

# *The Criminologist*

The Official Newsletter of the American Society of Criminology

Vol. 24, No. 3

May/June 1999

## **Prevalence and Incidence of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey**

**Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes**

Center for Policy Research

This article presents findings from the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey on the prevalence and incidence of violence against U.S. women. The survey, which was sponsored jointly by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), consists of telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 8,000 U.S. women. To provide a context in which to place women's experiences with violence, the survey also sampled 8,000 U.S. men. However, only women's experiences with violent victimization are discussed in this article.<sup>1</sup>

### **Survey Methods**

The survey was conducted by interviewers at Schulman, Ronca, Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI) during November 1995 to May 1996. The national sample was drawn by random-digit-dialing from households with a telephone in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The sample was administered by U.S. Census region. Within each region, a simple random sample of working residential "hundreds banks" of phone numbers was drawn. (A hundreds bank is the first eight digits of any 10-digit telephone number.) A randomly generated two-digit number was appended to each randomly sampled hundreds bank to produce the full 10-digit, random-digit number. Separate banks of numbers were generated for male and female respondents. These random-digit numbers were called by SRBI interviewers from their central telephone facility, where non-working and non-residential numbers were screened out. Once a residential household was reached, eligible adults

were identified. In households with more than one eligible adult, the adult with the most recent birthday was selected as the designated respondent.

Respondents to the survey were queried about:

- Physical assault they experienced as children at the hands of adult caretakers.
- Physical assault they experienced as adults by all types of perpetrators.
- Forcible rape and stalking they experienced at any time in their life by any type of perpetrator.

Respondents who disclosed victimization were asked detailed questions about the characteristics and consequences of their victimization, including number and type of perpetrators, frequency and duration of the violence, injuries sustained, use of medical and mental health services, involvement with the justice system, and time lost from routine activities, such as work, school, recreation, household chores, and volunteer endeavors.

The specific questions used to screen respondents for rape, physical assault, and stalking victimization were behaviorally specific and were designed to leave little doubt in the respondent's mind as to what was being measured. Detailed information about the characteristics and consequences of victimization for each type of perpetrator testidentified by the respondents was gathered. While this approach created a very complicated

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## AROUND THE ASC

**GARY CORDNER** has been named Dean of Eastern Kentucky University's College of Law Enforcement. A 23 year law enforcement veteran, who has served as acting Dean of the College since December 1997, Cordner heads an EKU academic program that received a major boost last year when it was approved by the Council on Postsecondary as a Capital Justice Program of Distinction.

A native of Baltimore, Md., Cordner joined the EKU faculty in 1987. He began his law enforcement career as a police officer in Ocean City, Md., in 1973 and later served three years as police chief in St. Michaels, Md. In the early 1980s, he helped Baltimore County, Maryland, develop a repeat offender program and evaluate a community policing program. He also has worked on projects with the Lexington Division of Police, the Jefferson County Police Department, the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas and Abt Associates.

Cordner has authored two grant proposals that brought over \$1.7 million to the College of Law Enforcement from the U.S. Department of Justice to design and deliver community policing training in Kentucky and establish a Regional Community Policing Institute at EKU.

Cordner, the president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, also has served as co-editor or co-author of seven policing textbooks and is the editor of *Police Quarterly* and a Senior Research Fellow with the Police Executive Research Forum.

Cordner earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northeastern University in 1974 and his master's in criminal justice and doctorate in social science from Michigan State University in 1978 and 1980, respectively.

## The Criminologist

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## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

**Justice Studies Association, First Annual Meeting**, June 2-3, Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH, "The Next Wave of Restorative Justice or Just Community?" For additional information, contact Justice Studies Association, Criminal Justice Department, c/o Peter Cordella, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, NH 03102.

**The International Conference on Migration, Culture and Crime** will be held in Israel, July 5-8, 1999, at the conference facilities of Kibbutz Maale'Hamisha, near Jerusalem, under the auspices of the International Society of Criminology, the International Society of Victimology, the Israeli Ministry of Science, the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, and the Department of Criminology at the Western Galilee College. You may contact us via e-mail or airmail: Prof. Shlomo G. Shoham, The Buchman Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel, shoham@post.tau.ac.il.

**Sixth International Police Executive Symposium**, July 13-16, 1999, "An International Perspective on Policing of Public Order". For participation please contact: Professor D. K. Das, 23 Carolanne Drive, Delmar, NY 12054. Tel: 518475-1189; Fax 518-45-0078.

**OJJDP - The Second National Youth Gang Symposium**, "Youth Gangs and Violence: A Balanced Approach for the Future", July 27-30, 1999 - Las Vegas, NV. For more information, call 1-800-446-0912, ext. 285 or 259, or visit <http://www.irr.com/nygc/symposium.htm>.

**The First International Conference on Crime & Public Policy** in the Pacific Rim will be held August 18-21, 1999 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco, California. Proposals for presentations should be sent to James Poland, Criminal Justice Division, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6085. For more information and a brochure, please call (916) 278-4433 x200, (916) 278-4602 FAX, or e-mail [fongl@csus.edu](mailto:fongl@csus.edu)

**XVIth International Congress on Penal Law**, September 5-11, 1999, Budapest, Hungary, "Criminal Justice Systems Facing the Challenge of Organized Crime". For additional information contact: AIDP'99 H-1250 Budapest, P.O.B. 25 Hungary.

