17	6.6	140	54.1
No	240	92.7	116	44.8
Don't know	2	.7	3	1.1
Totals	259	100	259	100
<u>Drug</u>				
Women			Batterers	
Yes	13	5.0	83	32.0
No	245	94.6	157	60.6
Don't know	1	.4	19	7.3
Totals	259	100	259	100

The types of abuse experienced by the women included physical, sexual, and verbal abuse. Table 17 depicts the women's responses to the question "which of the following types of abuse have you experienced: physical, sexual, verbal/emotional." Although the question asked about verbal or emotional abuse, only verbal abuse responses were generated; therefore only verbal abuse is reported. The majority of women (170; 61.8%) were both physically and verbally abused. Ninety-seven (35%) of the battered women reported experiencing all of the types surveyed. Only one woman (.4%) in the sample was not physically abused but perceived herself to be only verbally abused.

Table 17
Types of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women

	Frequency	Percent
Physical	5	1.8
Sexual	0	.0
Verbal	1	.4
Physical & sexual	1	.4
Physical & verbal	170	61.8
Verbal & sexual	1	.4
All	97	35.2
Total	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>

The number of days since the last battering incident varied from 0-365. The modal day for the battering incident was the day before for 104 (38%) of the women. The majority of battering incidents (234; 84%) occurred in the week prior to entering the shelter. The mean length of days since the last battering incident was 6.58 with a standard deviation of 24.47. When the outliers of 122 and 365 days were removed the mean was 4.84 with a standard deviation of 8.87.

The severity of physical injuries was determined by the response of the battered women to the question: "What types of injuries have you received as a result of physical or

sexual abuse?" If the question generated multiple responses, the category in which the most severe injury fell was chosen. Of the 259 women who responded to the question, 126 (48.6%) experienced injuries which resulted in broken bones, internal bleeding, and miscarriage, whereas only 7 (2.7%) received no injuries (Table 18). The most frequent category of injury (4.86%) was the one that contained cuts, lacerations, burns, and bumps and knots to the head (head injury).

Table 18
Severity of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women

	Frequency	Percent
None	7	2.7
Bruises, sprains, bites	41	15.9
Cuts, lacerations, burns, head injury (cuts, lacerations, etc.)	126	48.6
Broken bones, internal injury (including concussions), miscarriage	85	32.8
Permanent	0	0
Totals	259	100

Verbal abuse was assessed in two questions. The first included responses to the question concerning verbal abuse that was experienced in the relationship. If more than one

response was chosen, the most severe type of verbal abuse was selected (Table 19). The threat to kill was both the most severe and the most frequent (209; 80.7%).

Table 19
Verbal Abuse Experienced by Battered Women

	Frequency	Percent
None	3	1.1
Insult you	11	4.2
Sexual abuse (threat)	0	0
Hurt you or other (threat)	27	10.4
Use weapon or object on you (threat)	12	4.6
Kill you (threat)	209	80.7
Totals	<u>259</u>	<u>100</u>

The second area in which verbal abuse was assessed was the response the women reported that the batterer made immediately after the battering incident. The responses which could be selected included apologies, promises, insinuations that the battering was deserved, denial, and other. More than one response was permitted. Of the 257 who responded to the question, the most frequent type of verbal abuse after the battering was that she deserved the battering (149; 58%). The batterer apologized and promised

not to do it again to 148 (57.6%) of the women. Denial of the incident occurred for 124 (48.5%) of the women. The treat to repeat the battering was reported by 121 (47.1%) of the women. In the other category was the threat to harm himself which was reported by 2 women (0.8%).

Sexual abuse was determined by the response of the battered women to the question: "if you were sexually abused, which of the following happened: forced acts with batterer only, forced acts with another person, forced acts with objects, other." The other category included pregnancy related or birth control issues. If there were multiple responses to the question, they were included (four women had multiple responses). Of the 259 women who responded to the question, 115 (44.4%) had experienced some type of sexual abuse (Table 20). The most frequent (90; 75.6%) type of sexual abuse was forced acts with the batterer.

The length of abuse that the battered women reported experiencing is shown in Table 21. The most frequent category for the length of abuse was one to five years reported by 109 (41.6%) of the 262 battered women who responded to the question.

Table 20
Type of Sexual Abuse Experienced by Battered Women

<u>n=115</u>	Frequency	Percent
Birth Control or pregnancy related	0	.0
Forced acts with batterer	90	75.6
Forced acts with another	6	5.0
Forced acts with objects	9	7.6
Forced acts in presence of others	2	1.7
Sexually transmitted disease (STD)	11	9.3
Not sure, maybe drugged	1	.8
Totals	<u>119</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 21
Length of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women

	Frequency	Percent
1st time	9	3.4
1-4 weeks	16	6.2
1-12 months	70	26.7
1-5 years	109	41.6
> 5 years	58	22.1
Totals	<u>262</u>	<u>100</u>

The frequency of abuse within the past six months was ranked in six categories from the less frequent to the more frequent experience of daily abuse (Table 22). Of the 261 women who responded to the question concerning the frequency of abuse in the last six months, only 6.9% (18) had experienced abuse one time as compared to 17.3% (45) who experienced daily abuse. The most frequent category was once a month or less for 63 (24.1%) of the women. One response (.4%) reported that the abuse "varies."

Table 22
Frequency of Abuse Experienced in the Past Six Months

	Frequency	Percent
Once	18	6.9
1x/month or <	63	24.1
2-3x month	52	19.9
Once a week	35	13.4
2-6x/week	47	18.0
Daily	45	17.3
Varies	1	.4
	<u>261</u>	<u>100</u>

Violence against others by the batterers, as perceived by 216 of the battered women who responded to the question,

is shown in Table 23. Multiple responses were permitted. The most violent activity of the batterers, other than toward the women, was toward others (80, 37%). The second most violent activity was violence against children 34.3% (74).

Table 23
Violence of Batterer Toward Others as Reported by Battered Women

	Frequency	Percent
Objects	4	1.8
Woman's personal items	32	14.8
Animals	17	7.9
Self	9	4.2
Others	80	37.0
Child	74	34.3
Totals	<u>216</u>	<u>100</u>

The issues related to the abusive incident were identified by the battered women in response to the question "which of the following have been related to the violent or abusive incident: alcohol use, drug use, unemployment, job pressures, financial or money problems, response to pregnancy, conflicts about or with children, conflicts about or with in-laws or other family members, jealousy, sexual

problems or others". Multiple selections were possible. The number of issues varied from 1 to 11 with a mean of 4.84 and a standard deviation of 2.21 for the 222 battered women who responded to the question.

The identified issues were collapsed into general categories (Table 24). The general categories included: religion; financial problems; drugs and alcohol; unemployment; job pressures; conflicts with or about children, in-laws or others; jealousy; sexual problems; pregnancy; psychological problems; and other. The most frequently occurring issue was unemployment, job pressures, or financial problems (78.5%). The order of frequency for the remaining issues was drug and alcohol (76.2%); jealousy (66.2%); conflicts with or about children, in-laws, other (57.2%); sexual problems (33.8%); pregnancy (37%); other (7.2%); psychological problems (3.6%); and religion (1.8%).

The action that the battered women reported taking after the abusive incident is shown in Table 25. The response to the abusive incident was divided into categories. The categories included: called police, lawyer, or took legal action; called or visited social service, hospital, therapist, or shelter; called or visited family, friends, minister, or others; left home; became violent; covered it up, prayed or went to room; and attempted

suicide. Multiple responses were permitted; therefore if more than one response was chosen the most self-destructive category was selected. The most frequent response was to cover it up, pray, or go to her room with 108 (50.2%) of the 215 battered women who responded to this question.

Table 24
Issues That Contributed to the Abusive Incident Reported
by Battered Women

	Frequency	Percent
Religion		
Yes	4	1.8
No	219	98.2
Employment		
Yes	175	78.5
No	48	21.5
Conflicts with others		
Yes	127	57.0
No	96	43.0
Jealousy		
Yes	147	65.9
No	76	34.1
Sexual problems		
Yes	75	33.6
No	148	66.4
Pregnancy		
Yes	37	16.6
No	186	83.4
Psychological problems		
Yes	8	3.6
No	215	96.4
Drug & Alcohol problems		
Yes	170	76.2
No	53	23.8
Other problems		
Yes	16	7.2
No	207	92.8
Totals for each issue	223	100

Table 25
Actions Taken by Battered Women After the Abusive Incident

	f	%
Call/visit police, lawyer, or took legal action	2	.9
Call/visit social service, hospital, therapist or shelter	2	.9
Call/visit family, friend, minister, other	13	6.1
Leave home	36	16.7
Become violent	30	14.0
Cover it up, pray, go to room	108	50.2
Attempt suicide	24	11.2
Totals	215	100

Of the 254 women who responded to the question concerning the attitude of the police toward them after or during an abusive incident, 97 (38.2%) responded that it did not apply to them. Almost half (78; 49.7%) of the 157 women who had contact with the police found them to be sympathetic/supportive. Forty-four (28%) found the police to be neutral and 34 (21.6%) found them to be hostile. Only one woman (.8%) found the pair to have one who was supportive and one who was hostile.

Information on the discharge portion of the Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family

Violence included length of the stay, counseling for the batterer, and source of income when leaving the shelter. The length of the shelter stay varied from 1-76 days. The mean number of days was 15.34 (SD=15.61) which is only half of the time that the women are allowed to stay. Most of the women stayed only one day which explains the high standard deviation. The median number of days that the women stayed in the shelter was eight.

The 270 battered women who responded to the question concerning counseling for the batterer reported that the majority (177; 65.3%) of the batterers were not in counseling. Sixty-one women (22.6%) did not know if the batterer was in counseling. Only 32 batterers (11.9%) were reported to be receiving counseling.

The primary source of income when leaving the shelter was reported by 274 of the battered women (Table 26). The category with the highest number (99; 38.7%) was those with their own job, and the next highest was governmental support (64; 25%) from either Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC), SS (Social Security), or other.

Table 26
Source of Income of the Battered Women When Leaving the Shelter

	Frequency	Percent
None	60	23.4
Spouse/partner	24	9.3
Governmental support	64	25.0
Child support	1	0.4
New partner	1	0.4
Family	5	2.0
Job training	2	.8
Job	99	38.7
Totals	<u>256</u>	<u>100</u>

Summary of the Sample

The sample consisted of women who were an average of 28 years old, married for one to five years, predominantly Anglo, and admitted to a shelter. The stay in the shelter was, on the average, 15 days. Their batterers were an average age of 32, either Anglo or Black, less educated than the woman, and not in counseling.

Almost one in ten women were pregnant when they entered the shelter. When the women were admitted, they were economically dependent on the batterer and their income

placed them below the poverty level. However, when exiting the shelter, the most frequent source of income was a job.

Most of the women had two children who were admitted with them to the shelter. Over half of the children experienced some type of child abuse with verbal and emotional abuse being the most frequent. Physical and sexual abuse of the children were also present. The children were most often abused either one time in the last six months or two to four times a month. The batterer was also violent toward others besides the children.

Approximately one fourth of women had been physically and sexually abused by their parents. One third of the batterers were physically abused as children. Almost half of the women had witnessed abusive incidents between their parents as a child.

All but one woman were physically and verbally abused. Almost half of the women were sexually abused by the batterer as well. The most frequent types of verbal abuse were threats to repeat the battering or to harm another. The women had been abused most often for one to five years, one time a month or less. Over half of the women had been abused during a pregnancy. The most severe injuries were usually found in the category of cuts, lacerations, burns, and injuries to the head including knots and bumps. The

last battering incident occurred in the week before entering the shelter. Covering up the abusive incident or praying was the most frequent response to the abusive incident.

The women reported that the most frequent factors influencing the onset of a battering incident were unemployment, job, or financial problems, and the second most frequent reasons were drug and alcohol problems. The women reported a low incidence of drug and alcohol problems for themselves but a high incidence for the batterer. When the police were summoned, they were usually either sympathetic or neutral toward the woman.

Findings

This section presents the findings for each research question. The data were analyzed using the SPSS-PC+, Version 3.0, 1988 update of the statistical package.

Research Question Number One

The first research question was: what is the relationship of personal, interpersonal, and social variables in a sample of battered women to the types of abuse (physical, sexual, and verbal) they experience? It was assumed that all women were physically abused since a criterion for admission to the shelter was that there be an immediate threat to their lives. Therefore, the types of abuse experienced by the battered women were a combination

of sexual and verbal with physical abuse. The independent variables selected for analysis included those that existed prior to the women's admission to the shelter. This designation precluded the use of such variables as length of shelter stay and if children were admitted with their mother.

The dependent variable of types of abuse was further reduced to two categories one of which was physical and verbal abuse and the other physical, verbal, and sexual abuse. This delineation was made because only 8 cases existed in any of the other categories. The question which asked about verbal or emotional abuse generated only verbal abuse responses; therefore only verbal abuse is used to describe the sample. Five of those who reported only physical abuse also reported that they were verbally abused in the question on verbal or emotional abuse so they were included with those who were physically and verbally abused. One woman reported that she was verbally abused and sexually abused and was also found to be physically abused in the question on physical abuse. One woman reported that she was both physically and sexually abused and also responded positively to the question that addressed verbal abuse. The one woman who reported only verbal abuse was not found to have reported experiencing any physical abuse; therefore her

case was dropped from the analysis. The remaining total number of records for analysis was 274. Of these, 175 (63.9%) women were physically and verbally abused, and 99 (36.1%) women were physically, verbally, and sexually abused.

The independent variables selected were the women's age, number of children, her ethnicity and education, the education of the batterer, the amount of money she earned herself, the nature of the relationship, the length of the relationship, type of verbal abuse, if the woman was pregnant or if an abusive incident had ever occurred in pregnancy, or if a complication of the pregnancy resulted from abuse, the number of issues that the woman said contributed to the abuse, violence against others besides the woman, alcohol usage of the woman and the batterer, physical abuse of the woman and the batterer as a child, sexual abuse of the woman and batterer as a child, the presence of abusive incidents between the parents as children, and the frequency of child abuse. The length, frequency and severity of the abuse were also included.

For some of the ordinal level variables it was necessary to recode to provide adequate cases per cell and appropriate rank order. The ordinal level variables were changed to include: Relationship (1) married and living

together (2) not married and living together (3) not living together; Verbal abuse (1) none or insults (2) threats to physically hurt you or use weapon on you (3) threats to kill you; Number of times abuse occurred in last six months (1) once a month or less (2) 2-3x/month (3) 1x/week (4) 2-6x/week (5) daily; Violence to others (1) personal items/objects (2) animals (3) self/others (4) children; and Source of income when leaving the shelter (1) none (2) spouse/partner (3) government, family, or new partner (4) job/job training; Education of the women and batterer (1) less than 12 years (2) high school graduate and vocational training (3) college; and What the woman did after the abusive incident was recoded to (1) sought help (2) became violent (3) covered it up (4) attempted suicide.

