

**THE INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION
AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

RESEARCH GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Statement of Purpose

This research was designed to explore the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence among female arrestees, determine if the types and severity of abuse were related to victim substance use, and compare these victims with those included in another study of shelter clients.

Research Subjects

A total of 181 female arrestees participated in this research. Compared to other regional statistics, this sample overrepresented Blacks and slightly underrepresented Hispanics. Client characteristics varied by domestic violence history, with those with recent abuse being significantly younger than others interviewed.

Research Design and Methodology

Methods

Female arrestees interviewed as part of the ADAM study in San Diego County between August 2000 and May 2001 were approached regarding their participation in another interview regarding domestic abuse.

Data Analysis

Data from the ADAM sample were analyzed by whether the arrestee had no history of abuse, abuse in the past 12 months, or abuse in the past, but not recently. Data from the domestic violence interview were linked by identification number with the ADAM interview and urinalysis results. Correlational analyses using cross-tabulations and measures of central tendency were used to test for statistically significant relationships. Qualitative comparisons were made between the ADAM and shelter client samples.

Research Results and Conclusions:

Results

Of the 181 arrestees, 80 percent had been abused in their lifetime, and of these 144, two-thirds had been abused in the past year. Analyses of these three groups revealed that those who had never been abused were less likely to have ever had mental health treatment and those with recent abuse were most likely to be arrested for a violent offense. Victim substance use (specifically alcohol and methamphetamine) was significantly related to type of abuse and victim injury, as well as getting medical treatment. Not surprisingly, arrestees differed from shelter clients in a number of ways, including demographic factors, as well as substance use and arrest history.

Conclusions

A number of recommendations are made that involve the need for prevention that targets children of domestic violence victims, as well as young women at greatest risk for abuse and the need for intervention in a number of settings, including jails and drug treatment facilities. The importance of policies that address this public health issue is discussed and further research exploring the relationship between history of childhood abuse, victim substance use, mental health, and abuse context is suggested.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The issue of domestic or partner violence is not new, but attention in the research community as well as in the popular press has occurred primarily in the past 30 years. National research based upon a variety of sources suggests that this phenomenon is not rare (Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000; Rennison, 2001; Straus, 1999). Although the study contexts may differ and cultural norms affect reported incidence and prevalence, it is agreed that violence between intimates is a serious problem. Abuse of one partner by another has profound implications with respect to psychological effects, medical costs, and impacts on future generations. This study gathered data from arrested females who participated in the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program. In addition to exploring the frequency and nature of partner violence victimization within this group, analyses addressed the association between patterns of substance use and violence and also compared the arrestee group with another group of women who entered shelters for protection from their abusive partners.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This research, funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), was conducted by researchers at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Criminal Justice Research Division. SANDAG has managed the ADAM program in San Diego since 1987. The ADAM program, formerly known as Drug Use Forecasting (DUF), was initiated by NIJ in 1986, with the primary focus of tracking illegal substance use by the arrestee population. The program involves conducting interviews with newly arrested and booked individuals in local detention facilities for two-week intervals periodically during a calendar year. Interviews are voluntary, confidential, and anonymous and ask arrestees about their experiences with alcohol and other drugs. Several characteristics about arrestees are compiled (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, employment status, educational level, charge at arrest, etc.), along with substance use and mental health history. Upon interview completion, participants are asked to provide a urine specimen for drug testing. The purposes of the ADAM program are to establish the nexus between drug use and crime, to identify drug use trends and potential drug epidemics, and examine the characteristics of arrestees and their patterns of drug use (National Institute of Justice, 1999).

Over time, NIJ has solicited studies to explore other issues of interest with the arrestees using ADAM as the research platform. These have included research about firearms, methamphetamine, drug markets, AIDS, and gambling (e.g., Decker, Pennell and Caldwell, 1997; Pennell, Rienick, Ellett, and Grimes, 1999; Riley 1997; Lansky, 2002; McCorkle, 2002). NIJ provided another opportunity with this current research about domestic violence and arrestees. Several sites were funded during this process although the focus differed by site (e.g., batterers, male victims, female victims, etc.).

Another impetus for this research was a previous study by SANDAG researchers that also was funded by NIJ. During the late 1990s, researchers in San Diego collaborated with administrative staff of seven emergency shelters for battered women within the County. Shelter staff were concerned that limited resources precluded their capacity to collect information in a systematic way about the clients they served and the services provided by the shelters. This type of data is critical to demonstrate the nature and scope of violence against women and the value of efforts by shelters to protect women and prevent future violence. The collaboration, along with supplementary funds from the California State Legislature, led to the development of a standardized intake interview instrument used by all shelters in San Diego County. Shelter staff administered the interviews to women whose stay in the shelter exceeded 48 hours. SANDAG staff then managed the organization and analysis of the data collected.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

This study had the following objectives:

- Compare arrestees who report having experienced domestic violence with arrestees who report never having experienced partner abuse.
- Examine the association between types and severity of domestic violence victimization and substance use as reported by arrestees.
- Compare characteristics and life experiences of arrestees who reported domestic violence victimization in the past 12 months with the shelter clients from a previous study.

For the most part, this study used descriptive analysis, merging data from ADAM interviews with the supplemental domestic violence interview. Frequency distributions were developed for simple comparative analyses and correlational analyses were conducted when appropriate. The study approach was not without limitations and challenges that are described below.

LOGISTICS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

ADAM Interview and Protocol

Women in the ADAM program in San Diego represent a select group. Las Colinas, the primary adult female detention facility, is located in the eastern part of the 4,200 square mile county. Since the ADAM protocol requires a probability sample of arrestees booked within a 24 hour period, the program can access females in the 'housing' part of the facility that were booked earlier and are being retained. Generally, individuals booked for most misdemeanors are eligible for release soon after booking. This practice and the procedure for selecting the arrestee sample limit the number of eligible interviewees per night. Another limitation within ADAM is the condition of the arrestees. Women selected from housing often do not want to be bothered. Recently booked arrestees may be impaired due to being under the influence of drugs or alcohol and are often too sleepy, incoherent, or uncooperative to participate.

Supplementary Domestic Violence Interview

Prior to the development of the domestic violence interview, grantees met in Washington, D.C., with NIJ staff to discuss critical issues to be addressed. Even though projects had different target groups as their research focus, it was important to have a conversation about the research relative to intimate partner violence.

Acknowledging that methodology affects the interpretation of incidence and prevalence data pertaining to domestic violence, instrumentation was an important issue discussed by grantees. It was agreed that the definitions of intimate partner violence would be those developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Definitions of terms such as personal safety and victimization were discussed. Drawing from the research, grantees also acknowledged that acts of personal violence are not always viewed as such by victims. Finally, the issue of underreporting specific types of information was noted as an inherent part of the ADAM program and that questions about partner violence also may inhibit reporting. Grantees agreed to create questions based upon a modified Revised Conflict Tactics Scale developed by Straus (2000). The final domestic violence supplementary interview instrument was approved by staff at NIJ.

In addition to limitations associated with victim retrospection and underestimation, it should be noted that small sample sizes for some analyses prohibit the types of conclusions that can be reached. When information about the existence of a relationship between substance use and domestic violence victimization is noted, the intention is not to suggest causality in one direction or another. It also should be noted that, due to the focus of this study, the contextual settings surrounding the incidence of domestic violence victimization, as well as situations in which the victim may have been arrested for abuse, could not be fully explored.

Prior to the interviews, SANDAG ADAM staff received three-hour training from a victim advocate. The training covered definitions of abuse, theories about domestic violence, the potential for revictimization as a result of the interviews, and a discussion about referral sources to provide to the arrestees.

The ADAM protocol for interviews was followed with regard to explaining confidentiality, reading the informed consent section, requesting a urine sample, and offering an incentive after the sample is provided. Following the provision of the urine specimen, arrestees were brought back to the interview area and told about the supplementary interview. They were advised again of the confidential nature of the information they would provide and the opportunity to opt out of the interview as well as specific questions.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Objective 1: Compare arrestees who report having experienced domestic violence with arrestees who report never having experienced partner abuse.

This section presents a sociodemographic profile of the arrestees and information about drug use, criminal history, and mental health issues.

Research Approach

The analysis for this objective was three-fold, with the abuse factor viewed as an independent variable. The three categories included no abuse in lifetime, abuse at some time in life (“lifetime”) or abuse in the past 12 months (“recent”). Partner abuse included any and all types of abuse (i.e., physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal and nonverbal threats). It also is important to note that the extent of abuse within the “lifetime” and “recent” abuse groups could vary from one time ever to living with regular victimization or fear of victimization.

Interviews took place over four ADAM quarters, from August 2000 through May 2001. A total of 564 ADAM face sheets were completed for potential interviewees. Of these, 273 were still in the facility, available for interview. Ninety-three percent (93%) or 255 agreed to an interview and provided a urine sample. Of these, 181 (71%) agreed to the supplementary domestic violence interview. Thus the sample size for this study was 181 women who completed both interviews and provided a urine sample.

Abuse History

One in five or 20 percent of the arrestees indicated that they had never experienced any type of abuse by an intimate partner. Therefore, there were 37 women who had never been abused. A total of 53 women (29% of the sample) reported that abuse had occurred sometime during their life, but not recently. There were 91 women or 50 percent who reported being abused within the past 12 months prior to the interview.

Of the 181 women interviewed as part of this study, 77 percent had been physically abused, 68 percent emotionally abused, 26 percent sexually abused, 67 percent verbally abused, and 48 percent nonverbally threatened. Of the 140 physically abused, 95 percent reported being pushed, grabbed, or shoved; 88 percent were hit; 72 percent were slammed across a hard surface; 61 percent had an object thrown at them; 60 percent were kicked; 54 percent were strangled; and 7 percent were burned.

Ethnicity

The most prevalent ethnic group in all three abuse history categories was White. Blacks were fairly evenly distributed across all categories. Hispanic women were less likely to report “recent” abuse (16%), while just over one-half (51%) of the White women reported being abused in the past 12 months. Compared to other regional statistics, this study sample overrepresented Blacks and slightly underrepresented Hispanics.

Age

The age range of the entire sample was 18 to 64. Younger arrestees (mean age 28.6) were significantly more likely to have reported “recent” abuse (abuse in past 12 months) than those who had never experienced abuse (mean age 30.2) and those who reported “lifetime” abuse (35.6). This finding of current victimization among younger females is consistent with National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data.

Marital Status

Almost three-quarters (73%) of those never abused reported they had never been married, which was considerably lower compared to those with “lifetime” abuse (43%) and “recent” abuse (53%). Forty percent (40%) of those with “lifetime” abuse described themselves as separated or divorced, which was a higher proportion than the other two groups.

Education

About one-third (30% to 38%) of the women in all three abuse history groups had completed high school or obtained high school equivalency. Those who reported “lifetime” abuse were less likely to have a vocational degree or attended or graduated from college (29% compared to 40% of those with no abuse and 46% with recent abuse).

Employment Status

The percentage of individuals currently employed ranged from 38 percent of those with “lifetime” abuse to 47 percent of the women who reported abuse in the past 12 months. Employment was described as either full- or part-time. Of interest was the percentage of women who reported not working due to being disabled. Almost one in five (19%) of those with “lifetime” abuse indicated that they were disabled. Eight percent of those with “recent” abuse and five percent of those who had never been abused also reported being disabled.

Type of Residence

Eight percent of all arrestees described themselves as homeless. Those with “no abuse” (11%) and women with “lifetime” abuse (9%) were more likely to report being homeless than those with more recent abuse (5%).

Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Issues

The majority of all arrestees indicated that they had never received treatment for substance abuse or mental health problems. Percentages were similar across the three abuse groups for both outpatient and residential drug treatment. For mental health treatment, the picture was somewhat different in that women who reported “no abuse” history were three times *less* likely to have sought help for mental health issues compared to women with “lifetime” and “recent” abuse.

Criminal History

Around three-quarters of the arrestees with “lifetime” abuse reported having been previously arrested and incarcerated. Those with “no abuse” history and “recent” abuse were less likely to have similar arrest and incarceration experiences, but the figures still ranged from 54 percent to 59 percent for both arrest and detention.

In terms of the current arrest charge, the women who reported having experienced “recent” abuse were significantly more likely to have been arrested for a violent offense (42%) compared to those with no history of abuse (11%) and women with “lifetime” abuse (13%). Further examination of the three highest charges that were recorded indicated that those with “recent” abuse were more likely to be arrested for aggravated and other types of assault and spousal/partner abuse, and less likely to be arrested for drug possession, drug sale, and under the influence. However, because information related to the context of these incidents was not collected, additional analyses regarding them was not possible.

Patterns of Drug Use

The next discussion presents the results of urinalysis tests and self-reported domestic violence. No attribution of causality is intended between substance use and violent victimization.

The ADAM interview asks many questions about substance use, both past and recent. These self-reported data are supplemented with urinalysis test results. The program does not test for alcohol, although questions are asked about alcohol use. About two-thirds of women who have been abused by an intimate admitted to binge drinking (five or more drinks on at least one occasion in a month, as defined in the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse) at some time in their life. Women who had never been abused were less likely to report binge drinking (49%). When alcohol use in the past 30 days (prior to the interview) was examined, the differences were not as striking, with 40 percent with “recent” abuse reporting binge drinking, compared to just less than one-third of the other groups.

In the entire ADAM female arrestee sample for the four quarters, about two-thirds tested positive for at least one illegal drug. The percentage has remained fairly constant for several years. For marijuana, the percent positive was 26 percent at time of arrest. For cocaine, the figure was 16 percent and 7 percent tested positive for heroin/opiates. The most prevalent illegal drug used by female arrestees was methamphetamine, for which 35 percent tested positive. San Diego has shown high levels of methamphetamine use reported by ADAM arrestees for several years. Less than ten percent of the entire group showed evidence of recent use of barbiturates or anti-depressants.

In the ADAM interview, the arrestees are asked about lifetime use of specific drugs, use in the past year, and use within 30 days of the interview. In this report, self-reported lifetime drug use and use in the past 30 days, as well as the urinalysis result, are presented for four tests (marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, any drug) by abuse experience.

Marijuana

Women who reported never having experienced abuse were less likely to state that they had *ever* used marijuana (65%), with 80 percent of those with “recent” abuse history admitting to marijuana use. The urinalysis test showed a somewhat different picture. One-third (32%) of the women with “recent” abuse history tested positive for marijuana, followed by 27 percent of those with “no abuse” history and 15 percent of women with “lifetime” intimate abuse.