**National Council on Family Relations 61st Annual Conference**, "Borders, Boundaries, and Beacons: Diverse Families in Dynamic Societies", November 12-14, 1999, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Irvine, CA. Contact the NCFR headquarters: 1-800-781-9331; email: [ncfr3989@ncfr.org](mailto:ncfr3989@ncfr.org)

## ASC CODE OF ETHICS

For the past several years, the Ethical Issues Committee of the ASC has been working on a Code of Ethics for the American Society of Criminology. Many other professional associations have adopted such documents; indeed, the document that has been produced was fashioned after the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association.

The value of adopting a Code of Ethics is not simply having the option to enforce it. The Ethical Issues Committee views the most significant aspect of having an ethics code as the educational benefit. It will provide a tool to socialize our graduate students and young professionals about responsible and ethical conduct in criminology.

THE PROPOSED ASC CODE OF ETHICS IS NOW BEING PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP FOR YOUR REVIEW AND COMMENTS! We will be collecting members' responses regarding the draft code. (This is the third announcement in the newsletter.) The Committee will then discuss any revisions and the Code of Ethics will be put to the full membership for a vote. The proposed Code of Ethics is located on the ASC website, [www.asc41.com](http://www.asc41.com), or contact Sarah Hall for a paper copy. If you would like to comment on the Code of Ethics, please send your responses to:

Angela Browne, Chair  
ASC Ethical Issues Committee  
Harvard Injury Control Research Center  
Harvard School of Public Health  
677 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
[abrowne@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:abrowne@hsph.harvard.edu)  
617/432-4892; FAX 617/432-4494

## TORONTO PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

From the Program Chair:

I am pleased to report that the 1999 preliminary program is on schedule and will be available on the ASC's web site, [www.asc41.com](http://www.asc41.com). We expect the program to be on the web by this June. I want to thank the Program Committee, Sarah Hall, and the ASC staff in the Columbus Office for their hard work in helping to develop the program on schedule.

For those who have submitted paper/abstracts for presentation, you should have all received letters of acceptance. Please check to make sure that the information listed is correct. Any corrections should be sent directly to the ASC's Columbus office.

Please be aware that non-Canadians who will be attending the meeting will need a passport or a certified copy of their birth certificate in order to clear Canadian customs.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Toronto.

Simon I. Singer  
1999 ASC Program Chair

(Continued from page 1)

data set, it also created the opportunity to track victimizations by the same perpetrator (e.g., the victim's first ex-husband).

Because of the sensitive nature of the survey, state-of-the-art techniques were used to protect the confidentiality of the information being sought and to minimize the potential for retraumatizing victims of violence and jeopardizing the safety of respondents:

- Respondents were given a toll-free number to call to verify the legitimacy of the survey or to respond to the survey at a later date. Respondents were also told to use this number should they need to hang up suddenly during the interview.
- Only female interviewers were used to interview female respondents. (To measure the possible effects of interviewer gender on male responses to survey questions, a split sample approach was used in the male sample whereby half the respondents were interviewed by male interviewers and half by female interviewers.)
- Interviewers were instructed to schedule a callback interview if they thought someone was listening to the interview on another line or was simply in the room with the respondent.
- Because of concern that some victims of violence may experience emotional trauma as a result of the interview, interviewers were provided with telephone numbers of rape crisis and domestic violence hotline numbers from around the country. If a respondent showed signs of distress, he or she was provided with an appropriate hotline referral.

## Findings

**Prevalence and incidence of rape.** Using a definition of rape that includes forced vaginal, oral, and anal sex,<sup>2</sup> the survey found that 17.6 percent of surveyed women reported that they were victims of a completed or attempted rape at some time in their lifetime (see Table 1, page 17). While relatively few women (2.8 percent) reported that they were victims of an attempted rape only, 14.8 percent reported that they were victims of a completed rape. These findings suggest that most rapists succeed in penetrating their victims.

Lifetime rape prevalence estimates generated by the NVAW Survey are consistent with comparable estimates generated by two previous national surveys: The National Health and Social Life Survey found that 22 percent of surveyed women had been *forced to do some-*

*thing sexual* at some time in their life,<sup>3</sup> while The National Women's Study found that 13 percent of surveyed women had been victims of a *completed forcible rape* at some time in their life.<sup>4</sup>

The NVAW Survey also found that 0.3 percent of all women surveyed said they were raped in the 12 months preceding the survey. Based on 1995 U.S. Census estimates, 302,091 women are forcibly raped each year in the United States. Because some women were raped more than once, the *incidence* of rape (number of separate victimizations) exceeded the *prevalence* of rape (number of victims). Specifically, women who were raped in the previous 12 months averaged 2.9 rapes. Thus 876,064 rapes were perpetrated against women in the 12 months preceding the survey (see Table 2, page 18). This estimate probably underestimates the true number of rapes that are perpetrated against U.S. women annually because they exclude attempted or completed rapes that were perpetrated against women who were homeless or living in institutions, group facilities, or phoneless households.

