Developing a Measure of Harassment in Abusive Relationships

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Introduction

Historical accounts of injury to women by abusive men speak only of physical injury (Thompson, 1989). The scars of psychological abuse and harassment are noticeably invisible in oral and written histories. Efforts in the 1970s and 1980s to identify, define and measure abused women primarily focused on physical abuse (Parker & Schumacher, 1977; Steinmetz, 1979; Gelles, 1980; Drake, 1982). Battered women cite psychological abuse as more pervasive, more painful, and more damaging, long-term, than physical abuse (Roy, 1977; Walker, 1979 & 1984; Fortune & Horman, 1981; Pagelow, 1984; Thompson, 1989).

Physical abuse can seen, measured, and photographed, therefore, making it much easier to quantify than psychological abuse. It is quite difficult to quantify threats and impossible to photograph acts of intimidation, humiliation, and manipulation. It is not surprising, therefore, that there have been limited attempts to measure non-
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physical intimate partner abuse.

The following paper will: 1) briefly review several measures of domestic violence that look beyond physical abuse; 2) briefly review the concept of psychological abuse in the domestic violence literature; and 3) present an argument that, except for the Danger Assessment (Campbell, 1995), none of the existing measures of domestic violence were designed to be completed by women in the process of leaving abusive relationships; advocate for the creation of a measure of harassment of women in the process of leaving abusive relationships.

Prior Measures of Abuse

Several measures have been developed that quantify various aspects of intimate partner abuse. The Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) measures intrafamilial conflict via the sub-scales of 1) reasoning, 2) verbal aggression, and 3) violence (Straus, 1974, 1979). The Index of Spouse Abuse (ISA) measures physical and non-physical abuse of women by male intimate partners (Hudson & McIntosh, 1981).

The Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory (PMWI) was the first scale to identify and measure
psychological abuse by intimate male partners (Tolman, 1989). Designed to exclude physically abusive items, the PMWI explored six subcategories of nonphysical abuse: 1) verbal attacks on her personhood; 2) defining her reality; 3) isolation by controlling her access to others; 4) demanding subservience to rigid sex roles; 5) withholding positive feedback; and 6) threatening nonphysical punishment for breaking his rules. However, the PMWI factored into only two major sub-scales that Tolman (1989) labeled: 1) dominance-isolation and 2) emotional-verbal.

The Abusive Behavior Inventory (ABI) measures physical and psychological abuse from the perspective that the purpose of all forms of abuse is to maintain dominance in the context of power and control (Shepard & Campbell, 1992). The physical abuse items were divided into assaultive behaviors and forced sexual acts. The psychological abuse items were divided into five subcategories: 1) emotional abuse - being humiliated or degraded; 2) isolation - having social contacts restricted; 3) intimidation - being frightened with actions or gestures; 4) use of male privilege - having to comply to male beliefs; and 5)
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economic abuse - having one's financial resources restricted.

The Measure of Wife Abuse (MWA) measures four types of intimate partner abuse: 1) physical; 2) psychological; 3) verbal; and 4) sexual (Rodenburg & Fantuzzo, 1992). Hudson (1990) revised and expanded the ISA into two distinct measures: 1) the Partner Abuse Scale: Physical and 2) the Partner Abuse Scale: Non-Physical. Finally, the Danger Assessment (DA) measures homicide risk markers of previously identified battered women via a combination of perpetrator and victim behaviors.

All of the above measures, except the DA, screen for some type of intimate partner abuse, however, there is much variance in the assessment and screening capabilities of each tool. The DA was designed to be administered after domestic violence has been assessed. While measures of non-physical abuse are few, there has been considerable debate in the literature on the concept of psychological abuse.

The Concept of Psychological Abuse

Early Definitions of Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse has been described as
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repetitive, coercive behaviors by a man towards a woman (Walker, 1979). Sonkin, Martin, and Walker (1985) identified six forms of psychological abuse by men to women: 1) implicit threats of violence; 2) explicit threats of violence; 3) pathological jealousy; 4) mental degradation; 5) severe controlling behavior; and 6) progressive isolating behavior.