Cocaine

About one-quarter (27%) of women with “no abuse” history reported having tried cocaine sometime and 30 percent were cocaine positive. Those with “lifetime” abuse were more likely to have reported ever using cocaine (42%) but less likely to test positive (15%). One-third (33%) of the women with a “recent” abuse history reported having tried cocaine, but only 12 percent tested positive.

Methamphetamine

The most consistent patterns between the three groups of arrestees occurred with reported use and test results of methamphetamine or meth. That is, those with “no abuse” history were less likely to have ever tried meth and less likely to test positive. Nearly one-half (48%) of the women with “lifetime” history tested positive for meth, as did 35 percent of those with “recent” abuse. Meth was the only drug to show significant differences across the three groups.

Any Drug

Finally, women with “recent” abuse history were more likely to test positive for some illegal drug (68%) compared to women with no abuse history (58%) and women who reported “lifetime” abuse (55%).

The data just presented for arrestees do not suggest any directional relationship regarding the association between intimate partner violence and substance use. The next section examines this issue further, although the results remain inconclusive. Further research regarding the nature of the relationship between the two is worthy of continued examination with other samples.

Objective 2: Examine the association between types and severity of domestic violence victimization and substance use as reported by arrestees.

The use of alcohol and other drugs by victims of abuse can be cited as a means to mask the pain and horror of victimization. Merging ADAM data with data collected specifically for this project allowed for analyses of this relationship among this sample of arrestees.

Research Approach

The ADAM arrestees who completed the domestic violence addendum were asked if they had experienced various types of abuse in their lifetime, as well as in the past year. The types of abuse defined by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, verbal threats of physical harm, and nonverbal threats. To explore the relationship between substance use (self-report ever used, used in past 30 days, drug test results) with different types of violence, analyses were conducted by comparing those who experienced that form of abuse with those who did not. A total of 181 women who completed the addendum were included for analysis.

Physical Abuse

Over three-quarters (77%) of the arrestees reported that they had been physically abused in their lifetime. Of these 140 arrestees, 57 percent (80 women) reported that they had been physically abused in the last 12 months. Comparing drugs tried (alcohol, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine) with occurrence/non-occurrence of physical abuse showed significant differences for ever binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a day) and ever trying methamphetamine. That is, women who report as ever having been physically abused in their lifetime were significantly more likely to have ever tried alcohol and meth.

When self-reported drug use in the past 30 days was examined, differences were slight between the two groups, with the exception of meth use. Over one-third (37%) of those ever physically abused reported the use of meth in the past 30 days, compared to 17 percent of those never physically abused. This difference was significant. Also significant was the finding that those who were physically abused were more likely to test positive for methamphetamine than those who were never abused. Small numbers in the bi-variate categories precluded further in-depth analysis through multiple regression techniques to explain these relationships/differences.

Emotional Abuse

About two-thirds (68%) of the female arrestees interviewed reported having been emotionally abused by an intimate partner. Of these 123 women, 63 percent reported that they had been emotionally abused in the past 12 months. Analysis suggested that alcohol use and the use of meth were also significantly associated with emotional abuse. Seventy percent (70%) of the women who experienced emotional abuse admitted to ever binge drinking, compared to 52 percent of those who had not been abused. In addition, women with abusive experiences were significantly more likely than women not abused to have tried meth, used it the past month, and test positive for it. Lastly, women who were emotionally abused were significantly more likely than those who were not to have ever tried cocaine.

Sexual Abuse

Of the 181 women interviewed, 47 reported having been sexually abused in their lifetime, with one-third of these reporting abuse occurred in the past 12 months. There were no significant differences with regard to sexual abuse and drugs tried or positive drug tests.

Verbal Threats

About two-thirds (67%) of the female arrestees reported that they had ever been verbally threatened with physical harm by an intimate partner. Of these 121 individuals, one-half (50%) had been verbally threatened in the past year.

Alcohol and meth were again predicted by abuse history. Over two-thirds (69%) of those ever having been threatened had also binge drank in their lifetime, compared to 53 percent of those who had never been verbally threatened. Similarly, those who had been threatened were also more likely to have tried meth and cocaine. These differences were significant as well.

Substance Use and Most Recent Abuse

Eighty-nine (89) of the 91 arrestees who experienced abuse during this one-year period answered a question about the type of abuse that occurred. Three-quarters (75%) reported that they had been physically abused, 76 percent admitted being emotionally abused, 60 percent reported being verbally or nonverbally threatened, and 7 percent were sexually abused.

These women also were asked what substances they, themselves, and/or the abuser had used before the most recent incident. Overall, 72 percent of the arrestees indicated that the abuser had used either alcohol or some other drug and 61 percent reported that they, themselves, had used some substance. About two-thirds of these women and their abusers had used alcohol prior to the incident, according to their self-reports. Meth and marijuana were the next most frequently used drugs by both parties. It is important to be aware that the numbers based upon the percentages are relatively small.

When arrestees were asked if they thought that the abuser's use of alcohol contributed to the incident, most responded affirmatively (87%). Explanations included statements about how drugs intensify emotions, lead to not thinking clearly, make some people meaner, and cause them to be less inhibited. Over one-half (56%) indicated that abuse by that partner *only* occurred when the partner had consumed alcohol or other drugs. This comment is consistent with the literature that suggests that alcohol may be viewed by some as an excuse for violence - that violence reflects a temporary lapse in 'normality.'

Similarly, about two-thirds (61%) of the arrestees stated that their own substance use contributed to the situation in some way, in that they became violent, may have provoked the abuse, that it intensified the situation, or that the drugs contributed to placing themselves in unsafe situations. Two situations were significant with respect to abuse and substance use by the offender: those who said they were emotionally abused in the most recent incident were more likely to say the offender used alcohol at that time, and those who had threats (verbal or nonverbal) made against them were more likely to report that the offender had used meth.

Frequency of Abuse

Frequency of abuse in the past year varied widely depending upon type of abuse, with emotional abuse occurring on a daily or weekly basis as reported by more than one-half of the arrestees. With regard to physical abuse, one in five of the women (19%) reported that it had only occurred once and 40 percent stated that it happened less than once a month. There were no significant differences when the women's substance use and abuse frequency were examined.

Weapon Use

Another indicator of abuse severity is use and type of weapons. Ninety (90) of the women who reported injury in the past year were asked about weapons. Of the 80 who reported use of any weapon, the most prevalent were the abuser's hands or arms and legs or feet. One-third (33%) mentioned that a household item, such as a piece of furniture, was used. A knife was used in ten percent and a gun in five percent. There was no relationship between substance use by the victim and weapons used. (The question about the abuser's substance use was not asked).

Type of Injury

Respondents who reported ever being either physically or sexually abused (140 women) were asked if they had ever been injured as a result. Of the 139 women who answered, 94 percent reported injuries. Of the 80 victims with “recent” abuse, 89 percent reported having injuries in the past year.

The most prevalent injuries included bruises, aches and pains, and scratches, but over one-half also reported a bloody lip or nose, sprains or swelling, cuts, and black eyes. Loose or broken teeth, internal injuries, stab wounds, burns and gunshot wounds were reported by less than 20 percent of the victims. As described below, victim substance use was significantly related to an increased risk of injury. While causality cannot be determined, one possible explanation is that substance use is related to general health risks (e.g., loss of balance, slower reflexes) that make an individual more susceptible to injury. These findings are consistent with previous analyses showing that, when alcohol or other drugs are involved, the likelihood of victim injury is increased (Rennison, 2001).

Loose and/or Broken Teeth

The use of an illegal drug on the part of the victim (either ever or recent) was significantly associated with type of injuries. Again, the information about the use of illegal substances by the abuser was not obtained. For example, women who ever suffered loose or broken teeth as a result of abuse were more likely than those who did not suffer this injury to have used cocaine and heroin in the previous 30 days and to have tested positive for meth.

Black Eyes

Similarly, those women who reported injury to the eyes (black eyes) were significantly more likely to have ever used cocaine and meth. In addition, they were more likely to have used meth in the past 30 days and to have tested positive for meth.

Bloody Lip or Nose

Overall, more than two-thirds (68%) of those victimized by physical or sexual abuse reported that they had received a bloody lip or nose. Use of cocaine, marijuana, and meth on the part of the victim was significantly related to having this type of injury. Specifically, those who reported having a bloody nose or lip were more likely to have ever used these drugs compared to other women who had not been injured in this manner.

Bruises

Bruises were the most frequent injury received during a physical or sexual assault, as reported by 86 percent of the victims. Two illegal drugs were associated with bruising but one was not in the expected direction. That is, women who did *not* report bruising were significantly *more* likely to have tested positive for cocaine. In contrast, those who did report they had ever been bruised were significantly more likely to have tested positive for meth.

Sprains or Swelling

Over one-half of the female arrestees (58%) experienced sprains or swelling as a result of abuse. Marijuana was the only substance associated with these injuries in that those who reported sprains or swelling were more likely to have tested positive for marijuana.

Receipt of Medical Treatment

Another potential indicator of abuse severity for some victims may be the fact that they sought medical treatment following abuse. About one-third (34%) of the women stated that they did receive treatment in the most recent incident. About one-half (46%) also said that there were other times when they needed treatment but were afraid to get it because the incident might be reported to the police and they feared the reaction by the abuser.

The receipt (or not) of medical treatment was associated with a number of substance use factors. In each case, those who sought treatment were significantly *more* likely to report substance abuse compared to those who did not receive treatment. The associated drugs included ever consuming five or more drinks of alcohol (binge drinking), ever using cocaine or crack, using cocaine in the last 30 days, ever using heroin, and ever using meth. It is important to note that the drug use may have occurred some time ago and may or may not have been a factor at the time of seeking treatment.

Ultimately, the data presented here regarding the association between drug use and intimate partner abuse is inconsistent and inconclusive, similar to other research on this topic. There were no consistent patterns either by drug, frequency of use or type and severity of abuse, although there were some significant predictors by drug type. At best, the data suggest that alcohol or drugs may be precipitating or contributing factors, but no causality can be ascertained by these results. Small numbers and valid and complete information about substance use on the part of the abuser also inhibited analysis.

Objective 3: Compare characteristics and life experiences of arrestees who reported domestic violence victimization in the past 12 months with the shelter clients from a previous study.

Research Approach

The shelter sample consisted of 599 women who sought protection from an emergency shelter in San Diego County between April 1997 and December 1998. The study was funded by NIJ and the California State Legislature. SANDAG researchers and staff from seven emergency shelters collaborated to develop an intake interview to be completed by shelter staff with women who stayed in the shelter at least 48 hours. Information was obtained about sociodemographic factors, types of partner abuse experienced, both lifetime and most recent, characteristics of the abuser, substance use, and services sought by shelter clients. The data were compared to information collected from the ADAM domestic violence addendum from the 91 women reporting recent abuse. interview addenda. Differences in methodology, including administration of the interview, question sequence, and differential wording of some questions, suggest caution when comparisons are reviewed. In addition, women who come to the attention of a shelter generally do so voluntarily

because they seek protection from abuse. Women in the ADAM sample came to the attention of police usually for reasons *other* than abuse, although in some cases women in this sample had charges that could have been related to partner abuse. For these reasons, the analysis is purely descriptive.

Sociodemographic Profiles

Compared to arrestees, shelter clients were less likely to be White and Black and more likely to be Hispanic. The ethnic difference may be related to the fact that about 30 percent of the shelter clients were undocumented persons and may have been reluctant to involve the legal process or attention of the police. Also, Hispanic women are less likely to report domestic violence to the police. Shelter clients were slightly older than arrestees (mean age 31.5 compared to 28.6) and also less likely to have graduated from high school or obtained a higher educational degree.

Abuser Characteristics

In both samples, respondents were asked to describe the person who abused them most recently. In one percent of the shelter sample, the abuser was female, in contrast to the arrestee sample in which eight percent were reported as female. Other characteristics of abusers (e.g., ethnicity, age, education) were similar to their victim counterparts.

Nature of Relationship

Shelter clients (nearly one-half) were twice as likely as arrestees to be married to their abuser. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the arrestees and 43 percent of the shelter clients were either cohabitants or in a dating relationship. Shelter clients had longer relationships with the current (or most recent) abuser based upon having been with the abuser for an average of about six years compared to about three years for arrestees.

Children

The majority in both samples had children under the age of 18, but arrestees were more likely than shelter clients to either ever have or currently have a case involving Child Protective Services (CPS), again suggesting that arrestees are more visible to public agencies than shelter clients. Shelter clients were more likely to report that their children had been in proximity of recent abuse and could have seen or heard the incident.

History of Abuse

Over one-half of the arrestees and three-quarters of the shelter clients stated that their abusive partner had had a previous abusive relationship. In addition, the majority in both groups reported that their partners had witnessed abuse as a child and that they, themselves, had also seen violence between parental figures. Also, 46 percent of the arrestees admitted to having been abused as a child, a factor that has been shown to be related to later victimization and substance use. This question was not asked to shelter clients.

Involvement with the Legal System

Most arrestees (89%) and shelter clients (73%) indicated that the police ever had been called to their household for the purpose of responding to a domestic violence call. About one in five in both samples reported that police had been called more than four times. The majority in both groups said that an arrest had occurred. Over two-thirds of the arrestees admitted that they, themselves, had been arrested, in contrast to eight percent of the shelter clients having been arrested. The nature of this arrest was not documented in either study.

One-third (33%) of the arrestees and 40 percent of the shelter clients stated that they had had a restraining order against an abusive partner at some time. One-half or more in both groups reported that the partner had violated the conditions in the order with non-compliance behaviors similar in both groups. The majority of women in both samples never had a restraining order of any kind. The reasons for not having one were similar: they were considering it, they didn't think it would do any good, they didn't know how to get one, or they have to live with their partner anyway.

Type and Severity of Abuse

Almost all the women in both samples had experienced physical abuse in their lifetime. Nearly two-thirds of the arrestees (65%) and one-half (50%) of the shelter clients reported having been sexually abused as well. With regard to the most recent incident, three-quarters in both samples reported having been both physically or emotionally (or mentally) abused. Shelter clients reported more frequent abuse than arrestees, although the differences in response categories may have affected the results. Weapons used by abusers seemed to be similar for both groups despite differences in response categories. Hands and feet were the most common. The majority of arrestees and shelter clients reported having been injured as a result of abuse, but the injuries for arrestees appeared more severe, which could possibly be related to substance use. Types of injuries for both groups, in descending order of frequency, included bruises, aches and pains, scratches, cuts, sprains and swelling, concussions, fractured or broken bones, broken teeth, internal injuries, and stab wounds. About one-third of the arrestees (35%) and 42 percent of the shelter clients sought medical treatment for their injuries.