The annual rape victimization estimate for women generated by the NVAW Survey is higher than a comparable estimate generated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS estimate for 1994 – the most recent year for which estimates are available – is 432,100 rape or sexual assaults (e.g., grabbing, fondling, and verbal threats of a sexual nature) of female Americans age 12 and older.<sup>5</sup>

### Prevalence and incidence of physical assault.

Using a modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale<sup>6</sup> to query respondents about a wide range of physical assaults they may have experienced as children at the hands of adult caretakers (e.g., parents, stepparents, legal guardians) and as adults at the hands of other adults, the survey found that 51.9 percent of the surveyed women said they were physically assaulted at sometime in their lifetime.

The most frequently reported physical assault was slapping and hitting, followed by pushing, grabbing, and shoving, and hitting with an object. Relatively few women reported that an adult caretaker or other adult pulled their hair or threw something that could hurt. Still fewer reported that an adult caretaker or other adult choked or almost drowned them, kicked or bit them, beat them up, threatened them with a gun or knife, or used a gun or knife on them. Because no other study has examined women's lifetime experiences with physical assault, information from the NVAW Survey fills a serious gap in the research literature on violent

(Continued on page 13)

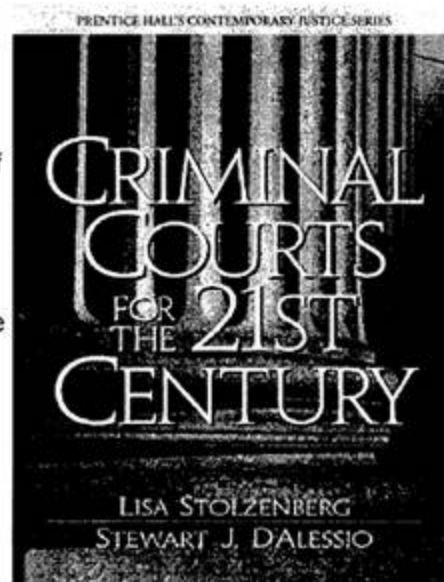


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## Security Journal

The new *Security Journal* is the world's premier refereed journal in the field of security. The journal provides a forum for the debate and analysis of key issues within the field of security management.

In addition to peer reviewed articles highlighting the latest research findings on all aspects of security management, the journal also includes an incisive reviews section and a personal opinion section giving informed comment on key issues. Subjects covered include all kinds of crimes affecting the business sector from robbery to fraud and counterfeiting; to analysis of different types of security measures and initiatives to papers on different aspects of private policing.

The journal is co-edited by Professor Bonnie Fisher of the University of Cincinnati, USA and Dr Martin Gill of the University of Leicester, UK. If you would like to submit a paper please contact either Professor Bonnie Fisher on: (513) 556 5827, email: [Bonnie.Fisher@uc.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Fisher@uc.edu) or Dr Martin Gill on: [mg26@le.ac.uk](mailto:mg26@le.ac.uk). Assistant editor John Eck can be contacted on: (513) 556 5833, email: [john.eck@uc.edu](mailto:john.eck@uc.edu). Further details on the *Security Journal* are available from the publishers:

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## Crime Prevention and Community Safety: An International Journal

*Crime Prevention and Community Safety: An International Journal* is a distinctive new journal just launched by Perpetuity Press and is edited by Professor Rob Mawby. The aim of the journal is to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience, to promote good practice and to help identify successful strategies for crime prevention and community safety. Papers will introduce new approaches, re-evaluate traditional theories and methods, and report on the latest research and policy initiatives. Articles cover all aspects of crime prevention and harm reduction in an international context.

In addition to peer reviewed articles on crime prevention and community safety the journal includes two innovative regular features. In the first of these, 'Surfing the crime net', Dan Gilling and colleagues highlight recent crime prevention material available on the internet and provide tips on how to access it. Secondly, in our regular 'A letter from...' column, specially invited guest experts critique recent legislation in their own country. Under the guidance of Dr Anthea Hucklesby the journal also includes incisive book reviews.

The journal is edited by Professor Rob Mawby from the University of Plymouth. Those wishing to submit a paper should contact Professor Rob Mawby on: +44 (0) 1752 233 208, email: [RMawby@plym.ac.uk](mailto:RMawby@plym.ac.uk). Those wishing to submit an item for review are requested to send a copy to the reviews editor, Dr Anthea Hucklesby at the University of Leicester, who can be contacted on: +44 (0) 116 252 3947, email: [alh8@le.ac.uk](mailto:alh8@le.ac.uk).

Further details on *Crime Prevention and Community Safety: An International Journal* are available from the publishers, Perpetuity Press, PO Box 376, Leicester. LE2 3ZZ, UK. Tel: +44(0)0116 270 4186, Fax: +44 (0)116 270 7742 ([email:info@perpetuitypress.co.uk](mailto:info@perpetuitypress.co.uk)).

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CRIMINOLOGIST will regularly feature in these columns position vacancies available in organizations and universities, as well as positions sought by members of the Society.

A charge of \$50 for up to 125 words and \$10 for each additional 25 words will be made. The charge will be waived for institutional members of ASC.