NiCarthy (1982, 1986) created extensive lists of behavioral questions to help women identify emotional abuse. Others have defined psychological abuse more globally as stemming from patriarchal power and control (Siegal, Plessier and Jacobs, 1985; Thompson, 1989; Pence & Paymar, 1993).

Sonkin (1995) conceptualized domestic abuse as physical, sexual and psychological violence. He states there is much overlap in the types of psychological abuse and recommends that clinicians working with abusive males use "the more narrow, crime-specific definitions of psychological violence (threats, harassing, stalking, etc.)" (p. 28).

Psychological abuse based on a power and control model places the origins of abuse within a patriarchal societal structure. While this view has many
advocates, others have looked at the entrapment of women in abusive relationships as stemming from intrapsychic trauma and brainwashing similar to that inflicted on prisoners of war (Fortune and Horman, 1981; Russell, 1982; Walker, 1984; Nicarthy, 1986; Tolman, 1989; Thompson, 1989; Sonkin, 1995) and cult members (Boulette and Andersen, 1985).

However, brainwashing techniques are less explanatory for those battered women who begin experiencing severe physical, sexual, and psychological abuse very early into the intimate relationship. Why don't those women just leave? Two very related models have been used to explain this phenomena: the Stockholm Syndrome (Graham, Rawlings & Rimini, 1988) and Traumatic Bonding (Dutton & Painter, 1981, 1993).

Women in abusive relationships frequently minimize the seriousness of the abuse, then justify and defend the severe abusive behaviors of the abusers. This illogical connectedness with the aggressor, especially after severe trauma, is another barrier to leaving abusive relationships that has been explained by a model of traumatic bonding (Dutton & Painter, 1981, 1993).
Clinically Identified Barriers to Leaving

This author has identified clinically a multitude of additional barriers that make the process of leaving abusive relationships difficult. The abused woman's ability to contemplate leaving the abusive relationship is related to how she overcomes the above listed barriers.

Just as there is variability in women's barriers to leaving and intrapsychic responses to abuse, Johnson (1995) argues that, within violent relationships, there are different types of abusers.

Family Violence and Feminist Perspectives

Johnson (1995) describes how abusers can fall within two perspectives: the family violence perspective (ordinary conflicts of everyday life that lead to intermittent minor violence) and the feminist perspective (a pattern of terroristic controlling behaviors that include frequent severe violence, economic subordination, threats, isolation, and other
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Conceptual Gaps of Existing Measures

Contrary to discussions in the clinical literature, existing domestic violence measures statistically force abusive male behaviors into subcategories as if items in each sub-category are independent of the others (Straus, 1974, 1979; Hudson & McIntosh, 1981; Hudson, 1990; Tolman, 1989; Shepard and Campbell, 1992; Rodenburg & Fantuzzo, 1993). This artificial taxonomic process is counter-intuitive to the clinically identified patterns of multiple forms of over-lapping escalating abuse (Dobash & Dobash, 1979; Dutton, & Painter, 1981, 1993; NiCarthy, 1982, 1986; Campbell, 1984; Boulette & Andersen, 1985; Pence & Paymar, 1985, 1993; Graham, Rawlings, & Rimini, 1988; Campbell, & Fishwick, 1993; Johnson, 1995) that annually culminate in thousands of domestic homicides.

Existing tools measure physically, sexually, and psychologically violent behavior in ongoing relationships. With the exception of the Danger Assessment, measures of abuse do not look at patterns of escalating violence, especially potentially lethal
patterns that can occur while women are in the process of leaving abusive relationships. This has occurred despite the fact that there is a growing body of clinical literature that describes homicide of and by women in the process of leaving abusive relationships (Jones, 1980; Ewing, 1987; Browne, 1987; Gillespie, 1989; Walker, 1989).