Sexual abuse as a child was recoded to (1) yes (2) no/don't know. Complications during pregnancy was recoded to (1) yes (2) no (3) don't know. Since only two women did not know if they were physically abused as a child their responses were eliminated.

The correlations between the independent variables are presented in Table 27. The type of analysis is also identified because of the differing levels of data generated from the questionnaire. The $p=.05$ level of significance was used for the data.

Table 27
Correlation Between the Study Variables According to the
Type of Abuse Experienced

Variable	Type of Analysis	df	Value	Significance
Age: women	Pearson	*	.047	.22
Number of children	Pearson	*	.100	.05**
Ethnicity: women	Cramer	*	.170	
	Chi square	3	7.910	.05**
Education: women	Kendall	*	-.014	.40
Education: batterer	Kendall	*	-.026	.37
Amount of Income	Kendall	*	-.018	.38
Relationship	Cramer	*	.116	
	Chi square	3	3.70	.30
Length of relationship	Kendall	*	.090	.07
Length of Abuse	Kendall	*	.046	.21
Frequency of abuse	Kendall	*	.133	<.00**
Severity of abuse	Kendall	*	.120	.02**
Verbal abuse	Kendall	*	.11	.04**
Pregnancy	Phi	*	.076	
	Chi square	1	1.09	.30
Abuse during pregnancy	Cramer	*	.144	
	Chi square	2	5.40	.07
Complications in pregnancy from abuse	Cramer	*	.018	
	Chi square	1	.06	.67
Number of issues	Pearsons	*	.114	.05**
Violence: batterer toward others	Kendall	*	.143	.03**
Response of women to abuse	Kendall	*	.070	.13
Attitude of the police	Kendall	*	.083	.14
Alcohol problem: women	Phi	*	.008	
	Chi square	1	.016	.90
Alcohol problem: batterer	Phi	*	.118	
	Chi square	1	3.05	.08
Physical abuse as child: women	Phi		.141	
	Chi square	1	4.37	.04**
Physical abuse as child: batterer	Cramers	*	.039	
	Chi square	2	.39	.82
Sexual abuse as child: women	Phi		.22	
	Chi square	2	11.21	.00**
Sexual abuse as child: batterer	*			
Abuse between parents	Cramers	*	.160	
	Chi square	2	6.55	.03**

Variable	Type of Analysis	df	Value	Significance
Frequency of child abuse	Kendall	*	.24	.03**
Presence of child abuse	Phi Chi square	* 1	.032 .142	.70

Note. The following symbols equal=

* not calculated

** significant at .05

Prior to performing discriminant analysis to determine if the variables would significantly discriminate between those battered women who were physically and verbally abused and those who were physically, verbally, and sexually abused, the data were reviewed. Descriptive statistics were computed on all variables and, where appropriate, were examined for skewedness (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). Then a "conservative procedure" for handling missing values suggested by Tabachnick and Fidell (1983 p.69) was used by eliminating from analysis variables with a large number of missing cases. Those variables with a large number of missing cases that were eliminated were the ages, gender, and shelter admission of the children (92-274 missing), and frequency of child abuse (219 missing). Sexual abuse of the batterer as a child was eliminated because of insufficient data, since almost half of the women (120;46%) did not know

if their batterer had been sexually abused as a child and only 6 (2.3%) reported that their batterer had been sexually abused. Alcohol use of the woman, and drug usage of both the woman and the batterer, were eliminated because of a less than 90-10% split which may create outliers and "truncate" the correlation coefficients (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983, p.74).

Dummy variables were created for the nominal level categories. Ethnicity of the woman and batterer were recoded to indicate Anglo and non-Anglo status, type of sexual abuse to present or absent, abusive incident during pregnancy to none or yes, and if currently pregnant to yes or no. The type of child abuse was recoded to indicate if child abuse occurred or not.

Since two variables "which are perfectly correlated" can not be used at the same time (Klecka, 1980, p.9) all variables that may be influenced by another were analyzed for correlations prior to entering into the discriminant analysis function. If two variables were correlated above $r=.50$ or significantly correlated at the $p=.05$ level, only one was selected. Deletion of variables is recommended by Tabachnic & Fidell (1983) as the most straightforward way of handling multi-collinearity. Using a Pearson correlation, the age of the woman and age of the batterer were found to

be highly correlated at $r=.69$; therefore, only the age of the woman was used. Using a Cramer coefficient, which is a measure of the degree of association or relation between two sets of variables (Siegel & Castellan, 1988) the ethnicity of the woman and her batterer were found to be correlated ($r=.75$); therefore only the ethnicity of the women was used. To test the significance of the Cramer coefficient, a chi square was computed and compared to the critical value of the chi-square distribution table by the degrees of freedom and probability desired (Siegel & Castellan, 1988). Using a Cramer's coefficient the complications that occurred during pregnancy and pregnancy status were correlated at $r=.55$; therefore only pregnancy status was used. Using Kendall's Tau correlation, the length of the time in the relationship and the length of abuse were correlated ($r=.60$); therefore only the length of the abuse was used.

Other variables that were correlated were the source of the women's income and their education (Kendall Tau $-.14$; $p=.004$). The amount of money the women earned and their education were correlated (Kendall Tau $.205$; $p=.0001$). Therefore, only the women's educational level was used. Sexual abuse as a child was highly correlated with physical abuse as a child (Phi coefficient $.34$; chi square 26.79 and $p=.001$) and physical abuse as a child correlated with abuse

between parents as a child (Cramer's coefficient .31; chi square 24.07; $p < .01$ at .01). Since these variables all have to do with experience as a child, only one was selected. Therefore, since sexual abuse as a child was felt to be a more descriptive variable, it was selected.

Additionally the variable on the number of issues was eliminated because three of the possible responses were included as separate variables. The issues that were separate variables were: drug and alcohol problems, sexual problems, and jealousy.

Even though child abuse and violence toward others was not significantly correlated, the violence toward other variable included child abuse. Therefore, the child abuse variable was eliminated.

The 274 cases were entered including those with missing data. One hundred and twenty cases were excluded due to missing data on the discriminating variables and hence, the number of subjects in the analysis was 155. The number of cases in the smallest group should be larger than the number of discriminators (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). There were 16 variables identified to be included in the analysis which was less than the number of cases (56) in the smallest group.

The personal variables were age, education, pregnancy status and response to the abuse. The interpersonal variables selected were alcohol use by the batterer; abuse of child and others by the batterer; issue of jealousy in contributing to the abusive incident; number of children; and those variables related to the abuse: severity of injuries, verbal abuse, abusive incidents in pregnancy, length of abuse, and frequency of abuse. The social variables selected were ethnicity, sexual abuse as a child, and physical abuse as a child by the batterer. There was a larger number of interpersonal variables than personal or social represented in the analysis because of the larger number of questions that addressed interpersonal variables on the interview forms. These 16 variables were entered into the discriminant analysis. The means and standard deviations of the variables by group were calculated. The results are listed in Table 28.

Since there were two groups, only one function was computed. The result was a canonical correlation of $R_c=.39$ with a significance of $p=.0011$. Both the standardized coefficients and the structure coefficients of the predictor variables are depicted in Table 29 since the standardized coefficients "take into consideration the simultaneous contributions of all the other variables ... and the

structure coefficients ... are not affected by relationships with the other variables" (Klecka, 1980, p.33). Therefore, the structure coefficients are more stable.

Table 28
Means and Standard Deviations of Discriminating Variables
According to Group: Physically and Verbally Abused
or Physically, Verbally and Sexually Abused

Variable	P/V n=62		P/V/S n=32	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Age of the women	29.45	7.44	28.66	5.32
Education of the women	1.97	.73	1.73	.73
Pregnancy status	.13	.34	.21	.41
Response to the abuse	2.40	.99	2.63	.98
Alcohol use of the batterer	.61	.49	.59	.50
Abuse toward others by batterer	2.05	.76	2.23	.76
Number of children	2.00	1.23	2.36	1.36
Severity of injuries	3.13	.69	3.30	.69
Verbal abuse	2.78	.51	2.91	.29
Abuse in pregnancy	.51	.50	.68	.47
Length of abuse	2.72	.86	2.77	1.01
Frequency of abuse	2.64	1.47	3.05	1.49
Ethnicity of the women	.44	.50	.45	.50
Sexual abuse as a child	.13	.34	.34	.48
Physical abuse as a child: batterers	1.89	.77	1.82	.79
Jealousy	.93	1.51	1.48	2.41

Note.

P/V = physically and verbally abused

P/V/S = physically, verbally and sexually abused

The predictors of whether or not the battered women were physically and verbally abused, or physically, verbally and sexually abused were determined by the structure

coefficients which demonstrate linear correlation between each independent variable and the discriminant function. The structure coefficients can be interpreted like factor loadings, ranking the variables based on the degree to which they contribute to the discriminant function. Rankings are based on absolute size of the coefficient disregarding sign. By convention loadings of plus or minus .30 (9% of the variance) are considered significant (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). For this sample, 6 variables met this criterion: sexual abuse as a child, verbal abuse experienced during the relationship, education of the women, abuse during pregnancy, issue of jealousy in contributing to the battering incident, and frequency of abuse.

Table 29
Structure Coefficients and Standardized Discriminant
Function Coefficients for Personal, Interpersonal,
and Social Variables in the Women who Were Either
Physically and Verbally Abused or Physically,
Verbally and Sexually Abused

Predictors	Standardized Coefficients	Structure Coefficients
Sexual abuse as a child	.55	.61*
Verbal abuse	.49	.43*
Education of women	-.32	-.38*
Abuse during pregnancy	.39	.41*
Response to abuse	.25	.27
Frequency of abuse	.22	.33*
Issue of jealousy	.46	.34*

Note. * = significant findings

In order to determine how accurate the function was in predicting group membership, the 275 cases were classified according to their discriminant function into two predicted groups. The results of the prediction for groups are indicated in Table 30. The predictor variables were accurate in predicting membership in the group of women who were physically and verbally abused 82.5% of the time. However, it was much less accurate in predicting membership in the group of women who were physically, verbally, and sexually abused at 34.3%.

Table 30
Classification Results by Discriminant Analysis for
Prediction of Membership into Two Groups: Battered
Women who Were Physically and Verbally Abused or
Physically, Verbally and Sexually Abused

Membership of Actual Group	No. of cases	Predicted Group	
		1	2
Group 1 P/V	126	104 82.5%	22 17.5%
Group 2 P/V/S	72	46 65.7%	24 34.3%
Percent of grouped cases correctly classified: 65.31%			

The discriminant analysis results suggested that those women who reported being physically and verbally abused and not sexually abused were less likely to have experienced

sexual abuse as a child, were less likely to have experienced the more severe types of verbal abuse in the relationship, were less likely to have experienced an abusive relationship in pregnancy, had less frequent battering, had less jealousy as an issue in their relationships, and had a high school education or higher. The women who reported being physically, verbally and sexually abused were more likely to have experienced: sexual abuse as a child and during pregnancy; the more severe form of verbal abuse in the relationship; more frequent batterings; jealousy as an issue in the relationship; and having received a high school education or less.

Research Question Number Two

The second research question was: what personal, interpersonal, and social variables discriminate between women who report that their decision is to leave the abusive relationship and those who report they will return to the battering relationship when exiting from a shelter residence? This question was first analyzed using descriptive techniques. The battered women who responded that they would live independently (84; 30.5%), live with friends (51; 18.5%), live with relatives (58; 21.1%), or live with others (8; 2.9%) were placed in group one, those who decided to leave the relationship when exiting the

shelter. The battered women who responded that they decided to return to the batterer (46; 16.7%) were placed in group two, those who decided to stay in the relationship with the batterer when exiting the shelter. The third group included those women who responded that their living arrangements when exiting the shelter were undetermined (24; 8.7%).

The ages of the women and the batterers, divided according to their decision to stay or leave the relationship, are depicted in Table 31. The ages of the batterer and battered women were similar across groups.

Table 31
Ages of Battered Women and Batterers According
to the Women's Decision to Leave or Return
to the Relationship

	<u>n</u>	%	Low to High	Mean	S.D.	Mode	Median
Leave							
Woman	206	75.0	17-61	29.11	7.28	28.0	28.0
Batterer	196	71.3	17-71	32.66	8.80	28.0	31.0
Return							
Woman	46	16.7	17-43	28.61	7.17	25.0	27.0
Batterer	42	15.3	19-58	30.79	7.83	28.0	29.5
Undecided							
Woman	22	8.0	21-43	28.05	5.43	25.0	27.0
Batterer	20	7.3	23-60	33.90	9.10	27.0	31.5

The second variable was the ethnic background of the women and batterers. Ethnicity is presented according to the

women's decision to leave or return to the relationship in Table 32. In order to provide enough cases per cell, the data were recoded so that the Oriental ethnic group was placed in the "other" category.

Table 32
Ethnic Background of Battered Women and Batterers by
Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
White								
Woman	86	41.5	28	60.9	9	40.9	123	44.7
Batterer	74	35.7	24	52.2	7	31.8	105	38.2
Black								
Woman	70	33.8	6	13.0	10	45.5	86	31.3
Batterer	83	40.1	9	19.6	12	54.5	104	37.8
Hispanic								
Woman	43	20.8	9	19.6	2	9.1	54	19.6
Batterer	43	20.8	11	23.9	2	9.1	56	20.4
Oriental								
Woman	4	1.9	3	6.5	0	.0	7	2.5
Batterer	4	1.9	2	4.3	0	.0	6	2.2
Other								
Woman	4	1.5	0	.0	1	4.5	5	1.8
Batterer	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0

Table 33 shows the relationship of the battered women to the batterer. Most of the women were married (158; 57.5%) and this trend was similar for those who decided to leave and those who decided to return to their partner. For

those women who were undecided, both the married/living together and not married/living together categories were the same with nine women (40.9%).

Table 33
The Battered Women's Marital Status According to the Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Married/ together	120	58.0	29	63.0	9	40.9	158	57.5
Separated	14	6.4	1	2.2	3	13.6	18	6.5
Divorced	2	1.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.7
Not married/ together	61	29.5	14	30.4	9	40.9	84	30.5
Not married or together	6	2.9	2	4.4	1	4.5	9	3.3
Common law	4	1.9	0	.0	0	.0	4	1.5
Totals	207	100	46	100	22	100	275	100

The length of the relationship was most often one to five years (137; 49.8%) across groups. Those who were undecided had relationships that equally split between the three lengths of time of less than one year, one to five years, and more than five years (Table 34).