Substance Use

Shelter clients were more likely than arrestees to state that their abuser had not used alcohol or drugs prior to the most recent incident (41% compared to 28%). But nearly one-half in both groups reported that the abuser had consumed alcohol prior to the incident. Arrestees were nearly twice as likely as shelter clients to report that their abusers used illegal drugs, with 25 percent reporting marijuana use and 20 percent stating that the abuser had used methamphetamine. Arrestees also were far more likely than shelter clients to admit to their own alcohol and drug use prior to the most recent incident. For example, 38 percent of the arrestees, but only 6 percent of the shelter clients, reported use of alcohol. One percent or less of the shelter clients admitted using any illegal drugs compared to 19 percent of the arrestees reporting their own use of marijuana, 20 percent methamphetamine, and 9 percent cocaine/crack. While shelter clients may be less likely than arrestees to use alcohol or drugs, these percentages also may be associated with the fact that shelter clients may be reluctant to report their own drug use when desiring respite in a shelter.

Receipt of Services

When asked about what services either group had ever sought and received with regard to domestic violence, 39 percent of the shelter clients said they had, with the primary services reported as shelter and counseling. Only 21 percent of arrestees reported receipt of any kind of services, with about one-half stating that they had received counseling. Only a few arrestees reported ever having been to a shelter for battered women.

IMPLICATIONS

Prevention

- Both arrestee populations and shelter populations suggest that domestic violence was experienced by both victims and offenders during childhood, supporting the theory of generational violence. Because an exposure to abuse of one parent by another, as well as alcohol and other drug use can be confounded, it is important that researchers gain a better understanding of how the two are related. In addition, studying resiliency factors that might buffer a child after exposure to one or both of these factors also is important. Such an understanding would be extremely useful to service providers working with these youth. In addition, a high proportion of each group of victims has children, suggesting the need to offer services to them as well when their parent comes into contact with either the criminal justice or domestic violence community.
- Because a greater proportion of domestic violence victims may be in younger age categories, as is the case with many types of crime, specific outreach efforts should be directed at reaching women who are under 30. Such efforts could include education and public service announcements through young adult-friendly outlets and venues.

Intervention

- A high proportion of females booked into local detention facilities are either current or past victims of domestic violence. While current physical and mental health are evaluated during booking, questions about violence by a partner generally are not addressed. If the arrestee reports current or recent abuse, jail staff could offer referral sources the arrestee may access upon release from jail or provide domestic violence education to inmates who have extended stays.
- Given the relationship between intimate partner violence and substance use, it also may be beneficial for drug treatment programs to determine if clients have a history of partner abuse and to offer relevant referrals or services by appropriately trained staff that will address these associated issues.
- Both arrestees and women in shelters appear to have contact with several public agencies, including the police and CPS. Staff in all public agencies should have proper training to understand the dynamics of intimate partner violence, even when 'clients' or arrestees are presenting for different problems. Jail and shelter stays can be opportunities for positive intervention.
- Recent research regarding use of restraining orders suggests they can be helpful in protecting victims from further abuse (Holt, Kernic, Rivara, and Wolf, 2003). Findings here suggest that some victims do not obtain one because they don't want one, don't think it will do any good, or

don't know how. Information regarding this option should be shared with victims and the process to obtain one should be simple as possible.

Public Policy

- Medical mandatory reporting laws were created with the victim's safety in mind. It is important that individuals in the medical field be educated about domestic violence as well as referrals available locally. In addition, it may be more useful to make referral information available to all women seeking treatment from injuries that could be related to abuse, regardless of victim self-disclosure.
- Regardless of the nature of the relationship between use of alcohol and other drugs and domestic violence victimization, these results suggest that a victim who uses substances is more likely to be injured as a result of abuse. This public health issue should be addressed at all levels and resources should be allocated to preventing and combating this serious problem.

Future Research

- Although the relationship between intimate partner violence and substance use remains complex, some factors such as degree of injury and medical treatment and use of specific drugs appear to be significantly correlated. Also, for this research, victim meth use (ever, 30 days) was the strongest predictor, being significantly related to physical, emotional, verbal, and nonverbal abuse. Research with other groups of victims in different regions of the country would be worthwhile to determine if certain drugs are more strongly related to victimization than others, independent of other victim characteristics.
- While some research has been done, researchers should continue to explore the relationship between substance use, mental health issues, and domestic violence victimization. In this study, arrestees with no abuse history were less likely to have sought mental health treatment and also less likely to have used a number of substances. Based upon these findings, it is unclear what the nature of these relationships is. Possible research questions could include further exploring the prevalence of dual diagnosis among victims, whether substance use preceded or followed the experience and the diagnosis of mental health issues and victimization, and whether these individuals are also victims of other types of crime.
- Results presented here have shown that arrestees who reported "recent" abuse were significantly more likely to be arrested for a violent offense, including spousal abuse. Due to the focus of this study, the contextual settings surrounding the incidents of domestic violence victimization, as well as situations in which the victim may have been arrested for abuse, could not be fully explored. Additional research with this population, which examines these issues, is needed.
- Only one question was included on the interview instrument regarding childhood abuse, and this question was posed only to those who reported ever being abused. Future studies which examine the relationship between childhood abuse, domestic violence, and substance use should include multiple questions to get at the extent of childhood victimization and should ask these questions of those who are victims of domestic violence, as well as those who are not.

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND
PROJECT BACKGROUND

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INTRODUCTION

This study, funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and conducted by the Criminal Justice Research Division of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), examines domestic violence victimization among the female arrestee population.

Prevalence of Domestic Violence

Violence between intimates is not a new issue. Attention to this type of violence, however, *is* relatively recent and limited to the past 30 years. It began with advocates for battered women leading the fight to change legislation recognizing such acts as crimes and mandating changes in laws, policies, and practices by public agencies that respond to reports of violence. Actual incidence and prevalence of intimate partner violence are difficult to discern due to underreporting in official statistics and methodological differences in research studies gathering such information. A few examples illustrate.

In the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), estimates suggest that individuals age 18 and older experienced 791,210 intimate abuse victimizations in 1999. Of those, 85 percent or 671,110 involved female victims and the remainder (15 percent) were males (Rennison, 2001). The 1999 per capita rate of intimate violence against women was 6 per 1,000 but varied by age, with 16 victimizations for females within the 16 to 24 age category and 9 per 1,000 for women ages 25 to 43. Similar to other surveys, the authors urge caution in interpretation based upon the fact that this national survey includes only those in households and only those willing to report such acts. Also, some victims may not view some types of partner violence as a crime.

Additional analyses of the NCVS focus on the characteristics of incidents of violent crimes that involved injuries. Compared to males, female victims injured in violent crime were more likely than males to be injured by an intimate than by a stranger (37% versus 4%). Among victims of intimate partner violence, about one-half of the females compared to one-third of the males were injured (Simon, Mercy, and Perkins, 2001). Results also suggest that, when alcohol or other drugs are involved, the likelihood of injury is greater for violent crime victims and that injuries are two-and-one-half times more likely to be severe when compared to violent incidents where the suspect is not under the influence. In addition, persons victimized by a spouse or current or former boyfriend or girlfriend are more likely to experience injury than those victimized by a former spouse or other family members. Finally, victims who experience violence from spouses are far more likely to report being injured than victims of stranger violence (50% versus 20%).

In another study of incidence and prevalence of partner violence, Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) reported results of telephone surveys with 8,000 men and 8,000 women in the United States, the National Violence Against Women Survey. With respect to lifetime abuse, 25 percent of the women and 8 percent of the men reported being physically assaulted and/or sexually assaulted by a partner in their lifetime. With respect to abuse in the 12 months prior to the interview, 1.5 percent of the women reported victimizations, as did 0.9 percent of the men. Overall, the authors estimate that there are 4.8 million assaults and rapes against women annually in the United States. In addition, women are more likely to experience injury and an estimated 500,000 women annually will need medical treatment. Both surveys suggest that women in younger age groups, such as ages 16 to 24, are the most likely to experience partner violence. Also, the differences across ethnicity are not significant and may be related to income level and/or willingness to report partner violence. However, this finding is open for discussion as Tjaden and Thoennes caution that grouping minorities in one category compared to Whites can be misleading and suggest that American Indian women have far higher rates than women of other ethnic backgrounds.

A third national study, the National Family Violence Survey, contradicts the findings from the previous two reports by suggesting that males and females in intimate relationships abuse one another at equal rates. Researchers Tjaden and Thoennes, as well as Straus, suggest that methodological factors (such as sample design, definitions of intimate violence, screening questions, question sequence, survey administration, and respondent perceptions) affect study results and can explain these differences. However, a general conclusion is that, although the rates of partner violence may be equal across gender, there are greater physical, financial, and emotional injury impacts suffered by women and resources should be directed to them (Straus, 1999).

Researchers, such as Browne (1993), have noted that some groups, including ethnic minorities, incarcerated individuals, and the poor may not be equally represented in national survey studies. In recent years, a few studies have been conducted which have attempted to better document the rate of domestic violence victimization among the understudied group of incarcerated females. In general, these studies have shown that these women report higher rates of partner violence, both in terms of the frequency and severity of the abuse, compared to those from community populations (e.g., American Correctional Association, 1990; Browne, Miller, and Maguin, 1999; Jones, Ji, Beck, and Beck, 2002; Snell and Morton, 1994). In California, for example, Bloom, Chesney, and Owen (1994) found that 60 percent of the incarcerated women they interviewed had been physically abused as an adult, 23 percent had been sexually abused, and almost one-half (48%) had been emotionally abused. In addition, over one-third had been abused as a child.

While documenting domestic violence by female perpetrators was not the focus of this study, it is important to note that an increasing number of women are being incarcerated for this crime nationally. Recent research has examined these trends to determine if females are becoming more violent or if law enforcement agencies are less able to distinguish who the primary aggressor is in situations that may appear to be mutually combative, but really involve defensive tactics on the part of the female. A general conclusion of this research is that merely counting rates of male and female partner violence, without considering context, motive, rates of initiation violence, and the physical and psychological consequences paints a skewed picture where male and female victimizations are the same (Browne, 1993; Osthoff, 2002; Saunders, 2002; Worcester, 2002). Hirschel and Buzawa (2002) have noted that male and female violence is qualitatively and quantitatively different, with female actions most often geared toward avoiding violent actions being taken

against them. Others have appropriately questioned why women would be equally violent in their own home, but not in nondomestic situations (Kimmel, 2002).

Substance Use and Domestic Violence Victimization

A common assumption is that alcohol and other drugs are correlates of acts of violence between intimate partners. Some view alcohol use by the perpetrator as a precipitating factor in causing abuse to occur, either because inhibitions are reduced or because the abuser uses substances to have an excuse for the unacceptable behavior. Others have noted that different drugs are associated with different physiological changes and that a given effect can be related to a number of factors, including dosage level and long-term pattern of use. As such, the relationship between substance use and violence is more likely a network of interacting process and feedback loops, rather than straightforward causation (Reiss and Roth, 1993).

With most studies focusing on alcohol and drug use by *intimates* and the correlation with acts of violence, much less is known about the correlation between the *victim's* alcohol and drug use and domestic violence. In general, the few studies that have been done have shown that there is a relationship, that it is complex, and that victimization in childhood is also related to both later victimization and subsequent substance use.

Browne, Miller, and Maguin (1999) have noted that studies involving both clinical and community populations have shown a strong correlation between history of family violence and the development of later alcohol and drug problems in survivors. For example, Sargent, Marcus-Mendoza, and Chong (1993) reported that women prisoners in Oklahoma who reported being physically or sexually abused were also more likely to report problems with alcohol or other drugs. Similarly, Bloom, Chesney, and Owen (1994) note that around three-quarters of their sample of incarcerated women had used alcohol before the age of 18 and over one-half had used some other type of drug, perhaps in response to the pain they had already experienced in their lives.

Miller and Downs (1993) compared five populations (women from alcohol treatment centers, drinking and driving classes, domestic violence shelters, mental health clinics, and the general population) in terms of their childhood victimization and domestic violence history. They found that women sampled from alcohol treatment centers had experienced higher rates of childhood victimization, significantly more severe violence from fathers, more childhood sexual abuse, as well as significantly higher levels of violence by partners, compared to the household sample. The authors hypothesized that childhood abuse could lead to subsequent substance use because the victim has low self-esteem and is trying to cope with negative feelings or, alternatively, the victim feels different because of the abuse and may begin to associate with a deviant group that uses substances regularly.

Clark and Foy (2000) conducted an extensive literature review regarding research showing the strong correlation between alcohol use specifically and domestic violence victimization. In their study of 78 battered women in Los Angeles, severity of abuse was positively correlated with alcohol use. That is, individuals who were most severely abused were also most likely to abuse alcohol. In addition, those with childhood sexual abuse and a mother who abused alcohol were most likely to severely abuse alcohol.

FOCUS OF THIS STUDY

This research offers yet another approach to addressing partner violence by examining violence within a different sub-group of the population utilizing the ADAM (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring, previously known as DUF or Drug Use Forecasting) program as the research platform. The impetus for this study came from two sources.

The first source was the ADAM program. This National Institute of Justice (NIJ)-sponsored program involves voluntary and confidential interviews with persons arrested and booked into local detention facilities. At the time of this research, interviews were conducted four quarters each year in two-week intervals. There are approximately 35 ADAM sites operational throughout the country. The purposes of the ADAM program are to establish the nexus between drug use and crime, to identify drug use trends and potential drug epidemics, and identify the characteristics of the arrestees and their drug use patterns (NIJ, 1999). SANDAG has managed the ADAM program in San Diego since its implementation.

The ADAM program has become a source for very rich information about an important sub-group of the population: arrestees. Not only does the program provide timely and objective data on results of drug use at time of arrest based upon urinalysis testing, but information is obtained about drug treatment needs, prior arrest and incarceration history, and the nature of drug markets. The ADAM results are used throughout the country by policy makers and practitioners in criminal justice entities and health and human service agencies. In the early 1990s, the opportunity to expand the value of ADAM data by utilizing ADAM as a research platform was proposed by NIJ staff. Since that time, a number of studies have been conducted to learn more about a specific issue through additional questions posed to arrestees by means of an interview addendum following the standard interview (e.g., Decker, Pennell, and Caldwell 1997; Lansky, 2002; McCorkle, 2002; Pennell, Rienick, Ellett, and Grimes, 1999; Riley, 1997).