The Danger Assessment (DA) does not assess that window of time prior to the development of potentially lethal risk factor behavior (Campbell, 1996, personal communication). This is the period that this author is calling "harassment in the process of leaving abusive intimate relationships." Women in this population are most likely to be experiencing domestic terrorism (Johnson, 1995) and "active recapture" techniques (Boulette & Andersen, 1985).

Active Recapture Measures

Active recapture methods and behaviors include:
1) cocky disbelief; 2) confused searching; 3) bargaining; 4) pleading; 5) threatening; and 6) revenge (Boulette & Andersen, 1985). As women attempt to leave abusive relationships, abusive men use a combination of active recapture methods, coupled with
methods described by the escalating terroristic control (Johnson, 1995) until the women capitulate and re-enter the relationships. These recapture and terroristic methods help to perpetuate the women's sense of being prisoners in their homes; and help facilitate the processes of brainwashing and traumatic bonding (Dutton & Painter, 1993).

Psychological Abuse: Control by Devaluing and Leveling

Thompson's (1989) presents a useful, practical, and theoretically sound multi-faceted description of psychological abuse. In this view, psychological abuse and control is maintained by the processes of devaluing and leveling. Devaluing is a process by which the abuser systematically communicates to the abused that she has no value in anything she does. Leveling is a process by which the abuser systematically tears the women down, physically and non-physically, literally and figuratively.

This intermittent, gradual, and insidious process continues unchecked and unchallenged until the woman recognizes the psychologically abusive behaviors "through a process of becoming aware" (p. 143). With this dynamic process of becoming aware comes the
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strength to name his behaviors as abusive.

**Naming the Abuse - Becoming Aware**

Attention needs to be focused on this period of time when an abused women becomes aware of the abuse in her life and what happens when she takes steps to live a safer life. Naming the abuse and self-awareness can occur through intra-psychic and external processes.

May (1992) labeled the abused woman's intra-psychic processes, termination readiness. Landenburger (1989) describes this awareness time as a process of entrapment and recovery.

There are many unanswered questions about this time of awareness and naming the violence. What strategies does the battered woman employ to maintain her safety and the safety of the children? How does she challenge and confront the abuser's purposeful manipulations, misconceptions, and lies? What makes it possible for the abused woman to contemplate leaving the abusive relationship? How does she safely plan to feed, clothe and house herself and her children during this leaving process? Is the abused woman able to identify what the abuser does to maintain or regain his control over her during this critical time? Are his
behavioral patterns changing? Is the abuse escalating and leading into potentially lethal risk behaviors previously identified by Campbell (1995)?

Answers to all of these questions are critical. However, earlier efforts to study this process centered on the abused woman's identification of her abuser's changing patterns of abusive behavior (Sheridan, 1992).

Patterns of Harassment

Changes in the abuser's patterns of behaviors in response to the woman's increasing awareness of abuse have been conceptualized as a pattern of harassment (Sheridan, 1992). These patterns of harassing behaviors are being explored through quantitative and qualitative methods.

A pilot measure called HARASS (Harassment in Abusive Relationships: A Self-Report Scale) has been developed and is being pilot tested (Sheridan, 1996). The items on HARASS attempt to capture the behaviors of abusers towards women in the process of leaving abusive relationships. A pilot data set of 94 completed HARASS measures is being correlated with the Danger Assessment. Preliminary zero-point correlations indicate a correlation of approximately 0.40. This
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score supports that the items on the two measures are related but are most likely measuring different domains (J. C. Campbell, personal communication, April, 1996). Modifications of the items on HARASS are being considered, in part, based on a series qualitative interviews conducted by this author of women in the process of leaving abusive relationships.

The Lived Experience of Harassment

Pilot Qualitative Interviews

During a series of qualitative interviews collected during doctoral course work, women in the process of leaving abusive relationships with male intimates were asked to talk about their experiences of abuse and harassment. The interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed.