Table 34
Length of the Relationship of the Battered Women by the
Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=207</u>		<u>n=46</u>		<u>n=22</u>		<u>n=275</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
< one year	25	12.1	7	15.3	8	36.4	40	14.6
1-5 years	105	50.7	25	54.3	7	31.8	137	49.8
>5 years	77	37.2	14	30.4	7	31.8	98	35.6
Totals	<u>207</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>

The education of the women and batterers according to the women's decision to leave or return to the relationship is depicted in Table 35. College educated women were less likely to return to the abusive relationship than those with less than 12 years of education or a high school education. For further analysis the data were recoded to an ordinal level of measurement with the categories of less than high school, high school or vocational training, and college.

Table 35
Education of Batterers and Battered Women by the Decision
To Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=207</u>		<u>n=46</u>		<u>n=22</u>		<u>n=275</u>	
Women	<u>n=204</u>		<u>n=46</u>		<u>n=20</u>		<u>n=270</u>	
Batterers								
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
<hr/>								
<12 years								
Women	71	34.5	17	37.0	7	31.8	95	34.5
Batterers	80	39.2	16	34.8	6	30.0	102	37.8
High School								
Women	77	37.1	21	45.7	9	40.9	107	38.9
Batterers	85	41.7	20	43.5	11	55.0	116	43.0
College								
Women	46	22.2	7	15.2	4	18.2	57	20.7
Batterers	29	14.2	9	19.6	1	5.0	39	14.4
Vocational								
Women	13	6.1	1	2.1	2	9.1	16	5.9
Batterers	10	4.9	1	2.1	2	10.0	13	4.8
Totals								
Women	207	100	46	100	22	100	275	100
Batterers	204	100	46	200	22	100	270	100

Economic dependence for the battered women in this sample was derived from the amount that the women themselves earned. The income of the women according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 36. Additionally, the source of the women's income was used as a measure of economic dependence. The source of the women's income according to their decision is shown in

Table 37.

Table 36
Income of the Battered Women by the Decision to Leave or
Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
none	122	59.8	26	56.5	6	27.3	154	56.6
< \$5000	37	18.1	10	21.7	9	40.9	56	20.6
5000-10000	24	11.7	3	6.5	6	27.3	33	12.1
10001-15000	17	8.3	5	10.9	1	4.5	23	8.5
15001-20000	0	.0	1	2.2	0	.0	1	.4
>20000	4	2.1	1	2.2	0	.0	5	1.8
Totals	204	100	46	100	22	100	272	100

The data on the number of children and their ages, sex, and shelter stay were inconsistent. Eighty-nine (32.4%) of the women reported a larger number of children than the number for whom they supplied information on their age, sex, or shelter admittance. Additionally, for 15 (8.2%) of the children information on either their age, sex, or shelter admittance was omitted. Table 38 shows the number of children according to the mothers' decisions.

Table 37
Source of the Battered Women's Income by the Decision to
Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=207</u>		<u>n=46</u>		<u>n=22</u>		<u>n=275</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
None	82	39.6	15	32.6	6	27.3	103	37.5
Job	48	23.2	12	26.1	6	27.3	66	24.0
Partner	56	27.1	15	32.6	3	13.6	74	26.9
Other	21	10.1	4	8.7	7	31.8	32	11.6
Totals	<u>207</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 39 shows the ages of the children by the decision of their mother to leave or return to the relationship when exiting the shelter. The mean ages of the first two children of the women who decided to leave the relationship were slightly older than those of women who decided to return or were undecided.

Table 38
Number of Children According to the Battered Women's
Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Number of children								
0	25	12.1	6	13.0	5	22.7	36	13.1
1	57	27.5	15	32.6	2	9.1	74	26.9
2	70	33.8	13	28.3	8	36.5	91	33.1
3	31	15.0	7	15.2	5	22.7	43	15.6
4	14	6.8	4	8.7	1	4.5	19	6.9
5	9	4.3	1	2.2	1	4.5	11	4.0
6	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	.4
Totals	207	100	46	100	22	100	275	100

	f	Range	Mean	S.D.	Mode	Median
Leave	270	5	1.90	1.28	2.0	2.0
Stay	46	4	1.80	1.24	1.0	2.0
Undecided	22	4	1.91	1.38	2.0	2.0

The gender of the battered women's children is shown in Table 40. The women with a second child who was female were more likely to stay in the relationship than those with a child who was male. Because of the small numbers of children in the three, four, and five category it was difficult to make comparisons.

Table 39
Ages of Children According to the Decision of Their Mother
To Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	f	Low to high	Mean	S.D.	Mode	Median
<hr/>						
Leave <u>n=258</u>						
Child 1	142	.1-22.1	6.18	4.54	6.8	5.4
Child 2	79	.2-16.8	4.59	3.32	1.0	3.8
Child 3	25	.3-15.8	4.58	3.73	2.3	3.5
Child 4	9	.4-10.4	4.61	3.00	.4	4.5
Child 5	3	7.9-18.5	5.20	2.62	2.8	4.8
Return <u>n=54</u>						
Child 1	27	.2-15.8	4.57	4.65	.2	3.2
Child 2	16	.8-12.3	4.19	4.07	.9	2.4
Child 3	7	.3-10.7	4.19	3.43	3.0	3.8
Child 4	3	1.6-4.6	2.9	1.54	1.6	2.5
Child 5	1	6.3	6.3	.0	6.3	6.3
Undecided <u>n=34</u>						
Child 1	14	1.6-14.1	5.78	3.74	4.0	4.65
Child 2	13	.2-8.7	3.85	2.82	1.1	3.3
Child 3	5	.5-5.0	2.82	1.92	.5	2.2
Child 4	1	2.0	2.0	.0	2.0	2.0
Child 5	1	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4

Whether or not the women's children were admitted to the shelter according to the decision of the mother to leave or return to the relationship is presented in Table 41. Almost all of the children were admitted with their mothers (95.2-100%) across groups; therefore further analysis was not conducted. However, child two had two missing cases, child three had four, and child five had one.

Table 40
Gender of Battered Women's Children According to the
Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=261</u>		<u>n=51</u>		<u>n=34</u>		<u>n=346</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Male								
<u>n=159</u>								
Child 1	66	80.5	13	15.8	3	3.7	82	44.1
Child 2	39	73.6	5	9.4	9	17.0	53	49.5
Child 3	11	64.7	4	23.5	2	11.8	17	48.6
Child 4	4	66.7	2	33.3	0	.0	6	46.2
Child 5	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	2	40.0
Female								
<u>n=187</u>								
Child 1	79	75.0	13	12.5	12	11.5	104	55.9
Child 2	40	74.1	10	18.5	4	7.4	54	50.5
Child 3	14	77.8	2	11.1	2	11.1	18	51.4
Child 4	5	55.5	1	14.3	1	14.3	7	53.8
Child 5	3	100.0	0	.0	0	.0	3	60.0

All types of child abuse including physical, sexual, and verbal/emotional abuse were reported by the mothers (Table 42). If physical abuse occurred, the women were more likely to leave the relationship. In order to have enough cases per cell, in which no more than 20% of the cells had an expected frequency less than 5 and no cell had an expected frequency of less than 1, the data were recoded to the presence or absence of child abuse for further analysis (Siegel & Castellan, 1988).

Table 41
Children Admitted to Shelter for Women Who Decided to Leave
Or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=258</u>		<u>n=52</u>		<u>n=32</u>		<u>n=342</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes								
Child 1	138	95.2	27	100.0	15	100.0	180	96.3
Child 2	72	93.5	16	100.0	12	100.0	100	95.2
Child 3	24	100.0	6	100.0	3	100.0	33	100.0
Child 4	9	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	13	100.0
Child 5	3	100.0	0	.0	1	100.0	4	100.0
No								
Child 1	7	4.8	0	.0	0	.0	7	3.7
Child 2	5	6.5	0	.0	0	.0	5	4.8
Child 3	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Child 4	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Child 5	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0

The frequency of child abuse in the past six months was reported by about half (57; 51.8%) of those women who indicated some type of child abuse. Since so few women responded in the groups who decided to return to the relationship and were undecided, the frequency of child abuse could not be adequately compared.

Table 42
Incidence of Child Abuse by the Batterer for Women Who
Decided to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Verbal/ emotional	39	43.8	10	66.7	4	66.6	53	48.2
Physical	6	6.7	0	.0	1	16.7	7	6.5
Sexual	4	4.5	0	.0	0	.0	4	3.6
Verbal/ emotional, Physical	33	37.1	4	26.7	1	16.7	38	34.5
Verbal/ emotional, Sexual	4	4.5	0	.0	0	.0	4	3.6
All	3	3.4	1	6.6	0	.0	4	3.6
Totals	89	100	15	100	6	100	110	100

Pregnancy status of the women when entering the shelter by the decision to leave or stay in the relationship is shown in Table 43. Although the number in the group of women who were returning to the partner (n=42) was small, 14% were pregnant as compared to 9% in the group of women who reported they were leaving the relationship. In order to have enough cases per cell for further analysis, the data were recoded so that the responses were either yes/maybe or

no.

Table 43
Pregnancy Status of the Battered Women According to Their
Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	17	8.6	6	14.3	0	.0	23	8.8
No	168	84.8	33	78.6	18	85.7	219	83.9
Don't know/maybe	13	6.6	3	7.1	3	14.3	19	7.3
	198	100	42	100	21	100	261	100

Abusive incidents while pregnant occurred in more than half of the women (139; 53.2%). Table 44 shows the incidence of abuse during pregnancy according to the women's decision to leave or return to the relationship. The women who decided to leave the relationship had less abuse in pregnancy (103; 52%) than did the women who reported that they would return (24; 57%) or were undecided (12; 57%).

Table 44
Abusive Incidents During Pregnancy According to Their
Decision to Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	103	52.0	24	57.1	12	57.1	139	53.2
No	83	41.9	17	40.5	8	38.1	108	41.4
Never pregnant	12	6.1	1	2.4	1	4.8	14	5.4
Totals	198	100	42	100	21	100	261	100

The complication of a pregnancy, as reported by 172 women who had been pregnant or were currently pregnant, according to the decision to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 45. The undecided group of women reported approximately the same number of complications and absence of complications in pregnancy.

Table 46 shows the status of abuse during childhood for both the battered women and batterers as reported by the battered women according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship. The data in the maybe category was recoded to yes for physical abuse as a child because the cell had <5 cases. Sexual abuse of the women was recoded to yes or no because 44.4% of the cells had <5. Sexual abuse

of the batterer could not be further analyzed because of insufficient numbers in the groups according to decision.

Table 45
Complications from Abusive Incidents During the Pregnancy
According to the Decision to Leave or Return to
Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	31	24.2	6	20.0	5	35.7	42	24.4
No	80	62.5	21	70.0	6	42.9	107	62.2
Don't know/pregnant	17	13.3	3	10.0	3	21.4	23	13.4
Totals	128	100	30	100	14	100	172	100

The perception of being exposed to abusive incidents during childhood according to the women's decision is reported in Table 47. The group with the highest percent (11; 52.4%) was the group of women who were undecided about living arrangements. The lowest percent (71; 36.2%) was in the group of women who decided to leave the relationship.

Table 46
History of Physical and Sexual Abuse by Parents of the
Battered Women and Batterer as Reported by
Battered Woman Who Decided to Leave or
Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=196</u>		<u>n=41</u>		<u>n=21</u>		<u>n=258</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Women								
<u>Physical Abuse</u>								
Yes	53	27.1	10	24.4	7	33.3	70	27.1
No	140	71.4	30	73.2	14	66.7	184	71.3
Don't know	3	1.5	1	2.4	0	.0	4	1.6
Women								
<u>Sexual Abuse</u>								
Yes	46	23.5	9	22.0	5	23.8	60	23.2
No	147	75.0	32	78.0	15	71.4	194	75.2
Don't know	3	1.5	0	.0	1	4.8	4	1.6
Batterer								
<u>Physical Abuse</u>								
Yes	70	35.7	15	36.6	6	28.6	91	35.3
No	50	25.5	12	29.3	2	9.5	64	24.8
Don't know	76	38.8	14	34.1	13	11.9	103	39.9
Batterer								
<u>Sexual Abuse</u>								
Yes	5	2.5	1	2.4	0	.0	6	2.3
No	98	49.8	26	63.5	9	42.9	133	51.4
Don't know	94	47.7	14	34.1	12	57.1	120	46.3

Table 47
History of Abusive Incidents between Parents of
Battered Women According to their Decision to
Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	71	36.2	19	46.3	11	52.4	101	39.1
No	117	59.7	19	46.3	10	47.6	146	56.6
Don't know	8	4.1	3	7.4	0	.0	11	4.3
Totals	196	100	41	100	21	100	258	100

A history of drug and alcohol problems for both the battered women and the batterers as reported by the battered women according to their decision to leave or return to the abusive relationship is depicted in Table 48. Although the size of the group was small (13), the highest (100%) percentage of drug problems was for those women who decided to leave the relationship. Alcohol usage by the batterer was highest in the group of women who were undecided about leaving the relationship (15; 71.4%) compared to those who decided to leave (104; 52.8%) and those who decided to return (21; 52.2%). More batterers with a drug history were in the group of women who decided to leave the relationship (66; 33.5%) than in the group of women who decided to return

(11; 28.6%) or those who were undecided (6; 28.6%).

Table 48
Alcohol and Drug Problems of Battered Women and Batterers
for Women who Decided to Leave or Return to Abusive
Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=197</u>		<u>n=41</u>		<u>n=21</u>		<u>n=259</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
<u>Women</u>								
<u>Alcohol</u>								
Yes	15	7.6	1	2.4	1	4.8	17	6.6
No	180	69.4	40	97.6	20	95.2	240	92.6
Don't know	2	1.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.8
<u>Women</u>								
<u>Drug</u>								
Yes	13	6.6	0	.0	0	.0	13	5.0
No	183	92.9	41	100.0	21	100.0	245	94.6
Don't know	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	.4
<u>Batterers</u>								
<u>Alcohol</u>								
Yes	104	52.8	21	51.2	15	71.4	140	54.1
No	90	45.7	20	48.8	6	28.6	116	44.7
Don't know	3	1.5	0	.0	0	.0	3	1.2
<u>Batterers</u>								
<u>Drug</u>								
Yes	66	33.5	11	26.8	6	28.6	83	32.0
No	114	57.9	29	70.7	14	66.7	157	60.6
Don't know	17	8.6	1	2.5	1	4.7	19	7.4

The types of abuse experienced by the women included physical, sexual, and verbal abuse. Table 49 depicts the women's responses to the question "which of the following

types of abuse have you experienced: physical, sexual, and/or verbal/emotional" according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship. The verbal or emotional abuse category is reported as verbal abuse since only verbal abuse responses were generated. The data were recoded to physical and verbal or physical, verbal, and sexual abuse.

