Lecture: Family Violence

Test Section 4
Family Violence

- **Definition**
  - An act carried out with the intention or perceived intention of causing physical pain or injury to another person (Straus, 1980)

- **Statistics**
  - 1 in 22 women are victims of abusive violence each year
  - Nearly 30% of murdered women are killed by their husbands or lovers
Family Violence cont.

• About 2.1 million children were reported as alleged victims of child abuse; about 33% of cases were substantiated (15 of every 1000 kids)

• About 1100 kids are killed by their parents each year

• About 1 in 4 females and 1 in 8 males report experiencing sexual abuse as a child
Family Violence cont.

• 20% of all murders in this country are committed within the family and 13% are committed by spouses

• 21% of all women who use the hospital emergency surgical service are battered

• Over 1 million women each year seek medical help for injuries caused by battering

• Victims of domestic violence are 3 times more likely to be victimized again than are victims of other types of crimes
Family Violence cont.

- Fact for the Day: Who commits the violence in domestic assault?
  - Spouse - 34%
  - Other relative - 21%
  - Ex-spouse - 17%
  - Sibling - 12%
  - Own Child - 11%
  - Parent - 5%
Family Violence

• Models?
  - Psychiatric
  - Ecological
  - Patriarchy
  - Social Situation
  - Social Learning
  - Resource Model
  - Exchange/Social Control

(Gelles, 1985, Emery, 1989)
Spouse Abuse

• The pattern of interpersonal violence, especially battering, increases in intensity and frequency if unchecked (verbal increasing to physical)

  – Many victims state that emotional abuse is more devastating than physical abuse
  – Spouse abuse cuts across socioeconomic groups
Spouse Abuse

• Both women and men are abused in roughly equal numbers
• Women are much more likely to be the victims of serious physical abuse
• It has been projected that 1 in 6 women will experience physical abuse in their marriage at some time
• An estimated 2,000,000 women per year are beaten
• Of the 20,000 total murders per year about 6,000 are committed by spouses
Spouse Abuse
Spouse Abuse

• Spouse abuse appears to be multi-causal.
• Factors research suggests to be important include:

(Hornung, C.A., McCullough, B.C., & Sugimoto, T., 1981)
Spouse Abuse

• Combating Spouse Abuse

• Why not leave?

(Gelles, 1985)
Spouse Abuse

• Why Stay?