Preliminary Qualitative Analysis

Each interview was analyzed for themes and concepts illustrating the woman's perspective of abuse. Several tentative but persistent themes were identified: 1) her increasing awareness of abuse; 2) the strategies she employed in response to his behavioral changes; and 3) what factors were most/least helpful to her as she maintained or modified
her responses to his abusive episodes.

During the courtship process, the women described their hopes for good relationships. Key to their hopes was believing in the dreams that the relationships would lead to better lives. Over time, at the other end of this continuum was near total disbelief.

Becoming aware of the patterns of abuse required the passage of time. Initially, the women gave excuses for and rationalized the abusers' behaviors. Awareness was keener when the women were in a safe(r) situation and could look back in time. This appeared to be a key process in moving her from excusing/permitting the behaviors to not excusing/not permitting the patterns of abuse.

Following this period of self-awareness, it seems that for women to contemplate leaving, it was crucial that others believe them. This validation process seemed critical as a precursor to her seeking safety within family or friendship social support systems.

Trying to leave the relationship without a support system or people willing to be there and take a risk was quite difficult. Support systems provided a safety net not otherwise present. In all of these interviews,
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the concepts of time and cultural awareness were very important.

In a series of pilot qualitative interviews, abused women in the process of leaving abusive relationships shared with this author their perspectives on what it meant to be harassed. A sample of their general comments include:

"Anything directly imposed and obviously constructed to interrupt my choices of the day...at home...on the job...or at a social activity."

"A stumbling block that is purposely placed...to interrupt my common, normal pursuits."


Many women cited specific harassing behaviors such as: "being followed;" "people standing outside your house or in cars;" "him coming around uninvited;" "lots of phone calls;" "name calling;" "prolonging divorce proceedings;" "using the court system;" "using the children;" "spying on the kids;" "a lot of unwanted attention;" and "being pushed into doing something you don't want to do;"

use of male privilege to harass her through the court system, manipulate police, family, friends and gangs.

Similarity of Findings

The preliminary findings highlighted above are consistent with this authors clinical experiences and
those of a panel of domestic violence experts interviewed about their experiences of harassment. The process of becoming aware of the abuse over time and the need to be believed are consistent with Thompson's (1989) qualitative findings.

Recognizing Abuse in Retrospect

This author's clinical work and qualitative interview pilot findings support Thompson's (1989) findings that recognizing abuse is a retrospective process that involves becoming aware by looking back at patterns over time. For some women this reflective awareness period occurred during the telling of their stories to supportive people and for others, the awareness of abuse was occurring as they were leaving the relationship.

Cycle of Leaving

Leaving in both studies was characterized by a repetitive process of threats to leave; getting back together; staying in; actually leaving; getting back together; and, eventually, staying out. With each passage of this cycle of leaving, the women learned better how to recognize warning signs for further abuse.
and these signs were constantly weighed against the abusers' promises to change and the women's needs to protect themselves and their families.

Measuring Harassment During the Cycle of Leaving

As women play the odds of predicting if it is safer to stay in an abusive relationship versus leaving, they examine their level of social support; whether there are people who believe them; if there is support within their culture; and the safety needs of themselves and their families.

Entering Systems for Help

In those relationships where the abuser is reluctant to relinquish his control he is more likely to subject the woman to the behaviors discussed as patriarchal terrorism (Johnson, 1995). Tens of thousands of these women will, either out of fear, or as part of the physical or psychological sequelae of the abuse, seek services from agencies such as women's shelters, law enforcement, and health care.

Keeping Her In the Relationship

During this time, these women are also being
subjected to active recapture methods (Boulette & Anderson, 1989) that includes bargaining; promises of improved behavior mixed with tears, love messages, and gifts mixed with just the right amount of making her feel guilty for leaving. Bargaining works and works again and again and again. However, bargaining eventually is not enough to recapture her into the abusive relationship.