Table 49
Types of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to
Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Physical	5	2.4	0	.0	0	.0	5	1.8
Sexual	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Verbal	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	.4
Physical & sexual	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	.4
Physical & verbal	125	60.4	32	69.6	13	59.1	170	61.8
Verbal & sexual	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	.4
All	74	35.7	14	30.4	9	40.9	97	35.2
Totals	207	100	46	100	22	100	275	100

The mean and standard deviation for the number of days

since the last battering incident according to the decision of the battered women to leave or return to the relationship are shown in Table 50. The mean number of days for those women who decided to leave the relationship (7.9) was longer than those who decided to return (3).

Table 50
Number of Days Since Last Battering Incident According to
The Battered Women's Decision to Leave or Return to the
Relationship

Decision	<u>n</u>	Mean	Standard Deviation
Leave	207	7.78	27.95
Return	46	3.02	5.73
Undecided	22	2.72	4.63

The severity of physical injuries, as determined by the response of the battered women to the question "what types of injuries have you received as a result of physical or sexual abuse?" is shown according to the women's decision to leave or return to the relationship in Table 51. For all three groups the most frequent type of injury were cuts, lacerations, burns, and knots or bumps to the head.

Table 51
Severity of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to
Their Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
None	5	2.6	2	4.8	0	.0	7	2.7
Bruises, sprains, bites	34	17.3	5	11.9	2	9.5	41	15.8
Cuts, lacerations burns, head injury	93	47.4	20	47.6	13	61.9	126	48.7
Broken bones internal injury, miscarriage	64	32.7	15	35.7	6	35.7	85	32.8
Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	196	100	42	100	21	100	259	100

The question on verbal abuse which included the responses on types of verbal abuse experienced in the battering relationship, is shown according to the women's decision in Table 52. The categories were combined into no verbal abuse or insults, threats of physical violence with or without weapons and threats to kill. Those women who reported they would return to the abusive relationship had less verbal abuse in the most severe category of threats to kill (30; 68%) than did those who reported they would leave

the relationship (159; 80.3%).

Table 52
Verbal Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According To
Their Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
None	2	.5	1	2.3	0	.0	3	.1
Insult	9	4.5	2	4.7	0	.0	11	4.2
Threat to sexually abuse	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Threat to physically abuse	19	9.6	7	16.2	1	4.8	27	10.3
Threat to use object or weapon	9	4.5	3	7.0	0	.0	12	4.6
Threat to kill	159	80.3	30	68.0	20	95.2	209	80.0
Totals	198	100	43	100	21	100	262	100

Sexual abuse, as determined by the response of the battered women to the question: "if you were sexually abused which of the following happened: forced acts with batterer only, forced acts with another person, forced acts with objects, other," is shown according to the women's decision to leave or return to the relationship in Table 53. The more serious sexual abuse of forced acts in the presence of

others did not occur with those who decided to leave the relationship. Although the number was small, the more serious sexual abuse of forced acts in the presence of others did occur in those women who decided to return (1; 2.4%) or were undecided (1; 4.8%).

Table 53
Type of Sexual Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
None	102	54.5	29	70.7	13	61.9	144	57.8
Birth control	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0	0	.0
Acts with batterer	70	37.5	10	24.5	6	28.5	86	34.6
Acts with another	5	2.7	0	.0	1	4.8	6	2.4
Acts with objects	10	5.3	1	2.4	0	.0	11	4.4
Acts in presence of others	0	.0	1	2.4	1	4.8	2	.8
Totals	187	100	41	100	21	100	249	100

The length of abuse that the battered women reported experiencing according to their decision to leave or return

to the relationship is shown in Table 54. The length of abuse was similar across groups.

Table 54
Length of Abuse Experienced by Battered Women According to
Their Decision to Leave or Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=198</u>		<u>n=43</u>		<u>n=21</u>		<u>n=262</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1st time	7	3.5	0	.0	2	9.5	9	3.4
1-4 weeks	11	5.6	4	9.3	1	4.8	16	6.1
1-12 months	51	25.8	12	27.9	7	33.3	70	26.7
1-5 years	83	41.9	20	46.5	6	28.6	109	41.6
> 5 years	46	23.2	7	16.3	5	23.8	58	22.2
Totals	198	100	43	100	21	100	262	100

The frequency of abuse within the past six months was ranked in six categories from the less frequent to the more frequent experience of daily abuse. The frequency of abuse according to the decision of the women to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 55. Of the women who decided to return to the abusive relationship, none had only been abused one time.

Table 55
Frequency of Abuse Experienced in the Past Six Months by
Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or
Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Once	16	8.1	0	.0	2	9.5	18	6.9
Once month or less	47	23.9	12	28.6	4	19.0	63	24.2
2-3 times a month	39	19.8	10	23.8	3	14.3	52	20
Once a week	25	12.7	6	14.3	4	19.0	35	13.5
2-6 times a week	36	18.3	8	19.0	3	14.3	47	18.1
Daily	34	17.2	6	14.3	5	23.9	45	17.3
Totals	197	100	42	100	21	100	260	100

Violence against others by the batterer as perceived by 216 of the battered women according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 56. The batterer was more violent toward others in the group of women that reported that they would return to the relationship (14; 43.8%) than for those women who reported that they would leave (60; 36.6%).

Table 56
Violence of Batterer Toward Others as Reported by Battered
Women According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to
The Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Objects	3	1.8	0	.0	1	5.3	4	1.9
Personal items	24	14.6	7	21.9	1	5.3	32	14.8
Animals	12	7.3	2	6.2	3	15.8	17	7.9
Self	7	4.3	1	3.1	2	10.4	9	4.1
Others	60	36.5	14	43.8	6	31.6	80	37.0
Child	60	36.5	8	25.0	6	31.6	74	34.3
Totals	154	100	32	100	19	100	215	100

The issues related to the abusive incident were identified by the battered women in response to the question "which of the following have been related to the violent or abusive incident: alcohol use, drug use, unemployment, job pressures, financial or money problems, response to pregnancy, conflicts about or with children, conflicts about or with in-laws or other family members, jealousy, sexual problems or others. The mean number of issues for those women that decided to leave the relationship was 4.78 (n=170; s.d=2.23), for those women who decided to return to

the relationship was 4.82 ($n=34$; $s.d.=2.02$) and for those women who were undecided was 5.44 ($n=18$; $s.d.=2.38$). The number of issues was similar across groups. The issues identified by the battered women as contributing to the abusive incident according to the decision to leave or return to the relationship are shown in Table 57.

The action that the battered women reported taking after the abusive incident according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 58. The women who reported that they would return to the abusive relationship were more likely to have attempted suicide (8; 25%) than those who decided to leave (16; 9.8%) or those women who were undecided (0; 0%).

The attitude of the police toward the battered women according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 59. Since 44.4% of the cells had expected frequencies of less than 5, first the data was recoded and the one hostile/one nice policeperson was placed in the hostile category; and second, the not applicable category was eliminated for further analysis. In the groups of women that decided to leave the relationship the police were more often sympathetic (62; 32%) than for those who decided to return (11; 26.8%) or those undecided (5; 25%).

Table 57
Issues That Contributed to the Battering Reported by
Battered Women According to Their Decision to Leave or
Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	<u>n=171</u>		<u>n=34</u>		<u>n=18</u>		<u>n=223</u>	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Religion								
Yes	3	1.8	1	2.9	0	.0	4	1.8
No	168	98.2	33	97.1	18	100.0	219	98.2
Employment								
Yes	135	78.9	26	76.5	14	77.8	175	78.5
No	36	21.1	8	23.5	4	22.2	48	21.5
Conflicts with others								
Yes	96	56.1	20	58.8	11	61.1	127	57.0
No	75	43.9	14	41.2	7	38.9	96	43.0
Jealousy								
Yes	111	64.9	22	64.7	14	77.8	147	65.9
No	60	35.1	12	35.3	4	22.2	76	34.1
Sexual problems								
Yes	60	35.1	9	26.5	6	33.3	75	33.6
No	111	64.9	25	73.5	12	66.7	148	66.4
Pregnancy								
Yes	28	16.4	6	17.6	3	16.7	37	16.6
No	143	83.6	28	82.4	25	83.3	186	83.4
Psychological problems								
Yes	6	3.5	1	2.9	1	5.6	8	3.6
No	165	96.5	33	97.1	17	94.4	215	96.4
Drug & Alcohol problems								
Yes	133	77.8	23	67.6	14	77.8	170	76.2
No	38	22.2	11	32.4	4	22.2	53	23.8
Other problems								
Yes	11	6.4	3	8.8	2	11.1	16	7.2
No	160	93.6	31	91.2	16	88.9	207	92.8

Table 58
 Actions Taken by Battered Women After the Abusive Incident
 According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to
 The Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Call/visit police, lawyer, took legal action	2	1.2	0	.0	0	.0	2	.9
Call/visit social service, hospital, therapist or shelter	1	.6	0	.0	1	5.3	2	.9
Call/visit family, friend, minister, other	13	7.8	0	.0	0	.0	13	6.0
Leave home	26	15.9	5	15.6	5	26.3	36	16.8
Become violent	26	15.9	3	9.4	1	5.3	30	14.0
Cover it up, pray, go to room	80	48.8	16	50.0	12	63.1	108	50.2
Attempt suicide	16	9.8	8	25.0	0	.0	24	11.2
Totals	164	100	32	100	19	100	215	100

Table 59
Attitude of the Police After or During Abusive Incident
Toward Battered Women According to Their Decision to
Leave or Return to Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Sympathetic/ supportive	62	32.1	11	26.8	5	25.0	78	30.7
Neutral	32	16.6	8	19.6	4	20.0	44	17.3
Hostile/or one hostile and one supportive	32	16.6	2	4.8	1	5.0	35	13.8
N/A	67	34.7	20	48.8	10	50.0	97	38.2
Totals	193	100	41	100	20	100	254	100

Table 60 provides the description of the length of the shelter stay according to the decision of the battered women to leave or return to the relationship. Those who decided to leave the batterer had a longer shelter stay whereas none of the battered women who decided to return to the batterer stayed longer than 47 days and none of those who were undecided stayed longer than 35 days.

Table 60
Number of Days the Battered Women Spent in the Shelter
According to Their Decision to Leave or Return to
The Relationship

	<u>n</u>	Low-High	Mean	Std Dev	Mode	Median
Leave	207	1-76	17.42	16.50	1.0	11.0
Stay	47	1-47	7.48	9.51	1.0	5.0
Undecided	22	1-35	12.18	11.16	1.0	6.5

The answers of 270 battered women who responded to the question concerning counseling for the batterer according to their decision to leave or return to the relationship is shown in Table 61. Those women who decided to leave the relationship had a lower percentage (20; 9.8%) of partners in counseling than did those who were returning to their partners (12; 26%).

The primary source of income when leaving the shelter according to the decision to leave or return to the relationship as reported by 274 of the battered women is shown in Table 62. More women who were returning to their partners (41.9%; 18) received support from their spouse than those women (3.0%, 6) who were leaving.

Table 61
 Batterer Receiving Counseling as Reported by Battered Women
 According to their Decision to Leave or Return to
 Abusive Relationships

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Yes	20	9.8	12	26.1	0	.0	32	11.9
No	138	67.6	30	65.2	9	45.0	177	65.6
Don't know	46	22.6	4	8.7	11	55.0	61	22.6
Totals	204	100	46	100	20	100	270	100

Discriminant analysis was then performed. The dependent variable of decision to leave or return to the relationship consisted of two groups. The first group was comprised of those women who decided to leave the relationship when exiting the shelter while the second included those women who either decided to return to their partner or stated that their living arrangements after exiting the shelter were undetermined. The variables selected included demographics and information concerning the shelter stay.

Table 62
Source of Income of the Battered Women When Leaving the
Shelter According to Their Decision to Leave or
Return to the Relationship

	Leave		Return		Undecided		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
None	48	23.8	10	23.3	2	18.2	60	23.4
Spouse/partner	6	3.0	18	41.9	0	.0	24	9.3
Govt. support	58	28.6	2	4.6	4	36.3	64	25.0
Child support	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	0.4
New support	1	.5	0	.0	0	.0	1	0.4
Family	5	2.5	0	.0	0	.0	5	2.0
Job training	2	2.0	0	.0	0	.0	2	.8
Job	81	40.1	13	30.2	5	45.5	99	38.7
Totals	202	100	43	100	11	100	256	100

Preparation of the data for discriminant analysis was the same as was previously discussed for research question one. Additionally, variables were examined for skewedness which may produce artificially high correlations (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). The length of the stay and number of days since the last battering incident were positively skewed, requiring long linear transformation to assure normality. Twenty variables were selected to be entered into the

discriminant analysis. The personal variables were age, education, pregnancy status and response to the abuse. The interpersonal variables selected were alcohol use of the batterer, child abuse by the batterer, number of children, if the batterer is in counseling when leaving and those variables related to the abuse: presence of sexual abuse, severity of injuries, verbal abuse, abusive incidents in pregnancy and frequency of abuse. The social variables selected were ethnicity, abuse as a child, attitude of the police, length of shelter stay, and the economic indicator of source of income when exiting the shelter. Interpersonal variables outnumbered social and personal variables because of the type of questions asked on the Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence.

The 275 cases were entered into analysis including those with missing data which resulted in 135 cases in the largest group and 26 cases in smallest group. Since the number of cases in the smallest group should be larger than the number of discriminators (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983) this condition was met. The means and standard deviations of the variables by group were calculated. The results are listed in Table 63.