The NIJ provided another such opportunity by soliciting research associated with domestic violence using ADAM as the mechanism to obtain information. SANDAG received funding in 1999 to conduct an addendum with adult women arrested and booked into the San Diego County Detention Facility for Women. Several ADAM sites were funded in this process, although the focus differed with respect to target population (e.g., some sites focused on male abusers or male *and* female abusers). As part of this proposal, it was hypothesized that this sample of domestic violence victims could potentially be overlooked and might be less likely to request police assistance or assistance from community resources due to their own legal or drug problems.

The second impetus for this study was the fact that SANDAG had conducted an earlier research study in San Diego County based upon a collaboration with local battered women's shelters. This descriptive study, funded by NIJ and the California State Legislature, involved the administration of a standardized intake interview instrument used by all shelters to obtain information about the clients seeking shelter, characteristics of their abusers, and the nature and scope of violence experienced. The result, over a period of two years, was descriptive findings from 599 women who had sought shelter in San Diego due to domestic violence. The study findings are reported in the document entitled *Violence Against Women in San Diego County* (Pennell, Burke, and Mulmat, 2000).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For this research, the authors were interested in comparing women who were arrested and booked to the data set involving clients seeking shelter. The issue of the association between substance use and domestic violence also was of interest. Specifically, the research had three broad objectives.

Research Objectives

Merging the responses from the ADAM interviews with responses from a domestic violence addendum, the following objectives were addressed:

- Compare arrestees who report having experienced domestic violence with arrestees who report never having experienced partner abuse.
- Examine the association between types and severity of domestic violence victimization and substance use as reported by arrestees.
- Compare characteristics and life experiences of arrestees who reported domestic violence victimization in the past 12 months with the shelter clients from the previous study.

Logistics and Limitations of the Research

ADAM Interview and Protocol

Women in the ADAM program in San Diego represent a select group. Las Colinas, the primary adult female detention facility, is located in the eastern part of the 4,200 square mile county. Since the ADAM protocol requires a probability sample of arrestees booked within a 24 hour period, the program can access females in the 'housing' part of the facility that were booked earlier and are being retained. Generally, individuals booked for most misdemeanors are eligible for release soon after booking. This practice and the procedure for selecting the arrestee sample limit the number of eligible interviewees per night. Another limitation within ADAM is the condition of the arrestees. Women selected from housing often do not want to be bothered. Recently booked arrestees may be impaired due to being under the influence of drugs or alcohol and are often too sleepy, incoherent, or uncooperative to participate.

Supplementary Domestic Violence Interview

Several ADAM sites were funded to focus on some aspect of domestic violence. Some addressed *only* males, others addressed men and women, and some focused only on women. Prior to implementation, NIJ hosted a cluster meeting with the grantees to discuss the proposed research. A number of issues were addressed at the meeting, including the importance of context in identifying domestic violence and the significance of definition of terms such as personal safety and victimization. Drawing from research findings, meeting participants noted that acts of partner violence are not always viewed as crimes by some victims. In fact, some researchers have noted that, while males may tend to overestimate their victimization, women will tend to underestimate theirs (Kimmel, 2002). Studies that report differences in results about incidence and prevalence rates between genders were summarized and all agreed that care must be taken regarding instrument design and definitions. Results reported here also could be affected by the fact responses, both to the regular ADAM interview and the addendum, relied upon retrospection.

In several sections of this report, analyses are presented which describe the relationship between substance use by the victim and factors related to domestic violence victimization (e.g., severity of abuse). It should be noted that the existence of such a relationship (i.e. between substance use and domestic violence) does not indicate that substance use caused abuse to occur or that abuse caused the victim to use a substance. In addition, it should be noted that, due to the focus of this study, the contextual settings surrounding the incidence of domestic violence victimization, as well as situations in which the victim may have been arrested for abuse, could not be fully explored.

Procedures

Interviews with arrestees took place at Las Colinas Detention Facility, a women's jail in the eastern part of San Diego County. Females arrested in the county also may be booked into the north county men's facility in the City of Vista. However, they are transported within 24 hours to Las Colinas. There are no other booking facilities for adult females in the county. Interviews took place during the ADAM quarters, specifically from August 2000 through May 2001. In the year 2000, the NIJ made significant changes to the operations of the ADAM interview. First, a new interview instrument was initiated that captures supplementary information about drug dependency, drug use patterns, and drug market dynamics. In addition, several questions conform to similar questions asked in other national data collection efforts, including the TEDS (Treatment Episodes Data Systems) compiled by drug treatment agencies throughout the country under the auspices of SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). All ADAM sites received extensive training in conducting the new interviews. Another important change involved the sampling process to identify arrestees. Prior to 2000, interview participants were selected by convenience. For example, anyone booked within the past 48 hours retained in the booking area was approached for an interview (unless prohibited by jail personnel due to extreme dysfunction based upon drugs, violence, or serious mental illness). With the implementation of probability sampling, the ADAM site staff identify those to be interviewed using the total listing of individuals booked within a specific time frame.

Each site has a predetermined number of persons (by NIJ) to be interviewed based upon examination of the jail census. Arrestees include those who enter the facility *during* the ADAM shift and others who are booked within the past 48 hours and are still detained by the jail but moved to another location in the jail, such as housing. When approached, arrestees are asked to participate in a voluntary, confidential interview, informed of the request for a urine sample, and read a statement regarding informed consent. Upon agreeing to the interview, the ADAM questions begin. During the course of the interview, all participants are provided with water and a snack. Following the ADAM interview, arrestees are taken to a private room to provide urine samples. For their time and cooperation, a small monetary compensation is placed "on their books" for pick up at time of release from jail. For the current project, when the ADAM process was completed, women were brought back to the interviewing space and asked to answer questions about domestic violence. They were advised again of the confidential nature of the interview and the opportunity to opt out of the interview as well as any specific questions.

Prior to the introduction of the domestic violence interview, ADAM staff participated in a three-hour training session conducted by a victim advocate. Training included definitions of abuse, theories about domestic violence, the potential for re-victimization through the use of the interview, and discussion of referral agencies.

Definitions of abuse, including physical, mental, and emotional, developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) were read to the respondents for clarity (see interview schedule, Appendix A). Questions were developed using a modified Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, 2000). Staff at NIJ approved the final interview.

REPORT OVERVIEW

This report continues with Chapter 2, which includes information regarding the prevalence of domestic violence among the female arrestee population. Chapter 3 presents the results of analyses examining the relationship between the type and severity of domestic violence victimization and substance abuse. Chapter 4 provides a comparison of arrestees who had experienced domestic violence in the past 12 months with domestic violence victims seeking protection at battered women's shelters. The report concludes in Chapter 5, with conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER 2
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION
AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES

CHAPTER 2

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES

INTRODUCTION

The current chapter presents research findings that address the first research objective: Compare arrestees who report having experienced partner abuse with arrestees who report never having experienced partner abuse. In addition to presenting a demographic profile of these individuals, information also is given regarding drug treatment, criminal history, and drug use history. Significant statistical differences are reported in the text and ranges are presented when some questions were not asked or answered by all respondents.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The proposed analysis includes a three-way comparison of ADAM arrestees who reported never having experienced domestic violence (“No Abuse”) to ADAM arrestees who did report domestic violence at some time in their life (“Lifetime”), and those who experienced partner violence within the past 12 months prior to the interview (“Recent”)¹. In the four quarters, a total of 564 face sheets were completed for potential interviewees. Of these, 273 were still in the facility, available for an interview. Of these, 255 (93%) agreed to an ADAM interview and provided a urine sample. Of these, 181 (71%) participated in the interview about domestic violence.

To reiterate, there were 181 women in the four quarters who agreed to the ADAM interview, provided a urine sample, and completed the domestic violence addendum. One in five or 20 percent stated that they had *never* experienced any type of abuse from an intimate partner, for a total of 37 women. Therefore, 80 percent or 144 women reported being abused at some time. A total of 53 said the abuse had occurred in their lifetime (36%) but they had not been abused in the past year. There were 91 or 63 percent who reported being abused in the past 12 months (Table 2.1). In this chapter, partner abuse includes any and all types of abuse (e.g., physical, sexual, emotional, verbal). Subsequent chapters address types and severity of partner abuse.

¹ It is important to note that the extent of abuse within the “lifetime” and “recent” arrest groups could vary from one time ever to living with regular victimization or fear of victimization.

Table 2.1
FEMALE ARRESTEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAMPLE
San Diego County, August 2003

564 completed a face sheet ↓		
273 available for ADAM interview ↓		
255 interviewed and provided urine sample ↓		
181 completed ADAM DV addendum ↓		
37 reported no history of abuse	53 reported lifetime abuse, but not in last 12 months	91 reported recent abuse (in last 12 months)

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

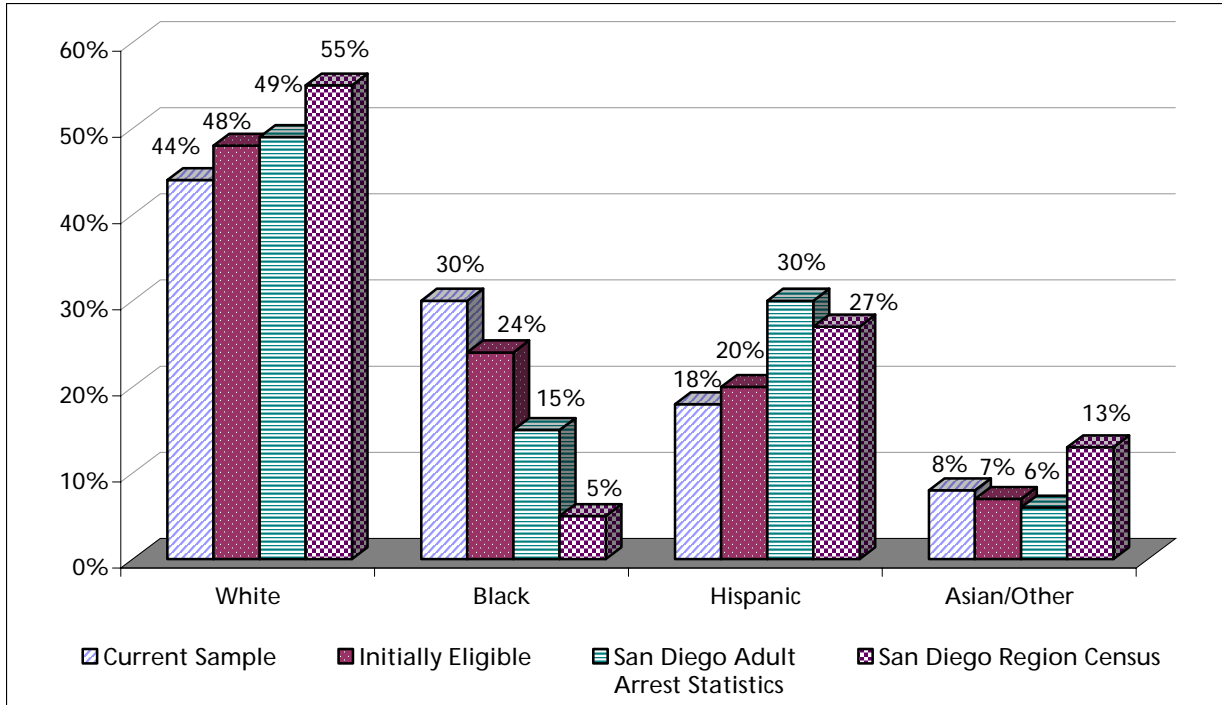
Ethnicity

The most prevalent ethnic category in all three groups was White². Just over one-half of those who reported “recent” abuse were White (51%, compared to 38% with “no abuse” and 35% with “lifetime abuse”) (Table 2.2). Hispanic women were least likely to report “recent” domestic violence (16%). Black women were fairly equally distributed with respect to if and when abuse occurred, with about one-third in each category (“no abuse,” “lifetime,” “recent”). A small number of Native Americans and Asians were represented in the arrest statistics overall.

Figure 2.1 presents the ethnicity of the 181 women interviewed for this study, compared to the 564 women who were booked into jail during the same time period and were initially eligible for this study, San Diego County adult arrest statistics (including men and women because the statistics are not available by gender), and the ethnic makeup of the San Diego region (according to the 2000 Census). As this figure shows, the proportion of White arrestees was similar to the local eligible group, as well as to the arrest statistics; however, the proportion was smaller than the number of Whites in the region as a whole. Blacks were overrepresented, compared to the San Diego region, arrestees in the region, and to those initially eligible. Hispanics and other ethnicities were slightly underrepresented compared to the San Diego region as a whole.

² The ethnic groups in this report are referred to as Hispanic, White, Black, and Asian and Others. While many people may prefer to identify themselves as African-American rather than Black, Latino rather than Hispanic, or as a member of a particular ethnic group rather than White or Asian, SANDAG uses the terminology consistent with the 1990 Census questionnaire to ensure comparability with historical data.

Figure 2.1
ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF STUDY PARTICIPANTS, ELIGIBLE ARRESTEES,
REGIONAL ARRESTEES, AND THE SAN DIEGO REGION
San Diego County, August 2003



Age

Women who reported “recent” abuse (past 12 months) were significantly younger than the other two groups, with an average age of 28.6 (Table 2.2) and an age range of 18 to 57 (not shown). Those who had never been abused were, on average, 30.2 and those with “lifetime” abuse were age 35.6, with a range from age 19 to age 64 (not shown). This finding of current victimization among younger females is consistent with National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data.

Marital Status

The difference in marital status for the three groups approached significance (Table 2.2). Specifically, those with “no abuse” were most likely to be single, never married (73%, compared to 43% “lifetime” abuse and 53% “recent” abuse), while those with “lifetime” and “recent” abuse were most likely to be married (23% and 25%, compared to 14% of those with “no abuse”).

Table 2.2
FEMALE ARRESTEE CHARACTERISTICS BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003

	No Abuse	Lifetime Abuse	Recent Abuse
Ethnicity			
White	38%	35%	51%
Black	32%	33%	28%
Hispanic	24%	19%	16%
Asian	5%	12%	3%
Native American	0%	2%	2%
Average Age	30.2	35.6	28.6
Marital Status			
Never Married	73%	43%	53%
Married	14%	23%	25%
Separated	8%	13%	5%
Divorced	3%	17%	16%
Widowed	3%	4%	0%
Educational Status			
No Degree	30%	34%	24%
High School Graduate/GED	30%	38%	30%
Vocational Degree	5%	6%	12%
Some College	27%	19%	31%
College	8%	4%	3%
Employment Status			
Employed	40%	38%	47%
Unemployed	33%	34%	36%
Disabled	5%	19%	8%
Other ¹	21%	10%	10%
Type of Residence			
House	81%	74%	75%
Residential Hotel/ Group Home	8%	15%	13%
Homeless	11%	9%	5%
Other ²	0%	2%	6%
TOTAL	37	52-53	90-91

¹ Other includes being out due to illness, having seasonal employment, being a full-time homemaker, and being a student worker.