**It is the policy of the ASC to publish position vacancies announcements only from those institutions or agencies which subscribe to equal education and employment opportunities and those which encourage women and minorities to apply.**

Institutions should indicate the **deadline** for the submission of application materials. The Professional Employment Exchange will be a regular feature at each Annual Meeting. Prospective employers and employees should register with the Society no later than three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Society. Appropriate forms may be obtained by writing to the ASC offices in Columbus, Ohio.

To place announcements in THE CRIMINOLOGIST, send all material to: Sarah Hall, ASC, 1314 Kinnear Road, Suite 214, Columbus, OH 43212. Telephone (614)292-9207, Fax (614)292-6767.

When sending announcements, please include a phone number, fax number and contact person in the event we have questions about an ad. The deadline for the July/August issue is **June 1, 1999**.

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY** invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program. The position will involve teaching courses in the criminology and criminal justice curriculum as well as introductory sociology and possibly other sociology courses. The successful candidate should have a specialization in one or more of the following areas: corrections, policing and/or criminal law. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in sociology. Salary is competitive. Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications from women and minorities are especially encouraged. Auburn University is Alabama's largest public university, with an enrollment of more than 22,000 students. The Criminology and Criminal Justice program, is a recently restructured program located in the Department of Sociology. The program will consist of six full-time faculty and will serve 200 majors. Review of applications will begin May 31, 1999. Applications received after that date will be considered only if the program has not yet developed a short list of candidates for the position. To apply, send curriculum vitae, the names of three references, and any other appropriate materials TO: Thomas A. Petee, Director of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Department of Sociology, 7030 Haley Center, Auburn University, AL 36849-5209.

**BALL STATE UNIVERSITY.** Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Assistant Professor tenure-track position available August 20, 1999. Responsibilities: teaching courses in criminal justice and criminology, including research methods and data analysis; pursuing scholarly research and publications in relevant areas of interest; participating in local, state, and national organizations, agencies, and institutions in the criminal justice field; actively contribute to the intellectual and professional life of the department. **Minimum qualifications:** Ph.D. in criminal justice, criminology, or sociology; evidence of at least one-year of teaching at college or university level and ability to teach research methods and data analysis; evidence of scholarly work. **Preferred qualification:** teaching specialization to include policing. Send letter of application; vita; transcripts, names and addresses of three references; student and peer teaching evaluations; and publications, presentations, or other examples of scholarly work to: Chair, Search Committee, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. ([www.bsu.edu](http://www.bsu.edu)). Ball State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY** The Crime, Law, and Justice

Program (CLJ) at University Park invites applications for two or more fixed-term lecturers to begin Fall 1999. These positions are intended for "master teachers" who can cover a variety of undergraduate courses, including some combination of the following: introduction to criminal justice, corrections, law and society, juvenile justice, sexual violence, and women in the criminal justice system. The positions carry 3-3 loads and renewable 3-year contracts at a competitive (assistant professor-level) salary. Candidates should have the Ph.D. in hand or should expect to complete the Ph.D. by the time of the appointment. They should also be strongly committed to excellence in classroom instruction.

CLJ is a multidisciplinary unit within the Department of Sociology that offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. Faculty members' work spans a broad range of topics in criminology and criminal justice and is enhanced by the presence of a research institute (the Center for Research on Crime and Justice) and a state agency (the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission) located on campus. The CLJ undergraduate program is among the most popular in the College of the Liberal Arts, with over 600 majors enrolled annually.

To apply for one of the CLJ lecturer positions, please send curriculum vitae, teaching portfolio (including statements of teaching interests, sample syllabi, and student evaluations of previous courses), and three letters of reference to the CLJ Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University, Box FT-2, University Park, PA 16802. Applications received by May 31, 1999 will receive full consideration; however, all applications will be considered until the positions are filled. AA/EOE.

**UCLA DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH CENTER** — Project Director, Criminal Justice Treatment Evaluations. The Center is seeking an M.A. or Ph.D.-level researcher to direct one or more projects concerned with evaluating drug treatment programs for criminal justice populations. Duties include developing and implementing evaluation designs, data collection protocols, human subjects protection materials, and data analysis plans; man-



aging data collection and analysis activities; supervising research support staff; maintaining productive relationships with project stakeholders; assisting in preparing project reports and publications; and participating in funding proposals. Applicants should have a degree in Criminology, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, or related field, and experience in managing evaluation projects (including staff supervision, planning, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, documenting project activities) and in data analysis and report writing. Knowledge of research and clinical literature on substance abuse and correctional treatment and experience in working with substance abusers or offenders are highly desirable. Salary: \$44,000-\$54,000. Send a letter of application discussing experience and career goals and a detailed resume to: Becky Beckham, UCLA Drug Abuse Research Center, 1640 Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (310/445-0874 or FAX 310-473-7885). UCLA is an equal opportunity employer.

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA** The Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice invites applications for the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice for 1999-2000 school year, to begin in August, 1999 (contingent upon budgetary approval).

The successful candidate should have an earned doctorate in Criminology, Criminal Justice or closely related social science discipline and/or a J.D. degree, though ABD status may be acceptable. The candidate must be able to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in law enforcement and/or courts and law, with preference being given to applicants who can teach *both*.

Preference will also be given to applicants with demonstrated experience in these areas, as well as evidence of excellence in college level teaching.