Table 63
Means and Standard Deviation of Major Discriminating
Variables by Group: Battered Women Who Decided to
Leave the Relationship and Battered Women Who
Decided Not to Leave the Relationship

Variable	Leave		Not Leave	
	<u>n</u> =109		<u>n</u> =26	
	Mean	Std Dev	Mean	Std Dev
Length of shelter stay (log)	.98	.51	.79	.45
Age of the women	29.11	7.24	28.31	6.67
Number of children	2.05	1.34	1.96	1.33
Ethnicity of the women	.35	.48	.55	.51
Education of the women	1.91	.75	1.90	.62
Relationship to the batterer	1.53	.70	1.52	.69
Number of days since last incident (log)	.46	.48	.32	.43
Severity of the abuse	3.12	.73	3.24	.69
Verbal abuse	2.76	.54	2.76	.58
Sexually abused in the relationship	.35	.48	.38	.49
Length of the relationship	2.54	1.44	2.62	1.32
Pregnancy status	.17	.38	.28	.45
Response to abusive incident	2.37	1.03	2.65	1.08
Problem alcohol use by the batterer	.55	.50	.72	.45
Abuse as a child	1.73	.45	1.83	.38
Presence of child abuse	.50	.50	.28	.45
Batterer in counseling when women leaving	2.54	.71	2.52	.83
Source of income when leaving shelter	2.96	1.16	2.41	1.15
Abusive incident while pregnant	.54	.50	.69	.47
Attitude of police	.16	.37	.03	.19

Discriminant analysis was conducted. Since there were only two groups, one function was computed. The function resulted in a canonical correlation of $R_c=.41$ which was

significant at $p=.0009$. Both the standardized coefficients and the structure coefficients of the predictor variables are depicted in Table 64 since the standardized coefficients "take into consideration the simultaneous contributions of all the other variables ... and the structure coefficients are not affected by relationships with the other variables" (Klecka, 1980, p.33). Therefore, the predictors of whether or not the battered women intend to stay or return to the relationship were determined by the structure coefficients which demonstrate linear correlation between each independent variable and the discriminant function. The structure coefficients can be interpreted like factor loadings ranking the variables based on the degree to which they contribute to the discriminant function. Rankings are based on absolute size of the coefficient disregarding sign. By convention, loadings of + or - .30 (9% of the variance) are considered significant (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). In this analysis, six variables would meet this criterion: source of income when exiting the shelter, the presence or absence of child abuse, ethnicity of the women, length of the shelter stay, problem alcohol use by the batterer, and attitude of the police.

Table 64
Structure Coefficients and Standardized Coefficients for
Personal, Interpersonal, and Social Variables in the
Decision to Leave or Not Leave Abusive Relationships
by Battered Women When Exiting a Shelter

Predictors	Standardized	Structure
Income when exiting	.31	.43*
Child abuse	.60	.41*
Ethnicity	-.43	-.37*
Length of shelter stay	.35	.35*
Alcohol use of the batterer	-.48	-.33*
Abuse in pregnancy	-.39	-.27
Attitude of the police	.22	.34*

Note. * = significant findings.

In order to determine how accurate the function was in predicting group membership, the 275 cases were classified according to their discriminant function into two predicted groups. The results of the prediction for groups are indicated in Table 64. The predictor variables were able to predict 93.5% of the membership in the group of women who decided to leave the relationship. However, it was much less accurate at predicting membership in the groups that returned to spouse or where undecided about returning at 20.0%.

Table 65
 Classification Results by Discriminant Analysis for
 Prediction of Membership into Two Groups: Those
 Women Who Decided to Leave and Those Who
 Decided to Return to the Relationship

Membership of Actual Group	No. of cases	Predicted Group	
		1	2
Group 1 Decided to Leave	170	159 93.5%	11 6.5%
Group 2 Decided to Return/ Undecided	45	36 80.0%	11 20.0%
Percent of total grouped cases correctly classified: 78.1%			

The discriminant analysis results suggest that women who report they would leave the battering relationship are more likely to be dependent on self for income, to have child abuse present, to be Non-anglo, to stay in the shelter longer, to not have alcohol problems identified in the batterer, and to have not had a negative experience with the police. Women who decided to return to the relationship or were undecided about returning, were more likely to have more dependence on the spouse or others for income when leaving the shelter, were less likely to have child abuse occurring in their relationship, more likely to be Anglo, more likely to stay in the shelter fewer days, more likely to have alcohol problems in the batterer, and were more

likely to have a negative encounter with the police.

Summary

Women who entered a shelter for battered women were described. The frequency of the responses to the select personal, interpersonal, and social variables were recorded and discussed.

The differences in those women who experienced a combination of physical and verbal abuse with those who experienced physical, verbal and sexual abuse were described. Additional analysis was conducted using discriminant analysis. The findings suggested that the two groups differed in regard to incidents of sexual abuse during childhood and pregnancy, verbal abuse in the relationship, frequency of abuse, the issue of jealousy in contributing to the abusive incidents, and education. Women who experienced sexual abuse in combination with physical and emotional abuse were more likely to be less educated, have experienced sexual abuse as a child and during pregnancy and more forms of verbal abuse in the relationship, to have a higher incidence of abuse, and have jealousy as a contributing factor to the batterings.

Discriminant analysis was used to describe the differences between those who decided to leave the relationship and those who had decided not to leave the

relationship when exiting the shelter. The findings suggested that women with relationships in which child abuse was present and where alcohol was not a problem with the batterer were more likely to leave. The findings also suggested that those women who had a more independent source of income when exiting the shelter and were Non-anglo were more likely to leave the relationship. Finally, those women who stayed in the shelter longer and had reported that they did not have a negative experience with the police were more likely to be in the group of women that reported they would leave the relationship.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

Battered women who enter a shelter have different perceptions of the type of abuse they experience. Abuse can be physical, verbal, sexual, or a combination of all three. The first research question in this study explored select personal, interpersonal, and social variables from the interview questionnaire that were associated with the different types of abuse. Additional analyses were used to discriminate between women who were sexually, physically, and verbally abused and women who were physically and verbally abused.

Additionally, battered women who seek assistance in a shelter must decide when they leave whether they will return to the abusive relationship. The second research question in this study explored the differences between two groups of battered women in a shelter. The two groups were women who decided to leave the abusive relationship and women who decided to return to the relationship or who were undecided.

Summary

This study was conducted using the responses of 330 battered women admitted to a shelter in 1984, to the Client

Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence for the State of Texas (revised 3/84). Data were coded according to the Abuse Assessment Inventory (AAI) developed by this author from the Client Registration and Reporting Form for Victims of Family Violence. Of the 330 women who were admitted to the shelter, 275 responded to the question of whether they would stay in or leave the abusive relationship. These 275 battered women were the study sample.

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and multivariate analysis. The independent variables selected are representative of the personal, interpersonal, and social systems of King's Theory of Goal Attainment (1981). The personal system variables included age of the women, education, presence of a pregnancy, perceived issues related to the abuse, and the use of drugs or alcohol. The interpersonal variables included information about the batterer, children, and violence. The social system variables included information about the family of origin, police, social-economic status, and length of shelter stay.

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the sample of battered women and the characteristics of the personal, interpersonal, and social variables associated with the battered women's decisions about living arrangements when

exiting the shelter. The types of abuse the women experienced were a combination of physical and verbal or physical, verbal and sexual. The battered women's decisions about living arrangements included three groups: women who decided to leave the relationship and live by themselves or with another person other than their partner; women who decided to stay with or return to their partners when leaving the shelter; and women who were undecided about their living arrangements when exiting the shelter. Most of the women (74.5%) decided to leave their partners when leaving the shelter.

Further analysis of research question one, the relationship of personal, interpersonal and social variables in a sample of battered women to the types of abuse they experienced, was done using the multivariate statistical technique of discriminant analysis to determine if the variables could discriminate between physical and verbal abuse when compared to physical, verbal and sexual abuse experienced by the battered women. The variables that were used from the personal system variables were the women's age, education, pregnancy status, and response to the batterer. The interpersonal variables used were the number of children, relationship to the batterer, severity of physical injuries, length of the abuse, number of times

abused in the last six months, presence of abuse during pregnancy and verbal abuse. The variables included about the batterer were his violence toward others, alcohol problems, jealousy, and physical abuse as a child. Additionally, the social variables included were the women's ethnicity and sexual abuse as a child.

Discriminant analysis was performed to answer the second research question about which variables discriminated between the battered women's decision to leave or not leave the abusive relationship when exiting from the shelter. The two groups were those women who decided to leave the relationship and those women who were either returning to the batterer or those who were undecided. The independent variables that were used were the personal system variables of age, education, pregnancy status, and response to the abuse. The interpersonal variables were alcohol use of the batterer, child abuse, type of relationship, number of children, whether the batterer was in counseling when the women were leaving the shelter, and those related to the specifics of the abuse. The variables related to abuse were presence of sexual abuse, severity of injuries, verbal abuse, and frequency of abuse. The social variables were ethnicity, abuse as a child, length of shelter stay, attitude of the police and the economic indicator of source

of income when leaving the shelter.

Discussion of Findings

The following description of the study sample may be helpful in the assessment phase of nursing care in which data is collected. The goal of nursing is to promote health, prevent injury and disease, and provide care for the ill, injured, or dying (King, 1981). The description of the study sample provides information about women in abusive relationships which will help the nurse identify other women with similar characteristics indicative of being in abusive relationships.

The women in the sample had an average age of 28.9 years. This varied from 17 to 61 years which reflects the wide age range in which abuse occurs in relationships. Most of the women were involved in relationships that demonstrated commitment by being either married or not married and living together. The most frequent length of the relationship in the sample was one to five years (49.8%) with the length of the abuse accounting for the same time period (41.6%). These data support Walker's Theory (1979) on the Cycle of Violence in which the woman learns to adapt to the cycle of violence since the abuse is not limited to those with long standing relationships and seems to occur over the length of the relationship. The correlation

between length of the relationship and the length of abuse also supported the findings of Cates et al. (1982) who found that abuse started once the relationship became serious.

The batterer's average age was slightly higher than the women they battered at 32.5 years and varied from 17 to 71 years which reflects the societal pattern for women to marry men who are slightly older. The women in this sample were predominantly Anglo with a slight over representation of Blacks and other ethnic groups compared to the population of the city from which the sample was drawn. Since the shelter only serves those without other alternatives for living arrangements, this over-representation of minorities may be due to the location of the shelter in a city with a large Hispanic and Black population in the lower socioeconomic group.

The educational level was reflective of the general population with most of the women (38.9%) and their batterers (42.6%) having at least a high school education and some college education (20.7% and 14.3%). Even though women had more college education than the batterers, the majority of women had no individual source of income (56.2%) when entering the shelter. The low economic status of the women was demonstrated by the fact that 88.6% of the women had incomes below \$10,000.

Most of the women (86.9%) had at least one child, the mean number of children was 1.9. The high number of women with children could contribute to their inability to maintain employment. Aguirre (1985) found that lack of employment contributes to a lower socioeconomic level and dependency on the spouse. Therefore, it is not surprising that these women needed the services of a shelter to escape from the batterings.

The battered women's records did not provide consistent information about their children in regard to their numbers, ages, gender, and admission to the shelter. The interview questions included the number of children the women had and information about the children admitted with them. Information about the children not admitted with their mothers was included in the interview at the discretion of the interviewer. Therefore, even though 96.5% of the records indicated that the children were admitted to the shelter with their mothers the actual number admitted may be less. Because of these findings it is difficult to make judgements about the location of the children in the shelter or elsewhere.

Almost half of the women (46%) with children noted some type of child abuse. The most frequent type of abuse was verbal and emotional abuse (48%) which is suspected by Ney

(1987) and Ney et al. (1986) as having a greater impact for a longer time than physical abuse. Sexual abuse alone or in combination with other types of abuse occurred in 10.8% of the children. The high failure rate in reporting the incidence (52%) may reflect a denial system of the battered women because of the multiple attacks on the integrity of herself and her family system.

Approximately one in sixteen women were either pregnant or not sure if they were pregnant when entering the shelter which is similar to the general population (National Center for Health Statistics, 1985). However, pregnant women may have increased vulnerability, the desire to protect their unborn child, and/or an increased risk of abuse in pregnancy. Most of the women (53.2%) had experienced some type of abuse during pregnancy, and in some cases, it had even resulted in bleeding, preterm birth, and miscarriage. Therefore, it can be demonstrated that pregnancy does not protect women from abuse which supported Helton et al. (1987) findings.

The finding that 27.1% of the women were abused as children supports the proposition in the WIM model that when binding of energy occurs through negative interactions growth cannot occur. Additionally, 39% of the women had seen abusive incidents between their parents as a child

which supports Snyder and Fruchtman's (1981) and Gelles' (1972) findings that women are more tolerant of abuse if they are exposed to parental violence. However, these data do not support the findings of O'Leary and Curley (1986) who found that violence in the family of origin was not associated with women being in physically abusive relationships.

The women reported that 35.5% of their partners were physically abused as children. The high incidence of physical abuse as children supports the work of Rosenbaum and O'Leary (1981), O'Leary and Curley (1986), and Kaufman and Zigler (1987) that abusive husbands were more likely to have been abused as children. If even a small percentage of the partners of the women who did not know if their partner had been abused (39.9%) were actually abused, this finding would be even more significant. Known sexual abuse of the batterer as a child was infrequently reported (2.3%). The amount of sexual abuse may be under reported because in 1984 when this information was obtained, the issues concerning sexual abuse of children had not received wide media attention. Therefore, it may not have been discussed in the relationship.

Drug (5%) and alcohol (6.6%) problems were infrequent among the women but alcohol usage was reported in a majority

of the batterers (54.1%) and drug use in about a third of the batterers. The use of drugs and alcohol by the batterers supports the report of Roberts (1988) in which batterers had significantly more violent offenses when substance abuse was present, and the report by Coleman et al. (1980) who found frequent use of alcohol and drug use in batterers. However, it does not support the results of a study by Bergman et al. (1988) in which almost 51% of the women were heavy consumers of alcohol. Since Bergman's et al. study was conducted in an emergency room, it may be that once the women's defenses are broken down by alcohol or drugs they are more likely to seek treatment or are more severely injured.

A majority of the women (61.8%) experienced a combination of both physical and verbal abuse with the remainder of the women also experiencing sexual abuse. The experience of a combination of types of abuse supports Walker's belief (1979) that abuse is a multifocal problem. The wide range of injuries that the women experienced included bruises to broken bones. Since the injuries were rated according to the most severe injuries reported it was found that the women experienced cuts, lacerations, burns, and knots and bumps to the head more frequently than the other categories. Brismar et al. (1987) found that the less

severe the injuries, the more likely the women were to drop out of treatment. This finding was not supported in this study, as severity of injury did not contribute to predicting group membership for women who decided to leave and those women who did not decide to leave the relationship.

Verbal abuse was assessed in two ways. The first way was the response of the women to a question about the types of verbal abuse they experienced. The most serious type of verbal abuse the women experienced were threats to kill them. The second way information about verbal abuse was assessed was from the batterer's response immediately after the abuse as reported by the women. Denial, threats to repeat the violence, and telling her that she deserved the battering were frequent responses. The verbal abuse that the women were subjected to reflects the batterer's attempt to maintain an atmosphere in which he was in control and supported Boulette and Andersen's (1985) description of mind control in battering relationships. The Wind Interaction Model was supported since it was thought that negative interaction would bind the women, prohibiting their growth.

The women who experienced sexual abuse (42.2% of the sample) were most often (78%) forced to have sexual acts with their batterer. The high incidence of sexual abuse in

these abusive relationships is in contrast to the 14% found by Russel (1982) in the general population. The high incidence of sexual abuse is consistent with the findings of Bowker (1983) who found sexual perversion and rape to be important components in some of the abusive relationships.