From this author's clinical experience and qualitative interviews, this is the time when the abuser begins a series of indirect and direct threats of harm that escalates into actual revenge to the woman, her family, friends, and belongings. This all occurs in a context where most of these battered women have been subjected to a process that involves numerous barriers to leaving plus various techniques of devaluing, brainwashing, mind control, and the Stockholm syndrome.

Lack of Fit in Current Literature

There exists a gap in the research literature of an in-depth discussion and a measure of this time: a time when women are in the cycle of leaving abusive relationships; a time when the abusers' active
recapture techniques of pleading no longer work; and a
time when abusers' begin to more frequently use threats
of physical, sexual, and material harm and revenge.

The measure discussed earlier in this paper that
most closely, conceptually, tries to tap this period is
the Measure of Wife Abuse (MWA). The MWA (Rodenburg &
Fantuzzo, 1993) does an adequate job of measuring four
domains of abuse in ongoing relationships. However,
the MWA does not measure, nor was it designed to
measure that window of time when women are actively
leaving abusive relationships. The MWA does not tap
the link between the abusers' escalating patterns of
abuse, the increasing lethality potentials, and
abusers' efforts to "recapture" their women.

However, administering the MWA simultaneously with
the HARASS measure will possibly lend support to
concurrent validity, especially those items on the MWA
in the psychological and verbal abuse sub-scales. A
panel of 19 domestic violence nurse experts in St.
Louis in October, 1995 sorted the 60 items on the MWA
(and many other existing measures) into five types of
abuse: 1) physical; 2) psychological; 3) verbal;
4) economic; and 5) sexual. As compared with the
authors of the MWA, the nurse content experts were in 95 percent agreement on how they sorted the 15 physical abuse items. The 15 sexual abuse items were sorted with 74 percent agreement. Several items on the sexual abuse scale were sorted very heavily on the physical abuse scale.

The 15 psychological abuse items were sorted with 69 percent agreement. However, if the items that were sorted by the nurse experts into economic abuse were combined with psychological abuse, the percent agreement increased to 85. The nurse experts overwhelmingly disagreed with the authors of the MWA as to a separate sub-scale for verbal abuse. Only 22 percent of the nurse experts sorted the 15 verbal abuse items into that category. However, 67 percent of the verbal abuse items were sorted by the nurses into the domain of psychological abuse.

This sorting process supports the content validity of the existing physical, sexual, and psychological sub-scales. The content validity is furthered supported with an 87 percent agreement by the nurse experts if the sub-scales of psychological abuse and verbal abuse are condensed to one scale of psychological abuse, the
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30 items with 87 percent agreement.

Summary

The current HARASS pilot measure contains 45 items with at least five items known to be purposefully redundant. The author is in the process of trying to condense the number of items into five or six sub-scales with approximately five items per sub-scale. Based on the psychological literature review, this author's clinical experiences, and the qualitative and quantitative pilot work, six general categories of harassing behaviors are presently being postulated. (See Appendix A: the HARASS Pilot measure.) They are: 1) Stalking-like behaviors (Items 14, 18, 19, 24, 28, 1, 32, 33, 35); 2) Actual or threats of harm to property (Items 4, 5, 10, 11, 20, 36); 3) Actual or threats of harm to people (Items 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 30, 34, 44); 4) Actual or threats of fiscal harm (Items 9, 15, 37, 38, 44); 5) Actual or threats of further isolating behaviors (Items 7, 16, 27, 39, 42) and 6) Not respecting her wishes or boundaries (Items 1, 3, 13, 22, 26, 40, 45).

All of the original items will be reviewed plus possible new items will be generated from the
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qualitative interviews. The author will then ask many of the same nurse domestic violence content experts who sorted the MWA items to sort the HARASS items into rank ordered categories. Additional rank order sorting of items will be conducted by domestic violence experts who work with abusive men and by experts in the community-based counseling and shelter services network.