The University of North Florida is a growing institution with more than 11,500 students located in Jacksonville, Florida. The department offers BA and MS degrees in Criminal Justice, a BA degree in Sociology, and is undertaking plans to develop an applied masters program in sociology plus a BA program in

anthropology. The normal teaching load for visiting faculty is four courses per semester, with limited expectations regarding service. There may be possibilities for summer teaching.

Please send a curriculum vitae, photocopy of your transcript showing your highest earned degree, and a letter describing your teaching interests and experience. If available, include sample course syllabi (particularly for law enforcement and courts courses), and recent teaching evaluations. In addition, please have three letters of recommendation forwarded directly to us.

Postmark deadline for completed applications is June 15, 1999. Please send all materials to: Chair of the Criminal Justice Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL 32224. UNF is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. Individuals who require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the application process must notify Professor Eddie L. Collins, Jr., Interim Chair, Department of SACJ, UNF (904-620-2850), a minimum of five working days in advance.

### *Kentucky Justice & Safety Research Bulletin*

**Published by the Justice & Safety Research Center  
College of Law Enforcement, Eastern Kentucky University**

#### **"A Program of Distinction"**

Eastern Kentucky University's Justice & Safety Program of Distinction was established in 1998 in the College of Law Enforcement. The *Kentucky Justice & Safety Research Bulletin* series is a major scholarly product of this initiative. The purpose of the series is to contribute ideas, findings, and debates that blend the academic and applied aspects of justice and safety so that public discussion and policy formulation are enhanced. The series seeks to provide relevant, timely, accurate, and balanced information about topics that are of widespread concern across Kentucky, the nation, and indeed the world.

The inaugural issue of the *Bulletin* was published in January 1999. Titles of subsequent issues that have been published (or are scheduled for publication) by college faculty are listed below. Each issue is refereed by the nine-member Justice & Safety Research Center Advisory Committee and published under the editorship of the Center's Director.

- \* "Kentucky's Response to the Lautenberg Act: Curbing Domestic Violence Among Police Officers"
- \* "The Appalachia HIDTA: Drug Enforcement in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia"
- \* "Violent Crime in Kentucky"
- \* "SWAT in the Commonwealth: The State of High-Risk Policing in Kentucky and the Nation"
- \* "The Effects of Getting Touch on Juvenile Crime"
- \* "Ethical Code of Conduct for the Safety and Loss Prevention Profession"

Text of issues in the series may be accessed electronically at [www.len.eku.edu](http://www.len.eku.edu). Please feel free to print and distribute the *Bulletin* as needed.



## New from Anderson Publishing

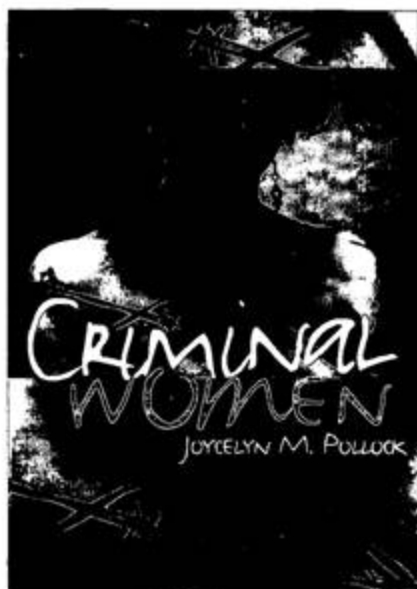
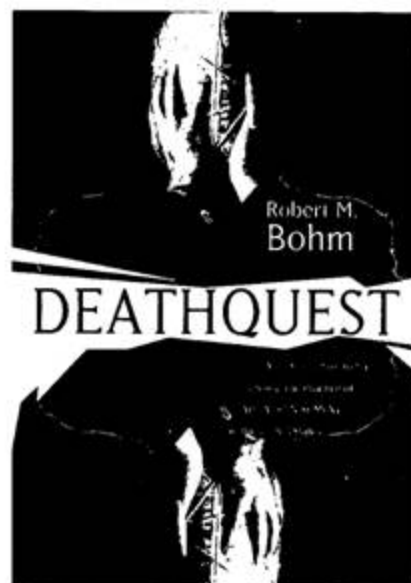
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Robert M. Bohm

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# ASC CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ASC Nominations Committee announces the call for nominations from the membership for the election slate of officers for 1999. Positions for election include President-Elect, Vice President-Elect, and two Executive Counselors.

Please use the nominations form. All nominations should be received by September 15, 1999, and should be sent to the address below. To assure that your nominee gets full consideration by the Committee, please attach a resume summary of one or two paragraphs to the nominations form.

## 1999 ASC NOMINATIONS

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(Continued from page 4)

victimization.

The NVAW Survey also found that 1.9 percent of surveyed women said they were physically assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey. This estimate equates to about 1.9 million women who are physically assaulted annually in the United States. Because women who were physically assaulted in the 12 months preceding the survey averaged 3.1 assaults, there were about 5.9 million physical assaults perpetrated against women in the 12 months preceding the survey (see Table 2, page 18). This estimate probably underestimates the number of physical assaults perpetrated against U.S. women annually because the NVAW Survey categorized victimizations involving both rape and physical assault only as rape, and because it excludes women who were homeless or living in institutions, group facilities, or phoneless households.