When the batterer was abusive to others or other things, it was most often toward other people (37%), not the children (34.3%) although both incidences were high. The overall high incidence of violence supports Campbell's (1984) theory that abuse is due to "machismo" characteristics in the male which glorify violence and encourage the expression of rage and anger. The batterer may be attempting to preserve his sense of self and may be influenced by past experiences in using abusive behavior.

The most frequent reasons given for the battering incidents were unemployment, job pressures, or financial problems (78.5%). Employment and financial problems were followed by drug and alcohol problems (76.2%), jealousy (65.9%) and conflicts with or about children, in-laws, or others (57%). The lack of "nagging" as an issue is in contrast to Gelles' (1972) theory that nagging was a causative factor for the abuse and supports the finds of Wardell et al. (1982) that the fault is not with the wife.

Roberts (1988) findings of an increase in violence when substance abuse is present was supported. The incidence of alcohol usage by the batterer was high, and was reported by a majority of the battered women as contributing to the abusive incident.

Bowker's (1983) description of batterers as being jealous was supported by the 65.9% incidence of jealousy reported by the battered women as contributing to the abusive incident. Boulette and Andersen (1985) also included jealousy as one of the specific areas in which the batterer seeks to provide dominance, isolation, fear, guilt, and loyalty.

The transactions that occur between individuals can affect their identity (King, 1981). Often the batterer tells the woman she deserves the battering because of something she has done (Walker, 1979). This finding was reported by a majority of the battered women after the abusive incident. Additionally, the high percentage of women who reported that jealousy was an issue which contributed to the battering incident may also reflect the batterers' attempts to "blame the victim".

After the abusive incident the women's response to the abuse was less self protective than taking actions to prevent the reoccurrence of the abuse. When the combination

of responses was reviewed for the most self destructive response, most of the women (50.2%) responded to the battering by covering it up, praying, or going to their room. There was a suicide attempt rate of 11.2% compared to 8.8% in the general population (Gomberg, 1989). The high rate of suicide supports the Wind Interaction Model in which bound energy inhibits growth and decreases interaction. There may come a point at which bound energy not only hinders growth but becomes self destructive. Additionally, the response to the battering may reflect the women's perceptions that the abuse is her fault and that there is nothing she can do about it. Belenky et al. (1986) saw battered women in the silent phase of moral development where they are "unable to speak out" (p.29). However, all of these women did eventually use a self protective mechanism by seeking refuge in a shelter.

The social support system for battered women includes the police. If the police were called during or after the abusive incident, they were usually sympathetic and supportive (49.7%), however the others were either neutral (28%) or hostile (22.3%). In the city where this shelter is located, a vigorous program was established to improve the attitude and management of domestic violence by the police, but when one quarter of the police officers leave women with

the impression that they are hostile to her, much work is yet to be done. One woman in the study experienced being told she should not call and another woman was transported back to the batterer against her wishes.

Most of the women's batterers (65.6%) were not in counseling or it was unknown (22.6%) whether they were in counseling when they left the shelter. This finding supports the assumption by Campbell (1984) that "machismo" men do not perceive violence as a problem, but an expectation.

The mean length of stay for the battered women was 15.34 days. The shelter stay may have been instrumental in changing the primary source of income when exiting. On admission to the shelter, the primary source of income was either no source (37.5) or their partner (26.9%). When leaving the shelter the primary source of income was from a job (38.7%) with support by the partner down to 9.4%. This finding may be due to the program at the shelter which helps the women find jobs and apply for governmental support.

Types of abuse

The group of women who experienced physical and verbal abuse differed from the women who were sexually abused as well as physically and verbally abused. The group of battered women who reported being sexually abused were more

likely to have experienced sexual abuse as a child. The experience of the women as children of being sexually abused supports the Wind Interaction Model about the importance of social factors and past experiences. In the WIM, it is possible that a repeat of sexual abuse as an adult continues to bind the women so that they are unable to grow. It is unfortunate that the battered women who are sexually abused are likely to have experienced a lack of control over their most intimate self, both as children and as adults in relationships where love by another is supposed to be the central theme. Therefore, the development of mutual goals using bargaining and negotiation may be difficult for sexually battered women.

Verbal abuse in the relationship for the women who were sexually abused was more likely to include the more serious type of verbal abuse which was threats to kill her. It is of interest that the severity of injuries and frequency did not help discriminate between groups. It may be that the sexual abuser is more likely to be a verbal abuser as well.

Sexually battered women were more likely to have a lower educational level. A lower educational level may limit women's ability to access community resources and restrict meaningful interactions with others. Therefore, dependency on the batterer may be increased which prohibits

them from leaving the sexually abusive relationship.

Abusive incidents in pregnancy were also significant in predicting group membership. Abusive incidents in pregnancy by the batterer were more likely in the group that was physically, verbally, and sexually abused. There is an obvious connection between pregnancy and sexuality. Helton et al. (1987) reported an 8% incidence of abuse during pregnancy. Women are more vulnerable during this time and may seem less able to defend against the abuse. The abuse may be due to the focus of the women on another (the fetus) which may increase the jealousy of the batterer. Jealousy was also seen by the women as contributing to the abusive incidents in those who were sexually abused. A batterer may use sexual violence as a chance to get even with the fetus through the woman.

The increase in frequency for those who were sexually abused may reflect the high incidence of sexual abuse in relationships and supports the findings of Russel (1982) and Bowker (1983). Wives are often viewed as the possession of the husband and therefore he has the right to demand sexual intimacy. Since this behavior is more socially sanctioned (Burgess, 1984), it is not surprising that women who are sexually abused are also more frequently abused.

Perception and communication may help explain the batterer's behavior. Personal, interpersonal, and social variables in the Wind Interaction Model derived from King's theory were useful in discriminating between those women who experienced sexual abuse in the battering relationship. Past sexually abusive experiences, verbal abuse, frequent abuse, jealousy, lower education, and abuse in pregnancy may have bound the women's energy so that they were more likely to be sexually abused. This supports the WIM's interplay of the physical, mental, social, and spiritual forces in maintaining health.

Decision to Leave or Return

Six variables, source of income when leaving the relationship, child abuse, ethnicity of the women, alcohol use by the batterer, negative attitude of the police, and length of the shelter stay, contributed significantly to the prediction of group membership for those who decided to leave compared to those who decided to return to the batterer or who were undecided. The percent of women who decided to leave or return to the relationship was similar to the findings of Strube and Barbour (1984).

The findings do not support those of Gelles (1976) who reported severity and frequency of the violence and having older children as reasons for leaving, but do support his

report of unemployment as being a reason for staying in the relationship. Employment was also found by Strube and Barbour (1984) as a contributing factor. Acquire (1985) found that only socioeconomic independence helped to identify which women would return to their batterer. This study supports Acquire's findings because those who left were more likely to have a job or job training as their source of income.

The second variable was the presence of child abuse which increased the prediction of group membership in those who left the relationship. This finding contradicts Carlson (1977) who found an intense attachment and concern for children which contributed to the fear of leaving the relationship. However, Carlson did not address whether abuse of the child would override the desire to provide for economic security for the child. It seems likely that the woman would seek to protect her children by leaving the relationship. It would have been interesting to see if the length of child abuse would have contributed to the decision; however few women reported this information.

The third variable was the ethnicity of the women. Women who were Non-anglos (Blacks, Hispanics, and Orientals) were more likely to be in the group that left the relationship which is supported by Strube and Barbour's

(1984) findings. This finding may be explained by the socio-cultural values of the ethnic groups and supports the Wetzel and Ross (1983) report that societal value of a nuclear family and religion may help in contributing to an enduring bond. Anglo women may expect that their relationships will be without violence and may have had little information given to them as children about how to avoid or terminate an abusive relationship. Since certain Non-anglo women may be exposed to more violence in their culture (Campbell, 1984) they may have been exposed by family and social groups to more resources for handling the situation if it arises in their lives.

The fourth variable that predicted group membership for those women who returned to or were undecided about leaving the relationship was problem use of alcohol by the batterer. It may be that use of alcohol provides an "excuse" for the behavior of the batterer and therefore women are more likely to return to the batterer. However, alcohol usage may be an additional indicator of a dysfunctional relationship.

A negative experience by the battered women with the police after the abusive incident was more likely to be found in the group of women who returned to the batterer. The police may act as authority figures and, therefore their support may help the women gain trust in the legal system

which may then be attributed to other areas as well including shelters and health care providers. The WIM is supported by this finding in that energy transfer occurs more freely when positive interaction exists.

The length of the shelter stay was found by Acquire (1985) to contribute to the decision to leave the relationship. This finding was supported by this study in which the length of the shelter stay was longer for women who decided to leave the relationship (17.42 days). This variable did contribute to predicting group membership when discriminant analysis was used with the select variables. Interaction with the shelter staff can assist the women in setting mutual goals. One of these goals may be economic independence. Therefore, more flexibility in the length of the shelter stay and interaction with the staff may be needed in order to allow the women to achieve economic independence.

The influence of the social variables of economic independence and ethnicity from Kings theory of nursing are evident in the findings of this study. The interpersonal variable of child abuse was an indicator for group membership. The absence of one of the personal variables as a significant predictor in the decision to leave or return to the relationship may be due to the interaction of the

variables selected for the study. The WIM describes a balance of the social, environmental, physical, mental and spiritual forces. Not all of the forces were measured in this study, so conclusions about this aspect of the model cannot be addressed. However, the findings do suggest that different variables contribute to the women's decisions.

Although being pregnant and having been abused in pregnancy were not correlated, it appears they may have interrelated with each other in some other way. When abusive incidents in pregnancy were not included in the analysis the presence of a pregnancy became significant for the prediction of group membership. The women who were pregnant were more likely to be in the group of women who stayed in the relationship. Pregnancy increases dependency needs and is characteristically a time for the development of a "family." The inability of pregnant women to find employment may also contribute.

Conclusions and Implications

Because of the exploratory nature of this study and the limitations posed by retrospective data, generalization to the total population of abused women in shelters cannot be made. It is also improbable that such a high percentage of women who said they would leave the relationship would actually leave. Also, combining the responses from those

women who decided to stay in the relationship and those who were undecided into one group may have altered the differences between the groups.

The conclusions for this study are:

1. By using the Wind Interaction Model as the conceptual framework for this study, variables were identified in which negative interpersonal energy exchange (verbal abuse) resulted in predicting group membership for those who were physically and verbally abused, and those who were physically, verbally, and sexually abused. The framework also helped predict those variables which would identify those women who decided to leave the relationship. The specific variables that indicated negative and positive energy interchange were a negative attitude of the police and length of shelter stay. Although abuse is multifaceted, only the interpersonal and social variables were useful in identifying those women who were more likely to leave the relationship.

The findings of this study using the WIM as a guide for research indicates that further development of the model needs to be done, and that further research using the model may enhance its effectiveness. A clearer description of the bound individual is needed. Also, positive interaction techniques which promote health are needed between the nurse

and the bound individual. When using the WIM, variables should be selected that provide a comprehensive picture of the balance of forces (social, environmental, personal, mental and spiritual) that are involved in achieving and maintaining health.

2. Battered women are either physically and verbally abused or physically, verbally, and sexually abused.

The findings of the study imply that abused women are subjected to a very complex situation with various types of abuse. The multifaceted aspects of abuse also complicate their lives.

3. By using a combination of variables, physically, verbally, and sexually abused women may be discriminated from those women who are physically and verbally abused. The variables include: an incidence of sexual abuse as a child, a greater frequency of abuse, and sexual abuse during pregnancy; the experience of more serious types of verbal abuse; more frequent experience of jealousy contributing to the abusive incidents; and less education.

The findings imply that abused women experience sexual as well as physical abuse and need to be assessed for these multiple types of abuse during pregnancy. Nurses can assist women who are sexually, physically, and verbally abused by providing information about abuse and available support

systems.

4. Battered women tend to leave the abusive relationship when: they are more economically independent; child abuse is present; they are Non-anglo; they stay in the shelter longer; the batterer has no alcohol problem; and they have not had a negative experience with the police.

An implication for nurses in the emergency setting is that these women need information and assistance to achieve financial independence. Educational level may need to be increased; therefore those nurses working with teens should encourage completion of school, and education of battered women should be encouraged in shelters. The program in the shelter to find women employment could serve as a model for other shelters and agencies that assist women. Rules and regulations in shelters need to be reevaluated so that longer shelter stays are encouraged. Anglo women may require special attention in terms of education and support. School programs which have been developed should be included in all curricula, not just in ethnic neighborhoods.

Other implications for nurses are that abuse in the family is a necessary assessment since children may be involved as well, or there may be violence towards others by the batterer. Since the women are more likely to return to the batterer if there is an alcohol problem in the batterer,

support groups which target those living with alcoholics are needed to address the issue of battering. Since the women may be more likely to leave the batterer if child abuse is occurring, this aspect should be discussed with the woman.

Community awareness about the effects of negative attitudes on battered women's lives should include all professionals and authority figures. A safe and supportive environment should be developed for all women.

Nurses who work with women in any setting should be aware of the potential for their clients to be in abusive relationships. Every opportunity should be given to the woman to develop mutual goals for the prevention of violence.

Recommendations for Further Study

Due to the descriptive nature of this study it is recommended that the following studies be done:

1. The Wind Interaction Model should be further tested with other populations in order to determine what factors other than abuse are negative interactions that could bind energy so that growth is decreased. Future studies should include elements from all the forces identified in the model (social, environmental, physical, mental and spiritual).
2. A follow up after one year and five years should be conducted to determine the number of times the women seek

assistance away from the relationship, and whether they remain free from abusive relationships.

3. The moral development theory of Belenky et al. (1986), which states that abused women are usually less developed, should be tested by studying the moral development of women who leave the relationship as compared to those who return to the abusive relationship.

4. The effect of verbal abuse in physically violent and nonviolent relationships should be explored in relation to the ability of the women to leave the verbally and or physically abusive relationship.

5. A study should be conducted to determine the characteristics of Anglo and Non-anglo women that contribute to the ability to leave the abusive relationship.

6. The development and testing of the effectiveness of programs which increase battered women's positive interactions with health care professionals and other authority figures should be implemented.