² Other includes hospitals, jail, and shelters.

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Cases with missing information not included.

Education

Women who reported “recent” abuse were *less* likely than the other two groups to report having no degree (24%, versus 30% no abuse and 34% lifetime), and were also *more* likely to have attended some college (31% versus 27% and 19%, respectively) (Table 2.2). About one-third in each group (30% “no abuse,” 30% “recent,” and 38% “lifetime”) stated that they had completed high school and/or obtained a high school equivalency.

Employment Status

Arrestees with “recent” abuse were more likely than other arrestees to be employed, either full- or part-time (47%), though not significantly (Table 2.2). Of those who reported no abuse, 40 percent were employed and 38 percent of those with “lifetime” abuse stated that they were employed. Almost one in five (19%) of those with “lifetime” abuse reported being disabled. Five percent of those with no abuse and eight percent of those with “recent” abuse reported being disabled.

Type of Residence

The majority of arrestees resided in a house or apartment in the month prior to being arrested. Slightly more women who had never been abused (“no abuse”) (81%) reported this type of residence compared to women reporting “lifetime” abuse (74%) and those with “recent” abuse (75%) (Table 2.2). Those with “recent” abuse were less likely to report being homeless (5%), compared to the other two groups (11% and 9%).

TREATMENT AND CRIMINAL HISTORY

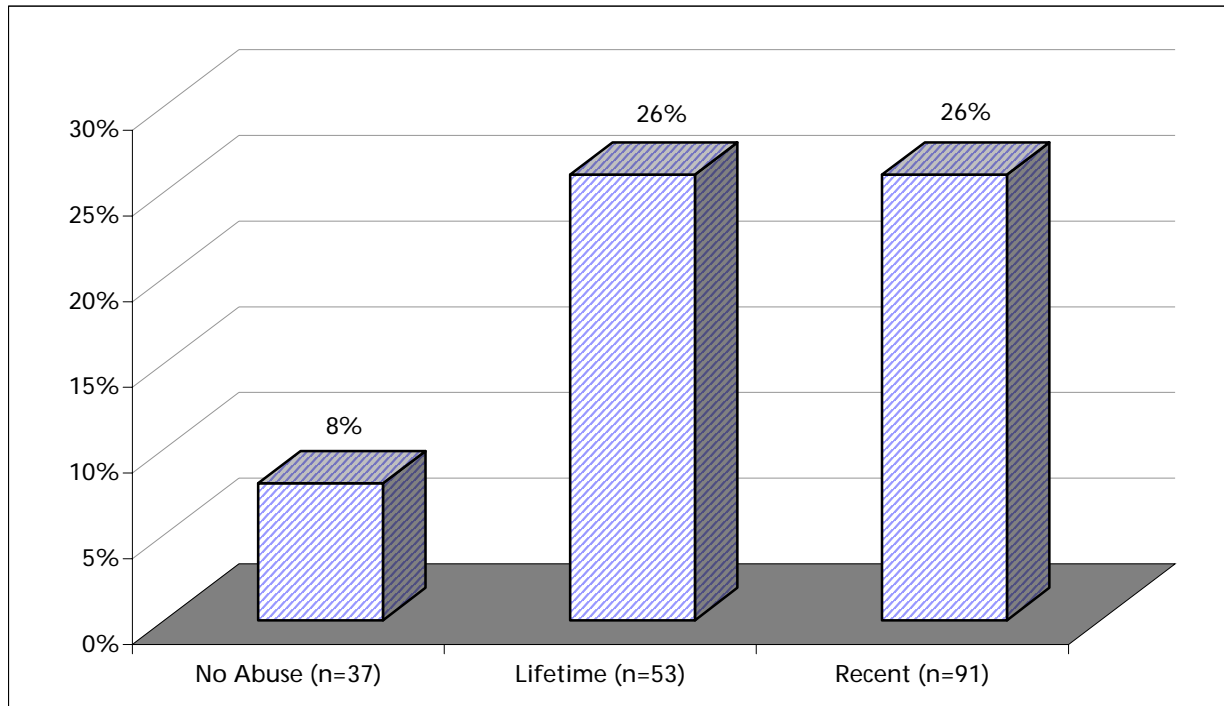
Substance Abuse Treatment

When asked if they had ever been in residential treatment for substance use, the majority in all three groups reported that they had not. Almost three-fourths (73%) of those never abused and those with “recent” (past 12 months) abuse had never been in treatment. For those with “lifetime” abuse, the figure was 64 percent. Similar percentages in each category said that they had never attended outpatient drug treatment (78% “no abuse,” 77% “lifetime,” and 79% “recent”) (not shown).

Mental Health Issues

As Figure 2.2 shows, women who had never been abused were three times *less* likely to have sought help for mental health issues (8%) compared to women *ever* abused and those with *recent* abuse (both 26%). This difference approached statistical significance. The nature of this relationship cannot be determined based solely upon the data that are available for this study, but is worthy of further examination.

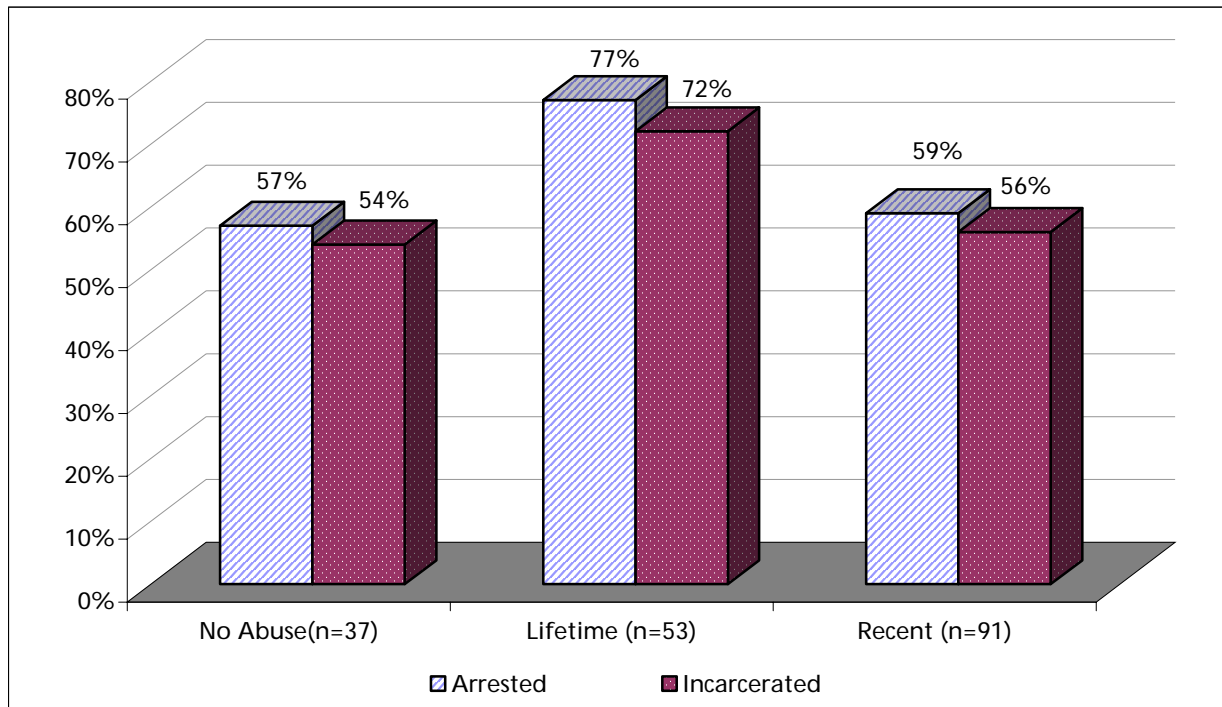
Figure 2.2
PERCENT OF FEMALE ARRESTEES WHO HAD EVER RECEIVED MENTAL
HEALTH TREATMENT BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Criminal History

The ADAM interview asks whether or not arrestees have ever been arrested and in jail for more than 24 hours (excluding the instant offense). Seventy-seven percent (77%) of those with “lifetime” abuse had been arrested and 72 percent had been incarcerated. Proportionately fewer arrestees with “no abuse” and “recent” abuse had been arrested (57% and 59%, respectively). Similarly, these two groups were less likely to have been incarcerated (54% and 56%, respectively) than those with “lifetime” abuse (Figure 2.3). Unfortunately, additional questions regarding the nature or circumstances regarding these prior arrests were not asked as part of this study.

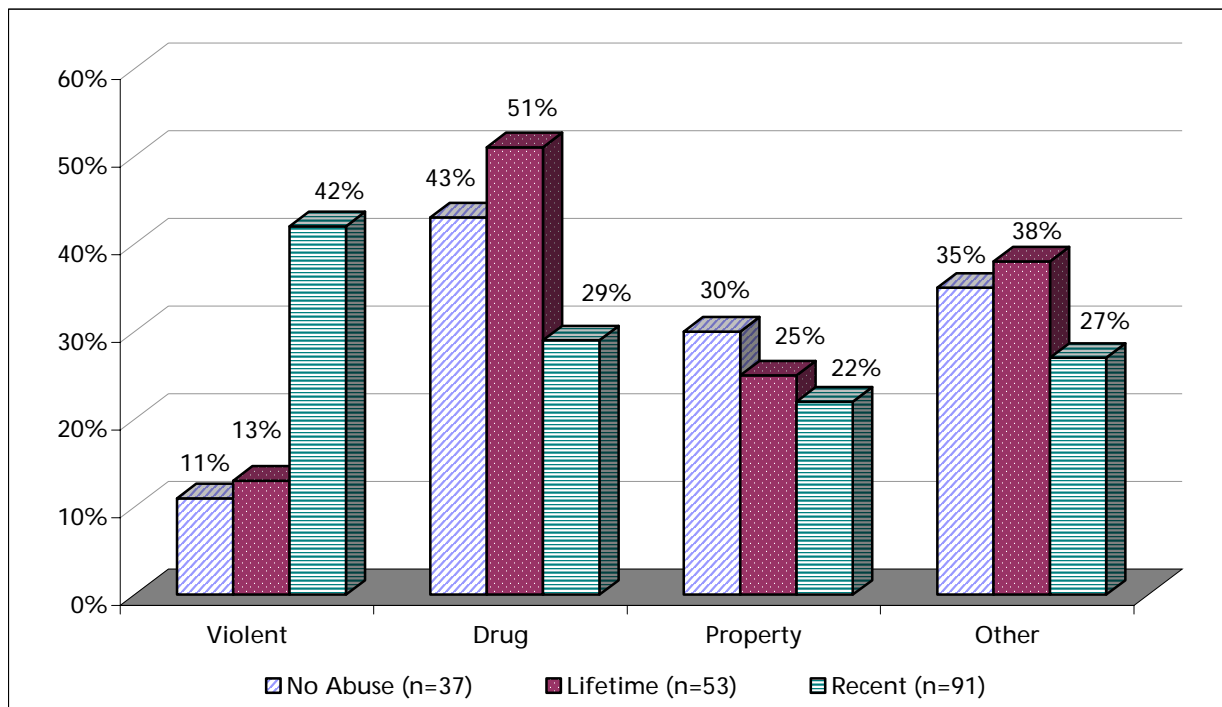
Figure 2.3
PERCENT OF FEMALE ARRESTEES ARRESTED
AND INCARCERATED BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Current Arrest Charge

Data are tracked on the ADAM interview regarding the three highest charges at arrest. Overall, 27 percent of the arrestees were arrested for a violent crime, 38 percent for a drug-related crime, 24 percent for a property offense, and 32 percent for some other type of crime (not shown). Figure 2.4 presents the percent of female arrestees in each abuse category that had at least one charge that was categorized as violent, drug, property, or other. Individuals who had “recent” abuse were significantly more likely to be arrested for a violent offense (42%), compared to those with “no abuse” (11%) and those with “lifetime” abuse (13%). In addition, these arrestees with “recent” abuse were significantly less likely to be arrested for a drug offense. This pattern of results is consistent with Bureau of Justice Statistics data that show that women sentenced to prison for a violent offense are more likely to have been abused, compared to those convicted of a property, drug, or other type of crime (Snell and Morton, 1994).

Figure 2.4
FEMALE ARRESTEES CURRENT ARREST CHARGE BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



To further explore the nature of the crime that led to these women being booked into jail, the types of violent and drug offenses for which these individuals were arrested were further examined (Table 2.3). Arrestees who reported “recent” abuse were more likely to be arrested for spousal/partner abuse, as well as other charges that could be associated with abuse (e.g., other assault and aggravated assault). Six percent of those who said they were not abused in the last year (“lifetime abuse”) were arrested for domestic violence (described in the ADAM protocol as assault on family members other than a spouse or partner), as were two percent who were arrested for spousal/partner abuse. It should be noted that San Diego County law enforcement agencies have a policy against mutually combative arrest. Those with “recent abuse” were less likely to be arrested for drug possession, drug sales, or under the influence.