The annual physical assault victimization estimate for women generated by the NVAW Survey is greater than a comparable NCVS estimate. The NCVS estimate for 1994 is 4.1 million simple and aggravated assaults of women age 12 and older.<sup>7</sup>

**Prevalence and incidence of stalking.** Using a definition of stalking that requires victims to feel a high level of fear,<sup>8</sup> the NVAW Survey found that stalking is much more prevalent than previously thought: 8.1 percent of surveyed women said they were stalked at some time in their life (see Table 1, page 17), while 1 percent of surveyed women said they were stalked in the 12 months preceding the survey (see Table 2, page 18). Thus, about 1 million women are stalked annually in the United States. This figure probably underestimates the true number of women who are stalked each year in the United States because it excludes women who were not residing in residences with telephones. (Because stalking by definition involves repeated acts of harassment and intimidation, the *incidence* of stalking is equivalent to the *prevalence* of stalking.)

If a less stringent definition of stalking is used – one requiring victims to feel only somewhat frightened or a little frightened by their assailant's behavior – stalking prevalence rates for women increase dramatically. Specifically, the lifetime stalking prevalence rate for women increases from 8 percent to 12 percent and the annual stalking prevalence rate increases from 1 to 6 percent. Based on these higher prevalence estimates, approximately 12.1 million women are stalked at some time in their life and about 6 million women are stalked annually.

Prior to the NVAW Survey, information on

stalking prevalence was limited to guesses provided by forensic specialists and mental health professionals based on their work with known stalkers. The most frequently cited "guesstimates" of stalking prevalence were made by forensic psychiatrist Park Dietz, who in 1992 reported that 5 percent of U.S. women are stalked at some time in their life and approximately 200,000 U.S. women are stalked each year.<sup>9</sup> The NVAW Survey estimate that 8.1 percent of U.S. women have been stalked at some time in their life is 1.6 times greater than Dietz's earlier, nonscientific estimate, and the survey's estimate that 1,006,970 U.S. women are stalked annually is five times greater.

**Violence experienced in childhood and adolescence.** The NVAW Survey provides compelling evidence that violence starts at an early age for many women in the United States. Forty percent of surveyed women said they were physically assaulted as a child by an adult caretaker, 9 percent said they were raped before the age of 18 by any type of perpetrator, and 0.9 percent said they were stalked before the age of 18 by any type of perpetrator. Thus, nearly half of all women surveyed (43.4 percent) said they were raped, physically assaulted and/or stalked as a child or adolescent (see Table 1, page 17). This figure probably underestimates the extent of violence experienced by female respondents in childhood and adolescence because it excludes physical assaults they experienced before the age of 18 at the hands of strangers, acquaintances, intimates, and relatives other than adult caretakers.

**Victim-perpetrator relationship.** Results from the survey confirm previous reports that U.S. women tend to be victimized by intimates.<sup>10</sup> Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of the women who were raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked since the age of 18 were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date or boyfriend. In comparison, 16.4 percent of these women were victimized by an acquaintance, such as a friend, neighbor, or co-worker; 14.6 percent were victimized by a stranger; and 6.4 percent were victimized by a relative other than a spouse (see Table 3, page 18).

## Conclusions

Data from the NVAW Survey provide convincing evidence that violence against women is pervasive in the United States. More than half of all surveyed women reported being physically assaulted as a child by an adult

(Continued on page 14)

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Talks are underway with prospective guest editors for each above title. Individuals interested in authoring a chapter in any of these titles or in being a guest editor of additional titles are encouraged to contact the series editor: M.L. Dantzer, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Texas Pan American, 1201 W. University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78539, 956/381-2967, mldantz@panam.edu or mldantz@hiline.net

(Continued from page 12)

caretaker and/or as an adult by another adult; nearly one-fifth reported being raped at some time in their lives; and nearly a tenth reported being stalked at some time in their lives. Further, 3 percent of surveyed women reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked in the 12 months preceding the survey. This equates to about 3 million women who are raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked annually in the United States. Because some rape and physical assault victims experience multiple victimization, the number of victimizations perpetrated against women is even greater.

Results from the NVAW Survey also confirm previous reports that violence against women is primarily intimate partner violence. Regardless of the type of violence considered, women who reported being victimized since the age of 18 were most often victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date or boyfriend.

Information generated by the NVAW Survey also validates opinions held by many professionals that the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) consistently underestimates the amount of crime perpetrated against U.S. women. Annual rape and physical assault victimization rates generated by the NVAW Survey exceed comparable estimates generated by the NCVS despite the fact the NVAW Survey estimates are based on reports of victimizations occurring against women 18 years of age and older while the NCVS estimates are based on reports of victimizations occurring against women 12 years of age and older. (Because the NCVS does not currently measure stalking victimization, it is not possible to compare stalking victimization estimates generated by the NVAW Survey with those generated by the NCVS.)