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APPENDIX A

Client Registration and Reporting Form

For Victims of Family Violence

Texas Department
of Human ResourcesForm T-7232-A
November 1983CLIENT REGISTRATION AND REPORTING FORM
FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCEWHITE COPY—Forward to DHR
PINK COPY—Retain for your file

DOCUMENT CONTROL NO. 037587 2		PART I-INTAKE: General Information	
1. Contract No. 9		2. Shelter Name	
3. Completed By (Name):		4. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Staff	
5. Did client request shelter?		6. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No	
Total number of family members admitted as a shelter resident, including client: 19		7. Type of Client	
8. Changing resident/nonresident status?		9. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Shelter Resident <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Shelter Nonresident	
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No		11. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No	

Client Information

9. Client Name-Last 24		First 39		MI 49		10. Social Security No. 91	
11. Date of Birth 60		12. Sex 67		13. Telephone No.		14. Address (Street, City)	
15. County Code		16. State		17. ZIP		18. Client Characteristics (check all that apply)	
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Aged <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Blind <input type="checkbox"/> 3=Deaf <input type="checkbox"/> 4=Physically Handicapped <input type="checkbox"/> 5=Mentally Retarded <input type="checkbox"/> 6=Emotionally Disturbed		20. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Female		21. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No		22. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No	

Batterer Information

19. Batterer Name 66		First 101		MI 111		20. Social Security No. 113	
21. Date of Birth 8		22. Sex 14		23. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Female		24. <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No	

Children Information

23. How many children do you have altogether? 23.

24. Provide information about your children (from youngest to oldest) who are receiving resident or nonresident shelter services.

CHILD'S BIRTHDAY	SEX	CHILD'S NAME	CHILD'S BIRTHDAY	SEX	CHILD'S NAME
MO DAY YR	1=Male 2=Female	(optional)	MO DAY YR	1=Male 2=Female	(optional)
17 1			53 5		
28 2			62 6		
35 3			71 7		
44 4			80 8		

Battering Information

25. Which of the following types of abuse have you experienced? (Code all that apply)

89	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1=Physical Abuse	2=Verbal/Emotional Abuse	3=Sexual Abuse
----	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	------------------	--------------------------	----------------

26. What are your and the batterer's ethnic origins?

92	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1=Anglo	3=Hispanic	5=Oriental
A. Client	B. Batterer		2=Black	4=American Indian	6=Other

27. What are the highest levels of education you and the batterer have completed?

94	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1=Less than 12 years	3=College
A. Client	B. Batterer		2=High School Grad/GED	4=Vocational Training

Client's Last Name	Date of Birth
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Form T-7232-A
Page 2

28. Are you and the batterer currently employed?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Yes
2=No

29. What are your and the batterer's present primary individual sources of income?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=None 4=AFDC 7=Spouse/Partner
2=Job 5=SSI 8=Undetermined
3=Job Training 6=Social Security/Retirement 9=Other*

*If "9=Other" for client, specify: _____

*If "9=Other" for batterer, specify: _____

30. What are your and the batterer's current or main occupations?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Homemaker 4=Skilled Labor 7=Retired
2=Unskilled Labor 5=Active Military 8=Student
3=Clerical 6=Professional/Managerial 9=Other*

*If "9=Other" for client, specify: _____

*If "9=Other" for batterer, specify: _____

31. What are your and the batterer's individual yearly incomes?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=None 4=\$10,001-\$15,000 7=More than \$25,000
2=\$5,000 or less 5=\$15,001-\$20,000 8=Don't know
3=\$5,001-\$10,000 6=\$20,001-\$25,000

32. How many times have you and the batterer each been married?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Never married 4=Three or more*
2=One 5=Don't know
3=Two

*If "4=Three or more" for client, specify how many times married: _____

*If "4=Three or more" for batterer, specify how many times married: _____

33. At the time of the last abusive incident, what was your relationship to the batterer?

☐ 1=Married and living together 4=Not married, living together 7=Relative other than spouse, different house
2=Separated 5=Not married, not living together 8=Other
3=Divorced 6=Relative other than spouse, same house

34. How long have you been in this marriage or current relationship?

☐ 1=Less than one year
2=One to five years
3=More than five years (specify how many years): _____

35. How many days has it been since the last abusive incident between you and the batterer?

This is to certify, based on the documentation contained in this form, that the client is in need of family violence services which are provided without regard to the client's income.

36. Date
MO DAY YR

114

Signature—Paid Staff or Volunteer

If certified by volunteer,
staff initial here:

END PART I—INTAKE

RESIDENTS—Stop here for intake. Part II—Background Information should be completed within the next two days or before exit, whichever comes first.

NONRESIDENTS—Continue; complete Part II—Background Information at this time.

Client's Last Name	Date of Birth
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Form T-7232
Page

PART II—BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3	36. Today's Date		
	MO	DAY	YR

37. If you were physically abused, which of the following happened? (Code all that apply)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- 13
- | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 01=Slapped | 05=Choked | 09=Threw things at you |
| 02=Kicked | 06=Confined or held against your will | 10=Pulled your hair |
| 03=Burned | 07=Used weapon or object | 11=Other (specify): |
| 04=Punched | 08=Threw you around | |

37.1 What weapons or objects were used? (Code all that apply)

--	--	--	--

- 33
- | | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 1=None | 4=Household items (specify): |
| 2=Gun | |
| 3=Knife | 5=Other (specify): |

38. If you were verbally abused, which of the following happened? (Code all that apply)

--	--	--	--	--	--

- 38
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1=Threatened to kill you | 5=Personally insulted you |
| 2=Threatened to use weapon or object on you | 6=Threatened to harm your child or other family member |
| 3=Threatened to physically hurt you | |
| 4=Threatened to sexually abuse you | 7=Other (specify): |

39. If you were sexually abused, which of the following happened? (Code all that apply)

--	--	--	--

- 40
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1=Forced acts with batterer only | 4=Other (specify): |
| 2=Forced acts with another person | |
| 3=Forced acts with objects | |

40. How long has abuse been happening?

--

- 40
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1=First time | 4=One to five years |
| 2=One to four weeks | |
| 3=One to 12 months | 5=More than five years (specify): |

41. Within the past six months, how many times have you been abused?

--

- 41
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1=Only once | 4=Once a week |
| 2=Once a month or less | 5=Two to six times a week |
| 3=Two to three times a month | 6=Daily |

42. What type of injuries have you received as a result of physical or sexual abuse from current batterer? (Code all that apply)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- 42
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01=None | 06=Head injuries, knots or concussion | 11=Permanent disability (specify): |
| 02=Bruises | 07=Teeth knocked out or broken | |
| 03=Cuts | 08=Burns | 12=Other (specify): |
| 04=Sprains or dislocated joints | 09=Internal bleeding or pain | |
| 05=Broken bones | 10=Miscarriage | |

43. What types of health care have you received as a result of physical or sexual abuse from current batterer? (Code all that apply)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- 43
- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1=None | 4=Emergency room | 7=Counseling or psychotherapy |
| 2=Self-care | 5=Hospitalization | |
| 3=Doctor's care | 6=Dental care | 8=Other (specify): |

44. Are you currently pregnant?

--

- 44
- | |
|--------------------|
| 1=Yes |
| 2=No |
| 3=Don't know/maybe |

45. Has an abusive incident happened while you were pregnant?

--

- 45
- | |
|------------------|
| 1=Yes |
| 2=No |
| 3=Never pregnant |

Client's Last Name	Date of Birth
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Form T 723:
Pag.

52. The last time the police arrived during or after an abusive incident, what actions did they take? (Code all that apply)

[illegible]

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01-Mediated between you and the batterer | 08-Referred you to family violence center |
| 02-Armed the batterer | 09-Referred you to other social service agency |
| 03-Forced batterer to leave without arrest | 10-Provided transportation to relatives, friends, shelter, etc. |
| 04-Warned batterer | 11-Said they couldn't do anything |
| 05-Advised you of your rights | 12-Don't know |
| 06-Urged you to press charges | |
| 07-Referred you to get legal help | 13-Other (specify): |

53. For what reasons has the batterer been arrested or found guilty/convicted? (Code all that apply)

A. Arrested:

[illegible]

B. Found Guilty/Convicted:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- 01=Don't know
02=None
03=Child abuse/neglect/assault
04=Violence against client
05=Violence against other adults
06=Public intoxication/DWI
07=Robbery/theft
08=Drug possession/use
09=Rape
10=Murder
11=Bad checks
12=Other*

*If "12=Other" coded for "Arrested," specify:

*If "12-Other" coded for "Found Guilty/Convicted," specify:

54. Has the batterer ever been in jail or prison?

☐ 1=Yes
☐ 2=No
☐ 3=Don't know/unsure

55. Is the batterer currently on parole or probation?

☐ 1=Yes
☐ 2=No
☐ 3=Don't know/unsure

56. Do you or the batterer have any alcohol-related problems?

A. Client ¹²² ☐ **B. Batterer** ☐ **1=Yes**
2=No
3=Don't know/unsure

5 57. Do you or the batterer have any drug-related problems?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Yes
2=No
3=Don't know/unsure

58. Were you or the batterer physically abused as a child?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Yes
2=No
3=Don't know/unsure

59. Were you or the batterer sexually abused as a child?

A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Yes
2=No
3=Don't know/unsure

60. Did you or the batterer's parents have any alcohol-related problems?

13 ☐ ☐ 1=Yes
2=No
3=Don't know/unsure

Client's Last Name	Date of Birth
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Form T-7232.
Page

61. Did abusive incidents happen between your or the batterer's parents while you were growing up?

16 ☐ A. Client ☐ B. Batterer ☐ 1=Yes
2=No
3=Don't know/unsure

62. If you have been abused in any previous relationships with a spouse or partner, which of the following types of abuse did you experience (Code all that apply)

17 ☐ ☐ ☐ 1=Physical
2=Verbal/emotional
3=Sexual
4=Not applicable

If there are no children living with you, stop here; Part II—Background Information is complete.

63. Who usually disciplines the children?

18 ☐ 1=You
2=Batterer
3=Both you and batterer
4=Other (specify): _____

64. At home, how do you and the batterer usually discipline the children? (Code all that apply)

19 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 1=Discuss appropriate behavior
2=Verbal reprimand (scold, yell)
3=Deny privileges
4=Spank with open hand
5=Spank with object
6=Hit with closed hand
7=Other punishment*

20 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 1=Discuss appropriate behavior
2=Verbal reprimand (scold, yell)
3=Deny privileges
4=Spank with open hand
5=Spank with object
6=Hit with closed hand
7=Other punishment*

*If "7=Other punishment" coded for client, specify: _____

*If "7=Other punishment" coded for batterer, specify: _____

65. Have any of the children ever been aware of or witness to an abusive incident between you and the batterer?

21 ☐ 1=Yes
2=No
3=Don't know

66. Have any of the children ever been victims of any of the following types of abuse or neglect? (Code all that apply)

22 ☐ ☐ ☐ 1=None
2=Verbal/emotional abuse
3=Physical abuse
4=Sexual abuse
5=Neglect

If children have never been victims of physical or sexual child abuse, stop here; Part II—Background Information is complete.

67. How long has physical or sexual child abuse been happening?

23 ☐ 1=Less than one week
2=One to four weeks
3=One to 12 months
4=One to five years
5=More than five years (specify): _____

68. Within the past six months, how often has physical or sexual child abuse happened?

24 ☐ 1=Only once
2=Once a month or less
3=Two to three times a month
4=Once a week
5=Two to six times a week
6=Daily

69. What injuries have resulted from physical or sexual child abuse? (Code all that apply)

25 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 01=None
02=Bruises
03=Cuts
04=Sprains or dislocated joints
05=Broken bones
06=Head injuries, knots, or concussion
07=Teeth knocked out or broken
08=Burns
09=Internal bleeding or pain
10=Permanent disability (specify): _____
11=Other (specify): _____

Client's Last Name	Date of Birth
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Form T 7232-A
Page 7

69.1. What types of care have been required as a result of physical or sexual child abuse? (Code all that apply)

1=None	4=Emergency room	7=Counseling or psychotherapy
2=Home care	5=Hospitalization	
3=Doctor's care	6=Dental care	8=Other (specify): _____

70. Has child protective services (child welfare) ever been notified?

☐ 1=Yes
☐ 2=No

END PART II—BACKGROUND INFORMATION
RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS—Stop here for background information.

RESIDENTS—Complete Part III—Exit Interview, prior to leaving the shelter center.

NONRESIDENTS—Complete Part III—Exit Interview, within 30 days of eligibility determination or during client's last contact, whichever occurs first.

PART III—EXIT INTERVIEW

71. Date of Exit/Evaluation MO DAY YR	72. Client left without completing exit interview? 76 <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2=No	73. Completed by 77 <input type="checkbox"/> 1=Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Staff
74. Client Address (if different from that shown on the first page of this form)		75. Telephone No. (if different from first page)

76. May we contact you in the future to see how you are doing?

☐ 1=Yes
☐ 2=No At (address): _____ (telephone no.): _____

77. What living arrangements have you made? (Code only one)

☐ 1=Live on your own 4=Live with relatives
2=Return to spouse/partner 5=Undetermined
3=Live with friends 6=Other (specify): _____

78. Is batterer in counseling?

☐ 1=Yes
☐ 2=No
☐ 3=Don't know

78.1. If yes, did the shelter center provide or refer the batterer for counseling?

☐ 1=Yes
☐ 2=No

79. What is your present primary source of income?

☐ 1=None 4=AFDC 7=Spouse/partner
2=Job 5=SSI 8=Undetermined
3=Job training 6=Social Security/retirement 9=Other (specify): _____

80. If children are involved, what primary arrangements have you made for care of the children?

☐ 1=Self 4=Friend
2=Day care center 5=Baby sitter
3=Relative 6=Undetermined 7=Other (specify): _____

81. What is your primary means of transportation?

☐ 1=Own car
2=Public transportation
3=Friend/relative
4=Undetermined
5=Other (specify): _____
6=None

APPENDIX B
Abuse Assessment Inventory

Abuse Assessment Inventory

1. Length of shelter stay
2. All children living with woman admitted to shelter
 1. Yes
 2. No
3. Age of woman
4. Age of batterer
5. Number of children
6. Ages of children
7. Sex of children
 1. Male
 2. Female
8. Response to the question "what types of abuse where experienced?"
 1. Physical abuse
 2. Sexual abuse
 3. Verbal/emotional abuse
 4. 1, 2
 5. 1, 3
 6. 1, 2, 3
9. Ethnic origin of woman
10. Ethnic origin of batterer
11. Woman's highest level of education
 1. Less than 12 years
 2. H.S. or G.E.D.
 3. Vocational education
 4. College
12. Batterer's highest level of education
 1. Less than 12 years
 2. H.S. or G.E.D.
 3. Vocational education
 4. College