Table 2.3
CURRENT ARREST CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH
VIOLENT AND DRUG OFFENSES BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003

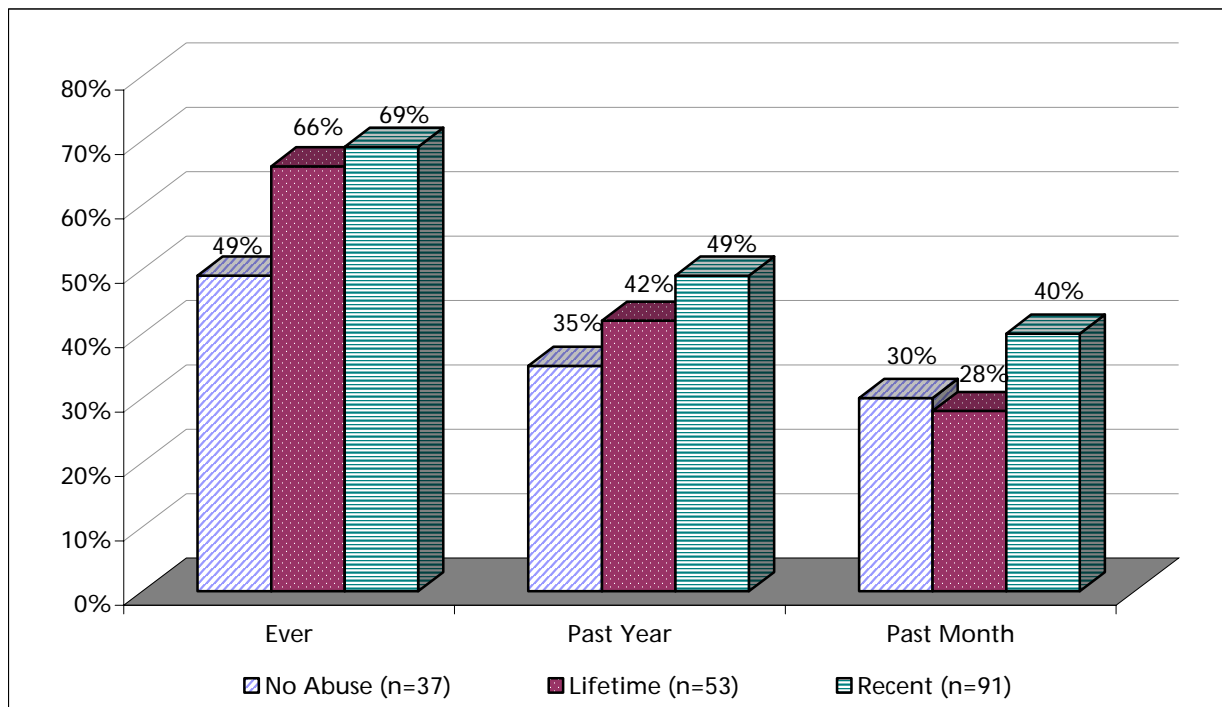
	No Abuse	Lifetime Abuse	Recent Abuse
Violent Offenses			
Spousal/Partner Abuse	3%	2%	20%
Other Assault	0%	0%	8%
Aggravated Assault	3%	2%	7%
Domestic Violence	0%	6%	3%
Extortion	0%	0%	2%
Robbery	0%	0%	2%
Violate Protection Order	0%	0%	2%
Weapons	0%	0%	1%
Other	0%	0%	1%
Child Abuse	3%	2%	0%
Drug Offenses			
Drug Possession	22%	36%	15%
Under the Influence	11%	17%	7%
Drug Sale	16%	9%	3%
Driving Under the Influence	5%	4%	4%
Other	3%	0%	1%
Possession of Alcohol	0%	0%	2%
TOTAL	37	53	91

PATTERNS OF DRUG USE

Self-Reported Alcohol Use

The ADAM interview asks several questions about substance use, both past and present. These self-report data are supplemented with urinalysis tests for several drugs. The program does not test for alcohol although questions are asked about alcohol use. As Figure 2.5 shows, about one-half (49%) of arrestees who had never experienced abuse (“no abuse”) reported ever having five or more alcohol drinks on at least one occasion in a month (binge drinking, as defined in the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse), compared to around two-thirds of those with “lifetime” (66%) or “recent” abuse (69%). Those with “no abuse” were also least likely to report binge drinking in the past 12 months (35%), compared to the other two groups (42% and 49%, respectively). There was slightly less of a difference when asked about the previous 30 days.

Figure 2.5
FEMALE ARRESTEE SELF-REPORTED ALCOHOL USE BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Self-Reported Drug Use and Drug Test Results

As noted previously, the correlation between substance use and violence among intimates is complex and it is difficult to determine the direction and strength of the relationship.

In the overall sample of all ADAM arrestees who provided urine samples (255 valid samples), 65 percent of the women were positive for some illegal drug. The figure has been fairly constant over the period that San Diego has been an ADAM site. With respect to drugs recently used, based upon

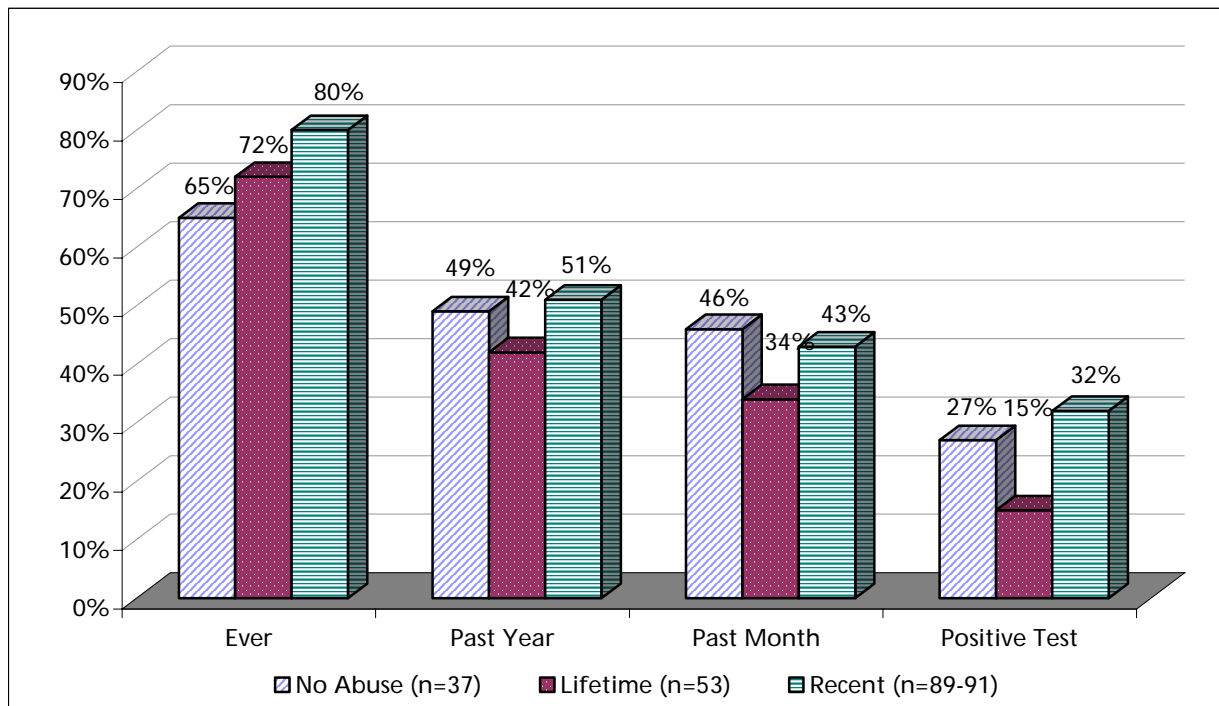
urinalysis, 27 percent were positive for marijuana, 19 percent were positive for cocaine, and 7 percent were positive for opiates/heroin. The drug used most frequently by female ADAM arrestees in San Diego is methamphetamine (meth) for which 39 percent tested positive. Proportionate use by types of drugs has also remained fairly consistent over time, with meth used more frequently by the arrestee group than other illegal drugs. Less than ten percent of the sample showed recent use of other drugs such as anti-depressants and barbiturates (not shown).

When drug use results are compared with types of abuse experienced (or not), the picture of use changes only slightly. The ADAM interview asks whether or not respondents have ever used drugs, used in the last 12 months, and used in the past 30 days prior to the interview.

Marijuana

As Figure 2.6 shows, arrestees with “no abuse” were least likely to have ever tried marijuana (65%), while those with “recent” abuse were most likely, with four out of five (80%) reporting that they had ever tried it. Self-reported use in the past year and past month was similar for these two groups, however, with those with “lifetime” (but not recent) abuse being least likely to report using marijuana during these time periods. Urinalysis tests were consistent with these results, with those with “no abuse” (27%) or “recent” abuse (32%) being most likely to test positive, while those with “lifetime” abuse were least likely (15%). The pattern that arrestees with lifetime abuse were consistently least likely to report use in the last year or recently further supports findings suggesting that the two are possibly related.

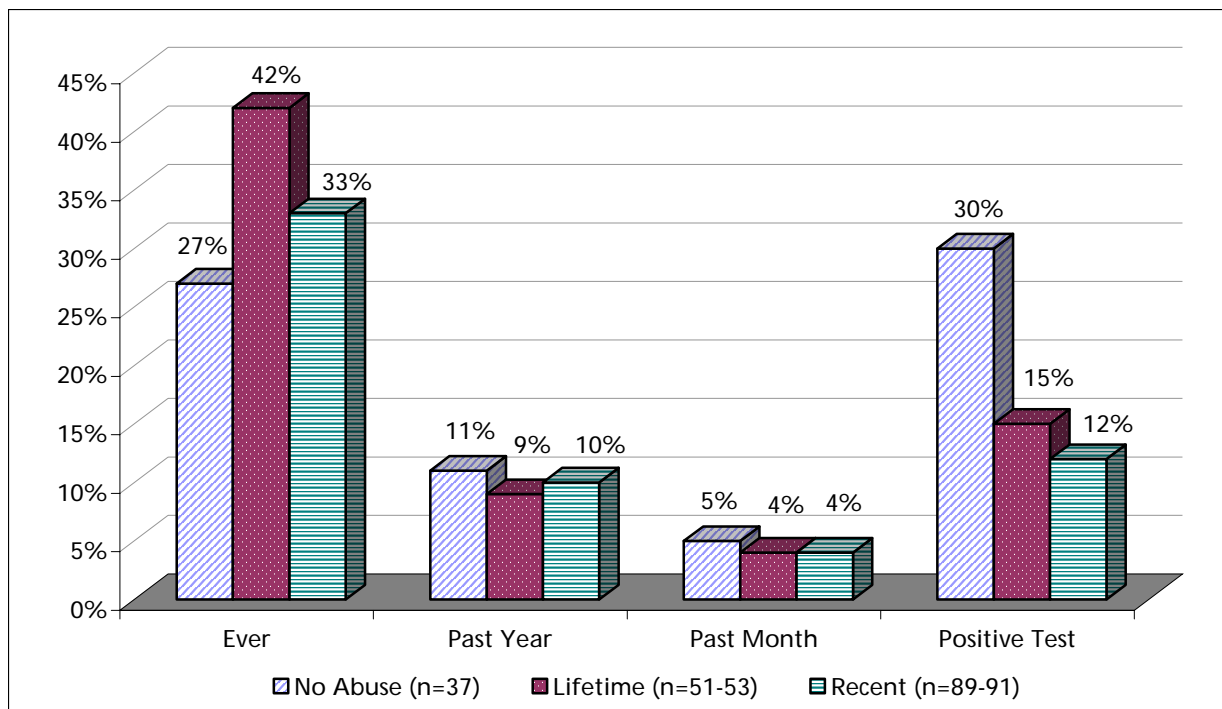
Figure 2.6
FEMALE ARRESTEE SELF-REPORTED MARIJUANA USE
AND URINALYSIS RESULTS BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Cocaine

The percentage of arrestees who had ever tried cocaine varied by abuse history, with only around one-quarter (27%) of those with “no abuse” reporting use, compared to 42 percent of those with “lifetime” abuse (Figure 2.7). When questioned about their use during the past year and past month, the three groups were very similar, with about one in ten reporting use in the past 12 months and one in 20 reporting use in the past 30 days. However, the urinalysis results yielded a different picture, with arrestees with no history of abuse significantly more likely to test positive for cocaine, compared to the other two groups. This difference is most likely due to the fact that the drug screening does not differentiate between cocaine and crack and a greater percentage of arrestees with “no abuse” reported using crack in the past 30 days (24%), compared to those with “lifetime” abuse (19%) and “recent” abuse (11%) (not shown).

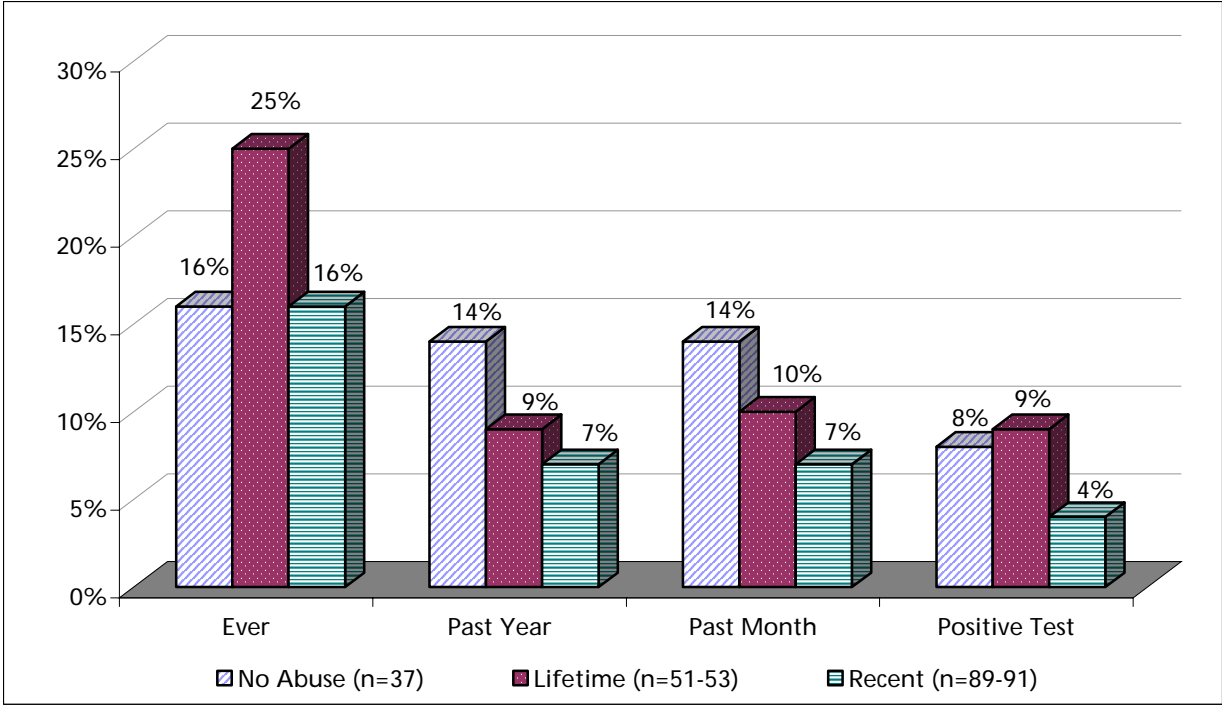
Figure 2.7
FEMALE ARRESTEE SELF-REPORTED COCAINE USE
AND URINALYSIS RESULTS BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Opiates (Heroin)

Arrestees with “recent” abuse were least likely to report ever trying heroin (16%), as well as least likely to report use in the past year (7%) and in the past month (7%) (Figure 2.8). They were also least likely to test positive for the drug at the time of the interview (4%). Those with “lifetime” abuse were most likely to have ever tried the drug (25%), but they were slightly less likely to still be using it in the past year and past month, compared to those with no history of abuse (16% of whom had also ever tried the drug).