It should be noted, however, that direct comparisons between the two surveys are difficult to make because they differ substantially with respect to several methodological issues. First, screening questions used by the two surveys differ substantially. For example, the NVAW Survey uses five questions to screen respondents for rape victimization, while the NCVS uses only two questions. Although empirical data on this issue are limited, some researchers speculate that increasing the number of screening questions increases disclosure rates.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the NVAW Survey screening questions are more explicit than those used by the NCVS.

In addition, published NCVS estimates count series victimizations – reports of six or more crimes within a 6-month period for which the respondent cannot recall details of each crime – as a single victimization. Thus, published NCVS estimates of the number of rape/sexual assault and physical assault victimizations are lower than would be obtained by including all incidents reported to its survey interviewers. To produce NCVS estimates for direct comparison

with NVAW Survey estimates, each crime in a series of victimizations reported to the NCVS interviewers would have to be counted separately.

Finally, the sampling errors associated with the estimates from the NVAW Survey and the NCVS would have to be compared. This is important given the relatively high margin of error associated with NVAW Survey estimates of the average number of rapes experienced by female victims annually (see **footnote b in Table 2, page 18**). Comparisons of sampling errors would help determine whether the estimates are actually different or whether apparent differences are not statistically significant. A study now under way and funded by NIJ, BJS, and CDC will provide more comprehensive information about the differences between the two surveys, including error ranges of the estimates.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PATRICIA TJADEN and NANCY THOENNES**

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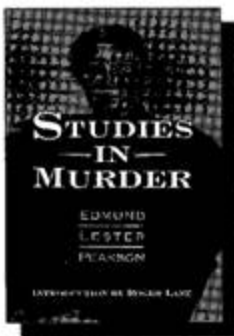


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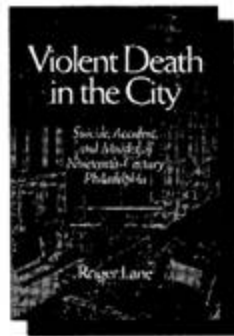


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## DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGY

### D.I.C. AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Deadline for copy for the Autumn newsletter will be **September 1**. We would very much like to include information about research programs in your country. Please send 500 word articles to: [matti.joutsen@om.vn.fi](mailto:matti.joutsen@om.vn.fi)

### D.I.C. TORONTO

The Division on International Criminology will be hosting a luncheon in Toronto, so plan on joining us for this event. Early booking helps our planning! See you in Toronto.

Elizabeth Stanko, Chair

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## DIVISION ON PEOPLE OF COLOR AND CRIME

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Division on People of Color and Crime is requesting nominations for the office of Chair, Secretary and Executive Counselor. **The deadline for submitting nominations is June 30, 1999.** Send all nominations and supporting documentation to:

Ruth D. Peterson  
Department of Sociology  
The Ohio State University  
300 Bricker Hall, 190 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

### D.P.C. FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

The deadline to submit Division News for the Fall/Winter issue is September 30, 1999. I encourage Division members to submit newsworthy items. You can email Julius Debro at [jdebro@u.washington.edu](mailto:jdebro@u.washington.edu). Ruth Peterson's email address is [peterson.5@osu.edu](mailto:peterson.5@osu.edu). We appreciate your support.

Chinita A. Heard, Chair

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## DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME

### 1999 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The Division on Women and Crime announces its 1999 Student Paper Competition, which is intended to encourage excellent student writing on matters of feminist scholarship, gender issues, or about women as offenders, victims, or professionals. Any student currently enrolled in school at the undergraduate or graduate level at the time of submission is eligible to enter.

Papers must be no longer than 30 pages with an acceptable referencing format such as APA. Papers must contain an abstract of 100 words to be typed double spaced, and submitted on 8-1/2 x 11 inch paper. Three copies of the paper must be submitted along with verification of current student status. Papers by multiple authors are acceptable as long as all authors are students. Papers must not have been previously published.

The committee will judge papers based on significance of the topic, conceptualization, and clarity of writing.

The winner will be presented with a \$250 cash award at the Division on Women and Crime annual meeting at the ASC. Three copies of the paper must be received no later than September 10. Please send all papers to:

Division on Women and Crime Student Paper Competition  
c/o Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
University of Central Florida  
P. O. Box 25000

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**Table 1. Lifetime Prevalence of Violence Against Women by Type of Victimization and Whether the Victim was a Minor/Adult at the Time of Victimization**

Type of Victimization	Women Victimized (%)		
	Before the Age of 18 <sup>a</sup> (n=8,000)	Since the Age of 18 (n=8,000)	Sometime in Lifetime (n=8,000)
	Before the Age of 18 <sup>a</sup> (n=8,000)	Since the Age of 18 (n=8,000)	Sometime in Lifetime (n=8,000)
<b>Total rape</b>	9.0	9.6	17.6
<b>Completed</b>	— <sup>b</sup>	— <sup>b</sup>	14.8
<b>Attempted only</b>	— <sup>b</sup>	— <sup>b</sup>	2.8
<b>Total physical assault</b>	40.0	30.6	51.9
<b>Threw something</b>	6.1	10.3	14.0
<b>Pushed, grabbed, shoved</b>	15.8	23.3	30.6
<b>Pulled hair</b>	11.5	11.4	19.0
<b>Slapped, hit</b>	33.5	21.1	43.0
<b>Kicked, bit</b>	3.0	6.9	8.9
<b>Choked, tried to drown</b>	1.5	6.8	7.7
<b>Hit with object</b>	17.0	7.4	21.2
<b>Beat up</b>	5.5	10.7	14.1
<b>Threatened with gun</b>	0.9	5.5	6.2
<b>Threatened with knife</b>	1.4	4.8	5.8
<b>Used gun</b>	0.4	2.3	2.6
<b>Used knife</b>	1.1	2.7	3.5
<b>Stalking</b>	0.9	7.4	8.1
<b>Rape, physical assault, and/or stalking</b>	43.4	38.8	55.9

<sup>a</sup> Estimates for physical assault experienced before the age of 18 refer only to physical assaults perpetrated by adult caretakers.