In conclusion, work on the HARASS pilot will continue throughout this quarter and into the summer months. Further work this quarter by this author will include working with my dissertation committee to prepare for submission to Oregon Health Sciences University Human Subjects the dissertation proposal document.
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References


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Table 1

Barriers to Leaving Abusive Relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fear of further abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear of making it on her own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial constraints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family pressures to make it work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family no longer providing a safe haven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith beliefs to keep the relationship going at all costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgiveness - she accepts his promises to change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fantasy that she can fix the abuser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father - she wants her children to have a father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiarity - she grew up in an abusive home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full - there are no beds available at nearby shelters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue - she is too tired physically and emotionally to leave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2

#### Cycle of Leaving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awareness of Abuse</th>
<th>Understanding Knowledge Gathering</th>
<th>Catching On to His Behavior Patterns (confronting)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changes Over Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excusing His Behavior**

**Staying In The Relationship**

**Leaving The Relationship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social supports</th>
<th>Being Believed</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Safety Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staying Out - Short Term**

**Recapture Tactics**

**Staying Out - Long Term**

- Self
- Children
- Family
Many women are harassed in relationships with their abusive male partners, especially if the women are trying to end the relationship. You may be experiencing harassment. This instrument is a student project designed to measure harassment of women who are in abusive relationships or who have been trying to get out of abusive relationships. By completing this questionnaire, you may be helping other women understand harassment in their lives.

Harassment is defined as a persistent pattern of behavior by a male intimate partner that is intended to bother, annoy, trap, threaten, frighten, and/or terrify you in order to control your behavior.

There are no right or wrong answers. Do not put your name on the form. The instrument takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Thank you
For each item, circle the number that best describes how often the behavior has occurred. Then rate how distressing the behavior is to you. If the behavior has never occurred, circle Never (0) and go to the next question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE BEHAVIOR</th>
<th>HOW OFTEN DOES IT OCCUR?</th>
<th>HOW DISTRESSING IS THIS BEHAVIOR TO YOU?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MY PARTNER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) uses my family or friends to pressure me to stay in the relationship.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) scares me with a weapon.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) falsely accuses me of child abuse.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) threatens to harm our pet.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) intentionally harms our pet.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) threatens to harm the kids if I leave him.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) bothers me at work when I don’t want to talk to him.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) threatens to have the kids taken away from me.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) tries to get me fired from my job.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) messes with my car (for example: cuts the tires, breaks the windshield).</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) destroys my property (for example: breaks my furniture, rips up my clothes).</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) threatens to kill himself if I leave him.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 0 = Never
- 1 = Rarely
- 2 = Occasionally
- 3 = Frequently
- 4 = Very Frequently

- 0 = Not at all distressing
- 1 = Slightly
- 2 = Moderately
- 3 = Very
- 4 = Extremely Distressing
FOR EACH ITEM, CIRCLE THE NUMBER THAT BEST DESCRIBES HOW OFTEN THE BEHAVIOR HAS OCCURRED.
THEN RATE HOW DISTRESSING THE BEHAVIOR IS TO YOU.
IF THE BEHAVIOR HAS NEVER OCCURRED, CIRCLE NEVER (0) AND GO TO THE NEXT QUESTION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE BEHAVIOR</th>
<th>HOW OFTEN DOES IT OCCUR?</th>
<th>HOW DISTRESSING IS THIS BEHAVIOR TO YOU?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 = Never</td>
<td>0 = Not at all distressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 = Rarely</td>
<td>1 = Slightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 = Occasionally</td>
<td>2 = Moderately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 = Frequently</td>
<td>3 = Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 = Very Frequently</td>
<td>4 = Extremely Distressing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MY PARTNER

(Circle one)

MY FORMER PARTNER

(Circle one)

13. calls me on the phone and hangs up. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
14. follows me. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
15. tries getting money from me. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
16. tries to stop me from seeing other people. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
17. threatens to snatch the kids if I leave him. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
18. comes to my home when I don't want him there. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
19. ignores court orders to stay away from me. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
20. takes my property (for example: checks, food stamps, car, jewelry, VCR, TV). 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
21. frightens my family. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
22. uses the kids as pawns to get me physically close to him. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
23. uses his friends or family to send me threatening messages. 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4
### Survey on Partner Behaviors