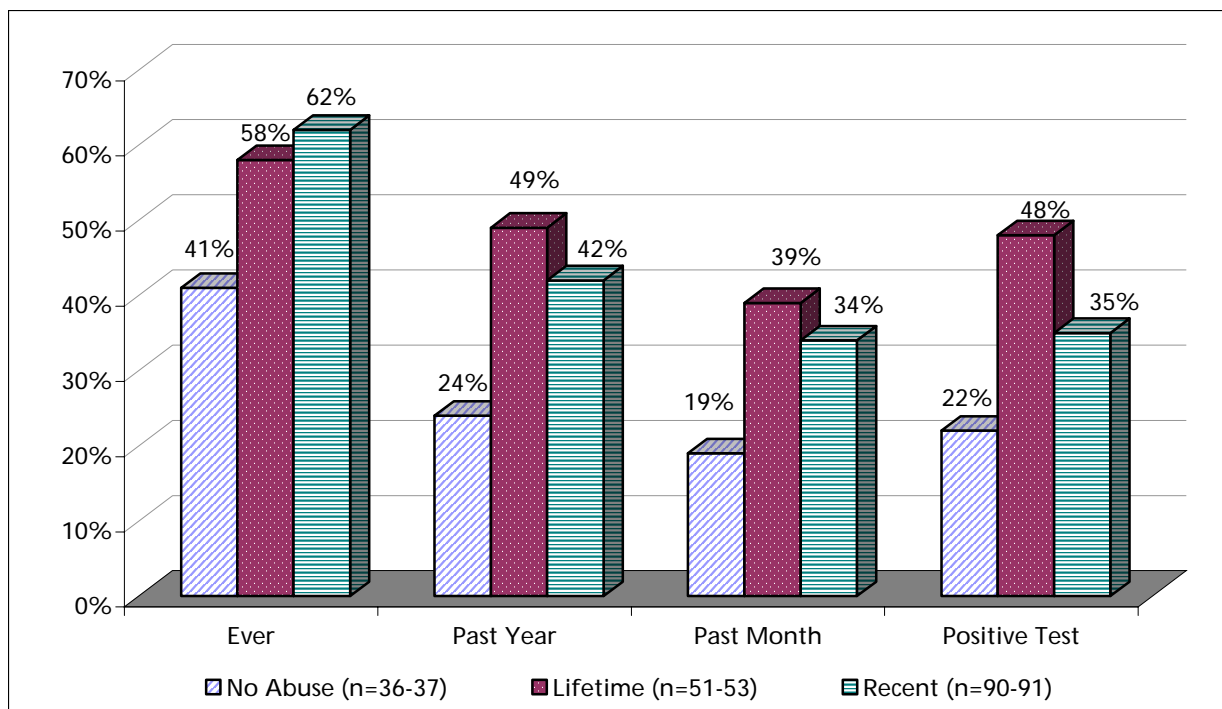
Figure 2.8
FEMALE ARRESTEE SELF-REPORTED HEROIN USE
AND URINALYSIS RESULTS BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Methamphetamine (Meth)

The most consistent difference between the three groups of arrestees was in terms of their meth use. San Diego was once known as the “Meth Capitol of the World” and still has one of the highest positive rates for the drug for arrestees, compared to other ADAM sites. As Figure 2.9 shows, those with no history of abuse were less likely to have ever tried meth, as well as to have used it in the past year or past month or to have tested positive for it. These differences approached significance in terms of ever having used and testing positive for the drug. Arrestees with “lifetime” and “recent” abuse were similar in terms of their past and current use of the drug. The fact that those with “lifetime” abuse were consistently the highest users of meth is different from the pattern of previous results in terms of substance use and victimization and should be further explored.

Figure 2.9
FEMALE ARRESTEE SELF-REPORTED METH USE
AND URINALYSIS RESULTS BY ABUSE HISTORY
San Diego County, August 2003



Any Drug

Women who had experienced “recent” abuse were more likely to test positive for some illegal drug (68%) than women never abused (58%) and women who reported abuse in their “lifetime” (55%). The ADAM interview also asks if arrestees have injected any drugs in the past year. In this sample of women, 13 percent overall admitted to having injected, with those who had never been abused least likely (11%) and those with “lifetime” abuse most likely (15%) (not shown).

SUMMARY

The current chapter addresses the first research objective by comparing arrestees who had never been abused to those who were abused in the past, but not recently, and those abused in the last 12 months. Analyses revealed that those with “recent” abuse were more likely to be White and younger than the other two groups. They were also more likely to have some type of educational degree and to be employed. Individuals who had never been abused were three times less likely to have sought treatment for mental health issues. Those with “lifetime” abuse were most likely to have been arrested and incarcerated in the past, but those with “recent” abuse were most likely to have been currently arrested for a violent crime, including spousal abuse. The three groups were very similar in terms of ever participating in residential or outpatient drug treatment, but there were differences in their drug use history. Specifically, those with “no abuse” were less likely to have ever binge drank or used meth or marijuana, and those with “lifetime” abuse were most likely to have used cocaine and heroin.

CHAPTER 3
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE AND
SEVERITY OF ABUSE AND SUBSTANCE USE

CHAPTER 3

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE AND SEVERITY OF ABUSE AND SUBSTANCE USE

INTRODUCTION

The current chapter presents data that addresses the second research objective: Examine the association between types and severity of domestic violence victimization and substance abuse as reported by arrestees. The use of alcohol and other drugs by victims of abuse has been cited in the literature as a means to mask the pain and trauma of the victimization. It should be noted that because the ADAM interview includes extensive questions regarding the arrestees' substance use histories (and offender substance use was only asked pertaining to the most recent incident on the addendum of recent victims), the vast majority of analyses pertain to the relationship between arrestee substance use and domestic violence victimization. It is also possible that offender and victim substance use could be confounded and some of the findings reported here could be related to both or either.

TYPES OF ABUSE

All individuals who completed the domestic violence addendum were asked if they had experienced various types of abuse in their lifetime, as well as in the past year. These categories, which are those developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), included:

- physical abuse, which was defined to include scratching, pushing, throwing, biting, choking, punching, burning, and hair-pulling;
- emotional abuse, which was defined as an intimate partner doing things that made the respondent feel humiliated, controlled, isolated, or embarrassed;
- sexual abuse, or being forced to take part in any type of sexual act;
- verbally threatened with physical harm by an intimate partner; and
- nonverbal threats which included the use of gestures or weapons to communicate the intent to cause injury.

To examine the relationship between substance use (i.e., arrestee self-report of whether the substance was ever used or used in the past 30 days and drug test results) with different types of abuse among female arrestees, analyses were conducted comparing those who experienced that particular form of abuse with those that didn't. It should be noted that all female arrestees (total of 181) were included in these analyses and that the existence of a relationship between two factors based upon these analyses does not imply causality in one direction or another.

Abuse in Lifetime

Physical Abuse

Overall, 77 percent of the respondents reported that they had been physically abused in their lifetime. Of these 140, 95 reported being pushed, grabbed, or shoved, 88 percent were hit, 72 percent were slammed against a hard surface, 61 percent had an object thrown at them, 60 percent were kicked, 54 percent were strangled, and 7 percent were burned. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of those ever physically abused also reported that they had been abused in the last 12 months (not shown).

Table 3.1 compares drug use history for individuals who were ever physically abused with those who were not. Variations in the number of respondents are due to the number of available responses or tests related to drug use. For each of the five substances, those who had been physically abused were more likely to report having tried that drug (alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, meth) in their lifetime. These differences were significant for both ever having had five drinks of alcohol or more (69% of those physically abused compared to 49% of those not abused) and having ever tried methamphetamine (meth) (61% compared to 41%, respectively). The direction of this relationship (substance use led to abuse, abuse led to substance use, or some third factor, such as childhood abuse, caused both) cannot be determined from these data.

There was less of a difference in use in the past 30 days for the two groups, with the exception of meth use. Specifically, over one-third (37%) of those who were abused reported using the substance during the past month, compared to less than one-fifth (17%) of those never abused. Individuals who were physically abused were also significantly more likely to test positive for this drug (40%), compared to those who were not abused (22%).

Table 3.1
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND EVER BEING
PHYSICALLY ABUSED AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
San Diego County, August 2003

	Ever Physically Abused	Never Physically Abused
Alcohol		
Ever*	69%	49%
Past Month	36%	29%
Marijuana		
Ever	76%	68%
Past Month	40%	44%
Positive Drug Test	26%	27%
Cocaine		
Ever	36%	27%
Past Month	4%	5%
Positive Drug Test	14%	27%
Heroin		
Ever	20%	15%
Past Month	8%	12%
Positive Drug Test	6%	7%
Meth		
Ever*	61%	41%
Past Month*	37%	17%
Positive Drug Test*	40%	22%
TOTAL	121-140	40-41

*Significant at $p = .05$.

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Emotional Abuse

Around two-thirds (68%) of the female arrestees interviewed for this project reported ever having been emotionally abused by an intimate partner. Of these 123 individuals, 63 percent reported that they had been emotionally abused in the past year (not shown).

As Table 3.2 shows, alcohol use and meth use also were significantly related to emotional abuse being experienced in one's lifetime. While over two-thirds (70%) of those who reported ever being emotionally abused reported they had ever consumed five or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion, only around one-half (52%) of those with no emotional abuse in their past reported binge drinking. In addition, those who had experienced emotional abuse were more likely to report ever trying meth and using meth in the past 30 days, as well as to test positive for it (63%, 39%, and 43%, respectively), compared to those with no abuse (41%, 19%, and 22%, respectively). In addition, ever trying cocaine also was related, with 41 percent of those who experienced emotional abuse reporting use of this drug in their lifetime, compared to 19 percent who had not been emotionally abused.

Table 3.2
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND EVER BEING
EMOTIONALLY ABUSED AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
San Diego County, August 2003

	Ever Emotionally Abused	Never Emotionally Abused
Alcohol		
Ever*	70%	52%
Past Month	35%	33%
Marijuana		
Ever	78%	67%
Past Month	38%	47%
Positive Drug Test	24%	29%
Cocaine		
Ever*	41%	19%
Past Month	5%	3%
Positive Drug Test	14%	22%
Heroin		
Ever	22%	12%
Past Month	9%	9%
Positive Drug Test	7%	5%
Meth		
Ever*	63%	41%
Past Month*	39%	19%
Positive Drug Test*	43%	22%
TOTAL	107-123	54-58

*Significant at $p = .05$.

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Sexual Abuse

Around one-quarter (26%) of the individuals interviewed reported ever being a victim of sexual abuse by an intimate partner. Of these 47, around one-third (32%) had experienced this abuse in the last 12 months (not shown).

There were no significant differences between those who had ever been sexually abused and those who had not in terms of their lifetime or more recent substance use (Table 3.3). Around two-thirds (64%) of both groups had ever consumed five or more alcohol beverages on one occasion and more than one-half (64% and 54%, respectively) had ever tried meth.

Table 3.3
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND EVER BEING
SEXUALLY ABUSED AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
San Diego County, August 2003

	Ever Sexually Abused	Never Sexually Abused
Alcohol		
Ever	64%	64%
Past Month	32%	35%
Marijuana		
Ever	72%	75%
Past Month	40%	41%
Positive Drug Test	21%	28%
Cocaine		
Ever	43%	31%
Past Month	9%	3%
Positive Drug Test	13%	18%
Heroin		
Ever	23%	17%
Past Month	11%	8%
Positive Drug Test	11%	5%
Meth		
Ever	64%	54%
Past Month	37%	31%
Positive Drug Test	40%	35%
TOTAL	40-47	121-134

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Verbal Threats

Approximately two-thirds (67%) of the female arrestees interviewed reported that they had ever been verbally threatened with physical harm by an intimate partner. Of these 121, one-half (50%) had been verbally threatened in the past year (not shown).

As Table 3.4 shows, alcohol and meth use were consistently predicted by experiencing abuse. Over two-thirds (69%) of those who had been verbally threatened reported binge drinking in their lifetime, compared to just around one-half (53%) of those who had not experienced this type of abuse. Similarly, those with a history of being verbally threatened were significantly more likely to have used meth in their lifetime, as well as recently. Like emotional abuse, ever trying cocaine was also a significant predictor, with 40 percent of those who had been verbally threatened reporting use, compared to less than one-quarter (22%). The difference in use of marijuana in the lifetime approached, but did not reach, significance for the two groups (79% compared to 65%).

Table 3.4
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND EVER BEING
VERBALLY THREATENED AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
San Diego County, August 2003

	Ever Verbally Threatened	Never Verbally Threatened
Alcohol		
Ever*	69%	53%
Past Month	35%	33%
Marijuana		
Ever	79%	65%
Past Month	39%	43%
Positive Drug Test	25%	28%
Cocaine		
Ever*	40%	22%
Past Month	5%	3%
Positive Drug Test	13%	23%
Heroin		
Ever	22%	12%
Past Month	9%	8%
Positive Drug Test	7%	5%
Meth		
Ever*	65%	38%
Past Month*	42%	15%
Positive Drug Test*	44%	20%
TOTAL	107-121	54-60

*Significant at $p = .05$.

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Nonverbal Threats

Around one-half (48%) of the female arrestees interviewed reported that they had ever been threatened nonverbally with physical harm by an intimate partner. Of these 87, 44 percent reported that this abuse had occurred in the past year (not shown).

Five drug use patterns were significantly related to being nonverbally threatened with abuse, and two approached significance (Table 3.5). In all of these, individuals who had experienced this type of abuse were more likely to have used the substance, compared to those who had not experienced the abuse.