<sup>b</sup> Estimates are not available.

Note: The estimated standard error at the 95-percent confidence level for a sample of 8,000 is 1.1 percentage points if the response distribution is a 50/50 split.



**Table 2. Annual Prevalence and Incidence of Violence Against Women by Type of Victimization**

Type of Victimization	Percentage Victimized (n=8,000)	Number of Victims <sup>a</sup>	Average Number of Victimitizations Per Victim <sup>b</sup>	Total Number of Victimitizations
Rape	0.3	302,091	2.9	876,064
Physical assault	1.9	1,913,243	3.1	5,931,053
Stalking	1.0	1,006,970	— <sup>c</sup>	1,006,970
Rape, physical assault, and/or stalking	3.0	3,020,910	— <sup>c</sup>	7,814,087

<sup>a</sup> Based on the estimate that there were 100,697,000 women aged 18 years and older residing in the United States in 1995: Wetrogan, Signe I., *Projections of the Population of States by Age, Sex, and Race: 1988 to 2010*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of Census, Current Population Reports, P25-1017, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988.

<sup>b</sup> The standard error of mean is 1.4 for rape victims and 0.2 for physical assault victims. Because the number of stalking victims equals the number of stalking incidents, no standard error of the mean was calculated for the average number of stalking victimizations or the average number of rape, physical assault, and/or stalking victimizations combined.

<sup>c</sup> Estimates are not available.

**Table 3. Percentage Distribution of Adult Female Victims by Relationship Between Victim and Perpetrator**

Victim-Perpetrator Relationship	Type of Victim (%) <sup>a</sup>			
	Rape Victims (n=767)	Physical Assault Victims (n=2,447)	Stalking Victims (n=592)	Rape, Physical Assault and/or Stalking Victims (n=2,809)
Intimate partner <sup>b</sup>	61.9	72.1	59.5	64.0
Relative other than spouse	6.5	7.0	3.4	6.4
Acquaintance	21.3	11.5	19.1	16.4
Stranger	16.7	10.6	21.1	14.6

<sup>a</sup> Estimates are based on victimizations occurring since the age of 18.

<sup>b</sup> Intimate partner includes current and former spouses, opposite-sex and same-sex cohabiting partners, and dates or boyfriends.

**Endnotes**

1. Complete details about women's and men's experiences with stalking, rape and physical assault, and intimate partner violence are contained in reports published by NIJ and CDC. Visit NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij> or the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov.ncipc/dvp/fivpt> for more information on publications from the NVAW Survey.
2. Rape screening questions were adapted from those used in the National Women's Study, see *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*, National Victim Center and the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, 211 Wilson Boulevard, Suit 300, Arlington, Virginia 22201, April 23, 1995, p. 15.
3. Michael, Robert T., John H. Gagnon, Edward O. Laumann, and Gina Kolata, *Sex in America: A Definitive Survey*. New York: Warner Books, 1994.
4. See National Victim Center and the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, *supra*, note 2.
5. Craven, Diana, *Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Washington, D.C., NCJ-164508, September 1997.
6. See Straus, "Measuring Intrafamily Conflict and Violence: The Conflict Tactics (CT) Scale," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 41 (February 1979): 75-88.
7. Craven, *Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994, supra*, note 5.
8. The definition of stalking used in the NVAW Survey closely resembles the definition of stalking used in the model antistalking code for the States developed by the National Institute of Justice, see National Criminal Justice Association, *Project to Develop a Model Anti-stalking Code for States*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, October 1993.
9. While testimony provided at a September 29, 1992, Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on S.B. 2922 (Violence Against Women) is generally cited as the source for these estimates, the figures first appeared in an *USA Today* article on stalking. See Maria Puente, "Legislators Tackling the Terror of Stalking: But Some Experts Say Measures are Vague," *USA Today*, July 21, 1992.
10. See, e.g., Bachman, Ronet, *Violence Against Women: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January, 1994 NCJ 145325; Bachman, Ronet and Linda E. Saltzman, *Violence Against Women: Estimates From the Redesigned Survey*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1995, NCJ 154348; Gaquin, Diedre, "Spouse Abuse: Data from the National Crime Survey," *Victimology* 2 (1977-78): 634-643; Klaus, Patsy and Michael Rand, *Family Violence*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, April, 1988 NCJ 093449.
11. See, e.g., Koss, Mary P., "Detecting the Scope of Rape: A Review of Prevalence Research Methods," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 8 (2) (June 1993): 198-222.

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