For each item, circle the number that best describes how often the behavior has occurred. Then rate how distressing the behavior is to you. If the behavior has never occurred, circle never (0) and go to the next question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Behavior</th>
<th>How Often Does It Occur?</th>
<th>How Distressing Is This Behavior To You?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 = Never</td>
<td>1 = Rarely</td>
<td>0 = Not at all distressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 = Occasionally</td>
<td>3 = Frequently</td>
<td>1 = Slightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 = Very Frequently</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 = Moderately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 = Very</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 = Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 = Extremely Distressing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### My Partner

(Circle one)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>How Often</th>
<th>How Distressing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(24) leaves notes on my car.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(25) threatens to kill me if I leave or stay away from him.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(26) buys me or sends me things that I don't want.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(27) gets himself in crises to keep me near him.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(28) shows up without warning.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(29) makes me feel like he can again force me into sex.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30) sends me threatening letters.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(31) breaks into my home.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32) sits in his car outside my home.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(33) pretends to be someone else in order to get to me.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(34) frightens my friends.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(35) keeps showing up wherever I am.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THEN RATE HOW DISTRESSING THE BEHAVIOR IS TO YOU.
IF THE BEHAVIOR HAS NEVER OCCURRED, CIRCLE NEVER (0) AND GO TO THE NEXT QUESTION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE BEHAVIOR</th>
<th>HOW OFTEN DOES IT OCCUR?</th>
<th>HOW DISTRESSING IS THIS BEHAVIOR TO YOU?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 = Never</td>
<td>0 = Not at all distressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 = Rarely</td>
<td>1 = Slightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 = Occasionally</td>
<td>2 = Moderately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 = Frequently</td>
<td>3 = Very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 = Very Frequently</td>
<td>4 = Extremely Distressing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MY PARTNER
(Circle one)

MY FORMER PARTNER
(Circle one)

| (36) takes things that belong to me so I have to see him to get them back. | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (37) agrees to pay certain bills, then doesn't pay them.                  | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (38) plays games with the child support check.                           | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (39) interferes with my efforts to go to school.                         | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (40) uses his connections to make my life difficult.                     | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (41) reports me to the authorities for taking drugs when I don't.        | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (42) tells other people that I am crazy.                                 | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (43) leaves threatening messages on the telephone answering machine.    | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (44) sold things I own without my consent.                              | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| (45) refuses to grant me a divorce.                                      | 0 1 2 3 4 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
FOR EACH ITEM, CIRCLE THE NUMBER THAT BEST DESCRIBES HOW OFTEN THE BEHAVIOR HAS OCCURRED.
THEN RATE HOW DISTRESSING THE BEHAVIOR IS TO YOU.
IF THE BEHAVIOR HAS NEVER OCCURRED, CIRCLE NEVER (0) AND GO TO THE NEXT QUESTION.

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MY PARTNER  
(Circle one)  
MY FORMER PARTNER

LIST OTHER BEHAVIORS THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED. CIRCLE HOW OFTEN AND HOW DISTRESSING THE BEHAVIORS ARE TO YOU.

(46)  
(47)  
(48)  
(49)  
(50)  

Please answer a few additional questions.

Your age in years.

Check the statement that best describes you?

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- Caucasian/White
- Hispanic
- Native American/American Indian

Check the statement that best describes you.

- Married, living with an abusive male partner.
- Single, living with an abusive male partner.
- Married, living apart from an abusive male partner.
- Single, living apart from an abusive male partner.

Check the statement that best describes you.

- I am presently living in an abusive relationship and I am being harassed by a male intimate partner.
- I have been out of an abusive relationship for less than one year and I am being harassed by my former male intimate partner.
- I have been out of an abusive relationship for more than one year and I am being harassed by my former male intimate partner.
- I am no longer being harassed.

How long have (had) you been in the above relationship? _____ years.