13. Economic dependence
 1. No source of income other than spouse
 2. AFDC, SSI, or other source of governmental support or totals of \$5000 or less
 3. Job training or total of \$5,000-\$10,000
 4. Total \$10,001-15,000
 5. Total \$15,001-20,000
 6. More than \$20,001
14. The relationship to the batterer
 1. Not married, not living together
 2. Divorced
 3. Separated
 4. Not married, living together
 5. Common law
 6. Married and living together
15. Length of marriage or relationship
 1. Less than one year
 2. 1-5 years
 3. 6-10 years
 4. 10 or more
16. Number of days since last battering incident
17. Severity of physical injuries
 1. None
 2. Bruises, sprains, bites
 3. Cuts, lacerations, burns, head injury
 5. Broken bones, internal bleeding, miscarriage
 6. Permanent disability
18. Verbal abuse
 1. Insulted you
 2. Threatened to sexually abuse you
 3. Threatened to physically hurt you or other
 4. Threatened to use object or weapon on you
 5. Threatened to kill you
19. Verbal abuse experienced after the abusive incident
 1. Silent treatment
 2. Apologized, promised that it wouldn't happen again
 3. Told you that you deserved the battering
 4. Denied battering incident or said you really weren't hurt
 5. Threatened to do it again

20. Sexual abuse
 1. Birth control or pregnancy related
 2. Forced acts with batterer
 3. Forced acts with another person
 4. Forced acts with objects
 5. Forced acts in presence of others
21. Length of abuse
 1. Never
 2. First time
 3. One to four weeks
 4. One to twelve months
 5. One to five years
 6. More than five years
22. Frequency of abuse within the past six months
 1. None
 2. Once
 3. Once a month or less
 4. 2 to 3 times a month
 5. Once a week
 6. 2 to 6 times a week
 7. Daily
23. Currently pregnant
 1. No
 2. Don't know/Maybe
 3. Yes
24. Abusive incident while pregnant
 1. Never Pregnant
 2. No
 3. Yes
25. Complications from abuse during pregnancy
 1. N/A
 2. No
 3. Don't know/currently pregnant
 4. Yes
26. Issues related to the violent or abusive incident
 1. Religion
 2. Unemployment, job pressures, or financial
 3. Conflicts with or about children, in-laws, others
 4. Jealousy
 5. Sexual problems
 6. Pregnancy
 7. Psychological problems

8. Alcohol or drug use
 9. Other
-
27. Violence against others besides woman
 1. Objects
 2. Woman's personal items
 3. Animals
 4. Others
 5. Children
 28. Immediately after abusive incidents, what response did the battered woman have?
 1. Called police, lawyer, or took legal action
 2. Called or visited a social service agency, hospital, therapist or shelter
 3. Left home
 4. Called or visited family, friend, minister/clergy, or other
 5. Became violent toward or threatened batterer
 6. Covered it up, prayed, went to room
 8. Attempted suicide
 29. What was the attitude of the police toward you?
 1. Sympathetic/supportive
 2. Neutral
 3. One hostile/one supportive
 4. Hostile/nonsupportive
 30. Alcohol or drug problems in woman
 1. No
 2. Yes
 31. Batterer has alcohol or drug problems
 1. No
 2. Don't know
 3. Yes
 32. Woman was physically abused as a child
 1. No
 2. Don't know/unsure
 3. Yes
 33. Batterer physically abused as a child
 1. No
 2. Don't know/unsure
 3. Yes

34. Woman was sexually abused as a child
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
35. Batterer sexually abused as a child
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
36. Abusive incidents between woman's parents
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
37. Abuse of the children
1. None
2. Verbal and emotional abuse
3. Physical and sexual
4. Both
5. N/A
38. Frequency of child abuse in past six months
1. Once
2. Once a month or less
3. Two to four times per month
4. Two to six times per week
5. Daily
6. Don't know
7. N/A
39. Living arrangements after leave shelter
1. Independent or live on own
2. Live with friends or relative
3. Undetermined
4. Return to spouse/partner
40. Is the batterer in counseling?
1. No
2. Don't know
3. Yes

41. Present primary source of income
1. None
 2. Spouse/partner
 3. AFDC, SSI, SS or other governmental support
 4. Child support
 5. New partner
 6. Family
 7. Job training
 8. Job

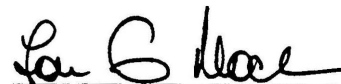
APPENDIX C
Approval Letter

Lou Ann Todd Mock, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Child Psychology Training
Baylor Psychology Clinical Internship Program
Cullen Bayou Place Outpatient Clinic
4815 Dickson
Houston, Texas 77007

Dear Ms. Wardell;

I have just talked to Ginger Miller and discovered that you have not been able to begin your research without a letter giving the Research Committee's approval. I must apologize for the lateness of this letter- I had understood from our telephone conversation that our verbal approval was sufficient, and thus procrastinated on providing what I thought was a formality. The research committee did, as you know, approve your research. I certainly hope that the delay has not made it impossible for you to carry out your project on types of abuse and the relationship to decisions women make to leave abusive relationships. We will look forward to hearing of the progress of your research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lou Ann Todd Mock", written over a horizontal line.

Lou Ann Todd Mock

APPENDIX D

Abuse Assessment Inventory's Derivation

Abuse Assessment Inventory (AAI) Source of Questions

AAI	Texas Department of Human Resources Form for Victims of Family Violence
1. Length of shelter stay	Date of exit (71) * (minus) Date (36).
2. All children living with woman admitted to shelter 1. Yes 2. No	How many children do you have? (23) (minus) Provide information about your children who are receiving resident care or nonresident shelter services (24).
3. Age of woman	Date of birth (11).
4. Age of batterer	Date of birth (21).
5. Number of children	How many children do you have? (23).
6. Ages of children	See #2 Provide information about your children (24).
7. Sex of children 1. Male 2. Female	See #2 Provide information (24).
8. Response to the question "what types of abuse were experienced" 1. Physical abuse 2. Sexual abuse 3. Verbal 4. 1, 2 5. 1, 3 6. 1, 2, 3	Which of the following types of abuse experienced? physical, verbal/emotional, sexual (25).
9. Ethnic origin of woman	What are your and the batterer's ethnic origin? (26).
10. Ethnic origin of batterer	See #9 AAI.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>11. Woman's highest level of education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less than 12 years 2. H.S. or G.E.D. 3. Vocational education 4. College | <p>What are the highest levels of education you and the batterer have completed? less than 12 years, H.S. or G.E.D., college, vocational education (27).</p> |
| <p>12. Batterer's highest level of education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less than 12 Years 2. H.S. or G.E.D. 3. Vocational education 4. College | <p>See #11 AAI.</p> |
| <p>13. Economic dependence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No source of income other than spouse 2. AFDC, SSI, or other source of governmental support or totals of \$5000 or less 3. Job training or total of \$5,000-\$10,000 4. Total \$10,001-15,000 5. Total \$15,001-20,000 6. More than \$20,001 | <p>What are your and batterer's primary source of income? None, job, job training, AFDC, SSI, Social Security/Retirement, spouse/partner, undetermined (29.A. Client). What are your and batterers individual yearly income? None, \$5,000 or less, \$5,001-\$10,000, \$10,001-15,000, \$15,001-20,000, \$20,001-25,000, more than 25,000, don't know (31.A.Client)</p> |
| <p>14. The relationship to the batterer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not married, not living together 2. Divorced 3. Separated 4. Not married, living together 5. Common law 6. Married and living together | <p>At the time of the last abusive incident what was your relationship to the batterer? married and living together, separated, divorced, not married & living together, not married & not living together, relative (33).</p> |
| <p>15. Length of marriage or relationship</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less than one year 2. 1-5 years 3. 6-10 years 4. 10 or more | <p>How long have you been in this marriage or current relationship? less than one year, 1 to 5 years, more than five (specify number) (34).</p> |

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>16. Number of days since last battering incident</p> | <p>How many days has it been since the last abusive incident between you and the batterer? (35).</p> |
| <p>17. Severity of physical injuries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None 2. Bruises, sprains, bites 3. Cuts, lacerations, burns, head injury 4. Broken bones, internal bleeding, miscarriage 5. Permanent disability | <p>What type of injuries have you received as a result of physical or sexual abuse from current batterer? none; bruises; cuts; sprains or dislocated joints; broken bones; head injuries; knots or concussion; teeth knocked out or broken; burns; internal bleeding or pain; miscarriage, permanent disability (42).</p> |
| <p>18. Verbal abuse</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personally insult you 2. Threatened to sexually abuse you 3. Threaten to physically hurt you or other 4. Threaten to use object or weapon on you 5. Threaten to kill you | <p>If you were verbally abused, which of the following happened? threatened to kill you, threatened to use weapon or object on you, threatened to physically hurt you, threatened to sexually abuse you, personally insulted you, threatened to harm your child or other family member, other (38).</p> |
| <p>19. Verbal abuse after the battering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Silent treatment 2. Apologized, promised it would not happen again 3. Told you deserved the battering 4. Denied battering incident or said you really weren't hurt 5. Threatened to do it again | <p>Immediately after the battering what has the batterer done? told you that you deserve it, apologized and promised it wouldn't happen again, denied it or said you really weren't hurt, other (48)</p> |
| <p>20. Sexual abuse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Birth control or pregnancy related 2. Forced acts with batterer 3. Forced acts with | <p>If you were sexually abused which of the following happened? forced acts with batterer only, forced acts with another person, forced acts with objects,</p> |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>another person</p> <p>4. Forced acts with objects</p> <p>5. Forced acts in presence others</p> | <p>other (39). AAI responses not mentioned in the Texas form are the result of selections in the other category.</p> |
| <p>21. Length of abuse</p> <p>1. Never</p> <p>2. First time</p> <p>3. One to four weeks</p> <p>4. One to twelve months</p> <p>5. One to five years</p> <p>6. More than five years</p> | <p>How long has abuse been happening? first time, one to four weeks, one to 12 months, one to five years, more than five years (40).</p> |
| <p>22. Frequency of abuse within the past six months</p> <p>1. None</p> <p>2. Once</p> <p>3. Once a month or less</p> <p>4. 2 to 3 times a week</p> <p>5. Once a week</p> <p>6. 2 to 6 times a week</p> <p>7. Daily</p> | <p>Within the past six months, how many times have you been abused? only once, once a month or less, two to three times a month, once a week, two to six times a week, daily (41).</p> |
| <p>23. Currently pregnant</p> <p>1. No</p> <p>2. Don't know/maybe</p> <p>3. Yes</p> | <p>Are you currently pregnant? yes, no, don't know/maybe (44).</p> |
| <p>24. Abusive incident while pregnant:</p> <p>1. Never Pregnant</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. Yes</p> | <p>Has an abusive incident happened while pregnant? yes, no, never pregnant (45).</p> |
| <p>25. Complications from abuse during pregnancy</p> <p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. Don't know/currently pregnant</p> <p>4. Yes</p> | <p>If yes, did it cause complications with the pregnancy and/or with your baby? yes, no, don't know/currently pregnant (45).</p> |
| <p>26. Issues related to the violent or abusive incident</p> <p>1. Religion</p> <p>2. Unemployment, job pressures, or financial</p> | <p>Which of the follwing have been related to the violent or abusive incident? alcohol use, drug use, unemployment, job pressures, financial or money problems,</p> |

3. Conflicts with or about children, inlaws, others
 4. Jealousy
 5. Sexual problems
 6. Pregnancy
 7. Psychological problems
 8. Alcohol or drug use
 9. Other
- response to pregnancy, conflicts about or with children, conflicts about or with in-laws or other family members, jealousy, sexual problems, other (46).
-
27. Violence against others besides woman
 1. Objects
 2. Woman's personal items
 3. Animals
 4. Himself
 5. Others
 6. Children

In general, has the batterer been violent toward any of the following? only you, animals, children, objects, himself/herself, your personal belongings, other people outside the home (47).
-
28. Immediately after abusive incidents, what response did the battered woman have?
 1. Called police, lawyer, or took legal action
 2. Called or visited a social service agency, hospital, therapist or shelter
 3. Left home
 4. Called or visited family, friend, minister/clergy, or other
 5. Became violent toward or threatened batterer
 6. Covered it up, prayed, went to room
 7. Attempted suicide

In general, immediately after abusive incidents, what have you done? left home, called police, called lawyer, took legal action, called a social service agency other than a shelter, visited a social service agency other than a shelter, called a shelter, visited shelter, attempted suicide, became violent toward or threatened batterer, covered it up, called a friend, called family, contacted minister or clergy, other (49).
-
29. What was the attitude of the police toward you?
 1. Sympathetic/supportive
 2. Neutral
 3. One hostile/one supportive
 4. Hostile/nonsupportive

The last time the police arrived during or after an abusive incident what was their attitude or behavior toward you and the batterer? sympathetic/supportive, neutral, hostile/non-supportive (51).

30. Alcohol or drug problems in woman
1. No
2. Yes
Do you or the batterer have any alcohol-related problems? yes, no, don't know/unsure (56.A.Client)
31. Batterer has alcohol or drug problems
1. No
2. Don't know
3. Yes
See #28 (56.B.Batterer)
32. Woman physically abused as a child
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
Were you or the batterer physically abused as a child? yes, no, don't know/unsure (58.A.Client)
33. Batterer physically abused as a child
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
See #30 (58.B.Batterer)
34. Woman sexually abused as a child
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
Were you or the batterer sexually abused as a child? yes, no, don't know/unsure (59.A.Client).
35. Batterer sexually abused as a child
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
See #32. (59.B.Batterer).
36. Abusive incidents between woman's parents
1. No
2. Don't know/unsure
3. Yes
Did abusive incidents happen between your or the batterer's parents while you were growing up? yes, no, don't know/unsure (61.A.Client).
37. Abuse of the children:
1. None
2. Verbal & emotional abuse
3. Physical & sexual
4. Both
5. N/A
Have any of the children ever been victims of any of the following types of abuse or neglect? none, verbal/emotional, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect (66).

38. Frequency of child abuse in past six months
1. Once
 2. Once a month or less
 3. Two to four times per month
 4. Two to six times per week
 5. Daily
 6. N/A
- Within the past six months, how often has physical or sexual child abuse happen? only once, once a month or less, two to three times a month, once a week, two to six times a week, daily (67).
39. Living arrangements after leave shelter
1. Independent or live on own
 2. Live with friends or relative
 3. Undecided
 4. Return to spouse/partner
- What living arrangements have you made? live on your own, return to spouse/partner, live with friends, live with relatives, undetermined, other (77).
40. Is the batterer in counseling?
1. No
 2. Don't know
 3. Yes
- Is batterer in counseling? yes, no, don't know (78).
41. Present primary source of income
1. None
 2. Spouse/partner
 3. AFDC, SSI, SS or other governmental support
 4. Child support
 5. New partner
 6. Family
 7. Job training
 8. Job
- What is your primary source of income? none, job, job training, AFDC, SSI, Social Security/retirement, spouse/partner, undetermined, other (79). AAI responses not mentioned on the Texas form are due to selections in the other category.
- * Number of question on the Texas Department of Human Resources Form for Victims of Family Violence (1983).