Table 3.5
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND EVER BEING
NONVERBALLY THREATENED AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
San Diego County, August 2003

	Ever Nonverbally Threatened	Never Nonverbally Threatened
Alcohol		
Ever*	76%	53%
Past Month*	43%	27%
Marijuana		
Ever	82%	68%
Past Month	47%	35%
Positive Drug Test	26%	26%
Cocaine		
Ever	41%	28%
Past Month	7%	2%
Positive Drug Test	13%	20%
Heroin		
Ever*	25%	13%
Past Month	12%	6%
Positive Drug Test	9%	4%
Meth		
Ever*	68%	46%
Past Month*	42%	24%
Positive Drug Test	43%	30%
TOTAL	75-87	86-94

**Significant at p = .05.*

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Again, alcohol use was positively related to abuse – both ever, as well as in the past 30 days. Meth use ever and during the past 30 days also was significantly related, but the difference in drug test results was not significant. Use of heroin ever also was significantly related, with one-quarter (25%) of those reporting nonverbal threats also reporting use, compared to 13 percent of those who had not experienced such threats. The two other factors that approached significance included ever using marijuana (82% compared to 68%) and ever using cocaine (41% compared to 28%).

Abuse in Most Recent Incident

Eighty-nine (89) of the 91 arrestees with “recent” abuse answered a question regarding what type of abuse occurred during the most recent incident. Three-quarters (75%) reported that they had been physically abused, 76 percent were emotionally abused, 7 percent sexually abused, and 60 percent were verbally or nonverbally threatened (not shown).

These individuals also were asked what substances they and/or the abuser had used before this most recent incident occurred. Overall, 72 percent of the 87 respondents indicated that the abuser had consumed alcohol or some other type of drug and 61 percent of 88 respondents indicated that they, themselves, had used some type of substance (not shown). Of these incidents, around two-thirds of both the arrestees and the abusers had consumed alcohol (61% and 65%, respectively) (Table 3.6). The second most frequently used substance was meth (33% and 27%). Female arrestees were more likely than their partners to report taking prescribed medicines (20% versus 6%).

Table 3.6
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND ABUSER
SUBSTANCE USE PRIOR TO MOST RECENT ABUSE INCIDENT
San Diego County, August 2003

	Female Arrestee	Abuser
Alcohol	61%	65%
Meth	33%	27%
Marijuana	31%	35%
Prescribed medicine	20%	6%
Crack or cocaine	15%	14%
Heroin	6%	2%
LSD	0%	2%
Methadone	2%	0%
TOTAL	54	63

NOTE: Percentages based upon multiple responses.

When asked if they thought the abuser's use of alcohol contributed to the incident in any way, 87 percent responded affirmatively. When asked how it contributed, common responses included that the substance intensifies emotions and makes the person not think clearly, that s/he becomes meaner, and that inhibitions are reduced. Slightly over one-half (56%) of these individuals reported that they had only been abused by this partner when alcohol or other drugs had been consumed (not shown).

Almost two-thirds (61%) of the respondents felt that their own substance use had contributed to the situation in some way. When asked how, their responses included that they become violent and provoke the abuse, that it intensifies their emotions, that their use is the reason for the fighting, that they become less tolerant of the abuser, and that they put themselves in unsafe situations (not shown).

When analyzing the relationship between substance use by the offender and the type of abuse that occurred in the most recent incident, two were significant. First, individuals who reported that emotional abuse had occurred were significantly more likely to report that the abuser had consumed alcohol (53%), compared to those who said emotional abuse had not occurred (24%). Second, individuals who reported that verbal or nonverbal threats had been made against them were more likely to report that the abuser had used meth (32%). None of the 36 arrestees who said no threats were made reported meth use by the abuser (not shown).

SEVERITY OF ABUSE

Frequency of Abuse

One way to determine severity of abuse is to measure the frequency with which it occurs. Individuals who were abused in the last year were asked to describe the frequency with which they were abused. It is important to note that regardless of the frequency of abuse, fear of it is something that can occur on a daily basis.

As Table 3.7 shows, emotional abuse was most likely to occur on a daily or weekly basis, compared to physical abuse and verbal/nonverbal threats. About one in five (19%) of those who had been physically abused in the last year reported that it had only occurred once and 40 percent reported that it had occurred less frequently than monthly (i.e., six times or less per year, few times ever, or sporadically). Not shown in Table 3.7 was the frequency with which sexual abuse occurred. Of 14 respondents who said they were sexually abused in the last year, two said it occurred daily, three that it occurred weekly, four that it occurred less frequently than monthly, and five that it occurred only once.

Table 3.7
FREQUENCY OF ABUSE IN THE PAST YEAR AS REPORTED
BY FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE
San Diego County, August 2003

	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Verbal/ Nonverbal Threats
Daily	5%	27%	12%
Once to three times per week	11%	37%	21%
Once to three times per month	25%	17%	26%
Less frequently than monthly	40%	12%	29%
One time ever	19%	8%	12%
TOTAL	80	78	58

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Cases with missing information not included.

Analyses comparing the frequency with which abuse occurred and respondent substance use showed no significant differences between the factors.

Weapon Use

Another measure of severity is types of weapons used during the abuse incident. Ninety (90) of the 91 individuals who reported being injured in the last year were asked what types of weapons, if any, were used during any of the abuse incidents that occurred in the past 12 months. Of these, eleven percent reported that no weapon was used. Of the 80 who said a weapon was used, the most frequent included the abusers' hands or arms (96%) and his or her legs or feet (53%) (Table 3.8). One-third (33%) of respondents reported that some type of household item was used (e.g., furniture), 10 percent that a knife was used, and 5 percent that a gun was used.

Table 3.8
TYPES OF WEAPONS USED IN ABUSE INCIDENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR
AS REPORTED BY FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE
San Diego County, August 2003

Hands or arms	96%
Legs or feet	53%
Torso	35%
Head	34%
Household item(s)	33%
Mouth or teeth	30%
Blunt object	21%
Knife	10%
Gun/firearm	5%
Other sharp object	5%
TOTAL	80

NOTE: Percentages based upon multiple responses. Cases with missing information not included.

There was no relationship between weapon use in recent abuse incidents and the use of alcohol or other drugs by the female arrestees.

Type of Injury

Respondents who reported ever being physically or sexually abused (140 individuals) were asked if they had ever been injured as a result. Of the 139 respondents who answered, 94 percent, or 131, said that they had. Of the 80 victims who experienced physical or sexual assault in the past year, 89 percent reported that they had been injured (not shown).

As Table 3.9 shows, the most frequent injuries that resulted from this abuse included bruises, aches and pains, and scratches. In addition, over one-half also reported that they had ever experienced a bloody lip or nose, sprain or swelling, cuts, and black eyes. Not shown in Table 3.9 are those injuries that were experienced by less than 20 percent of the respondents in their lifetime. These included loose or broken teeth, internal injuries, stab wounds, burns, and gunshot wounds.

Table 3.9
TYPE OF INJURY INCURRED EVER AND IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
BY FEMALE ARRESTEES WHO WERE PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS
San Diego County, August 2003

	Lifetime Injury	Injury in the Last 12 Months
Bruises	86%	87%
Aches and pains	85%	85%
Scratches	79%	70%
Bloody lip/nose	68%	49%
Sprain or swelling	58%	42%
Cuts	56%	45%
Black eye(s)	54%	28%
Concussion or knocked unconscious	30%	17%
Bite marks	29%	24%
Fractured or broken bones	25%	14%
Miscarriage or pregnancy complications	24%	17%
TOTAL	131	71

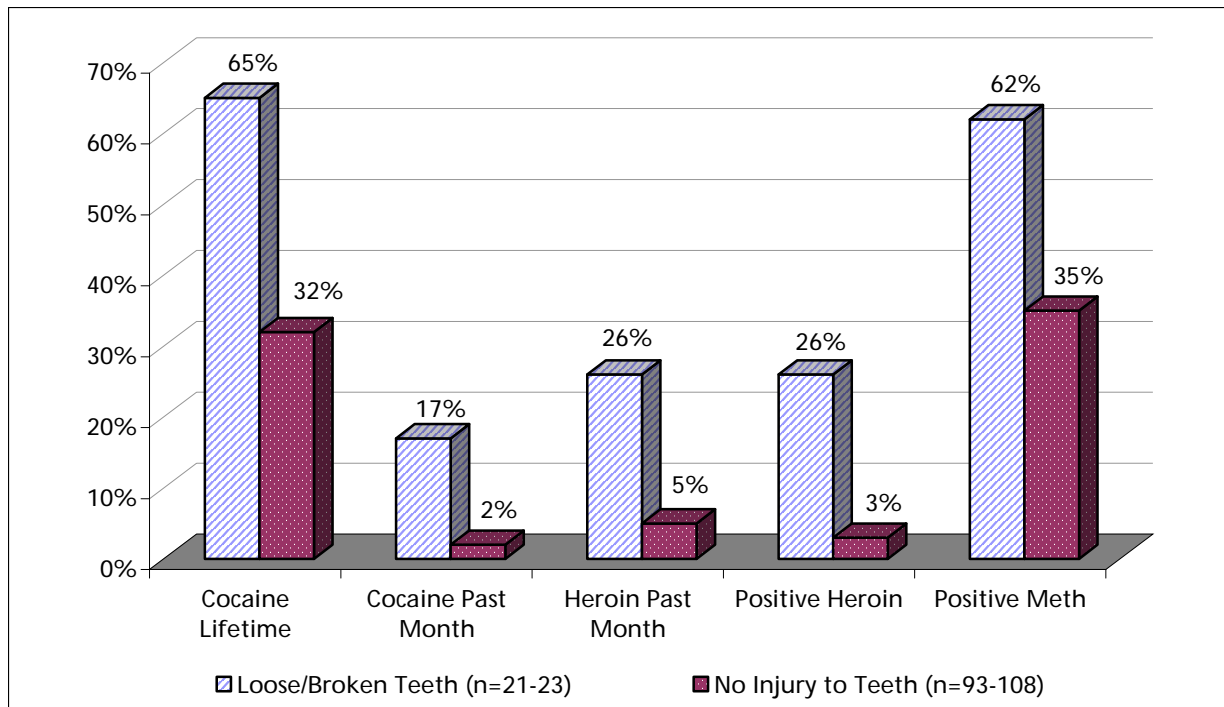
NOTE: Percentages based upon multiple responses.

Additional analyses examining the relationship between substance use by the female arrestee and ever experiencing certain types of injuries suggest that there is some relationship between use and the severity of the abuse. As the following sets of figures show, the use of cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana was related to one or more types of injuries. One possible reason for the relationship is poorer health of victims associated with drug use, a hypothesis not explored as part of this project. It is important to note once more that a correlational relationship does not prove that one necessarily caused the other. These findings are consistent with previous analyses showing that, when alcohol or other drugs are involved, the likelihood of victim injury is increased (Rennison, 2001).

Loose or Broken Teeth

Overall, 18 percent of the respondents who had experienced physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime reported that they had lost or broken teeth because of it (not shown). As Figure 3.1 shows, those who sustained loose or broken teeth were significantly more likely to have ever used cocaine (65% compared to 32%), used cocaine in the past 30 days (17% versus 2%, respectively), used heroin in the past 30 days (26% versus 5%, respectively), tested positive for heroin (26% versus 3%, respectively), and tested positive for meth (62% versus 35%, respectively).

Figure 3.1
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND HAVING LOOSE OR BROKEN TEETH
AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES WHO WERE PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED
San Diego County, August 2003

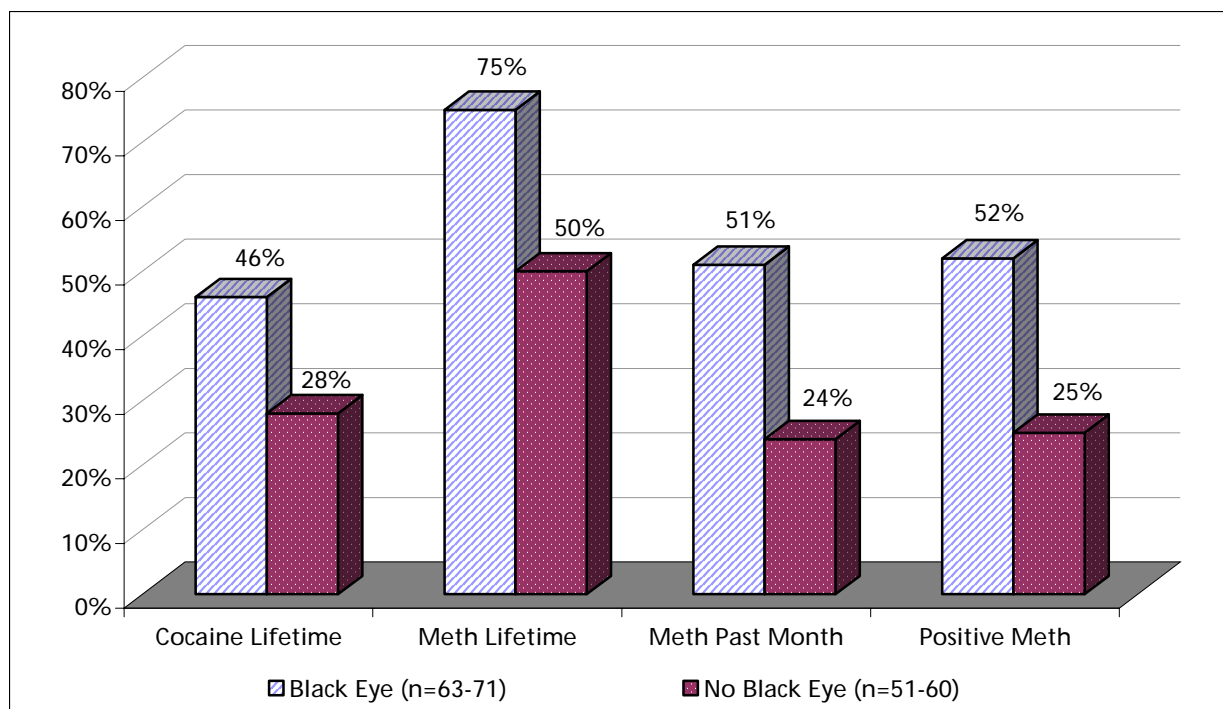


NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Black Eyes

Over one-half (54%) of the respondents who had experienced physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime reported that they had also been injured by having a black eye (Table 3.9). Analyses by whether or not a victim sustained this type of injury and the use of different types of drugs revealed that those who had received a black eye were significantly more likely to have ever used cocaine (46% versus 28%), as well as meth (75% versus 50%) (Figure 3.2). In addition, these individuals were also more likely to have used meth in the past 30 days (51% versus 24%) and to test positive for meth (52% versus 25%).

Figure 3.2
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND HAVING RECEIVED A BLACK EYE
AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES WHO WERE PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED
San Diego County, August 2003

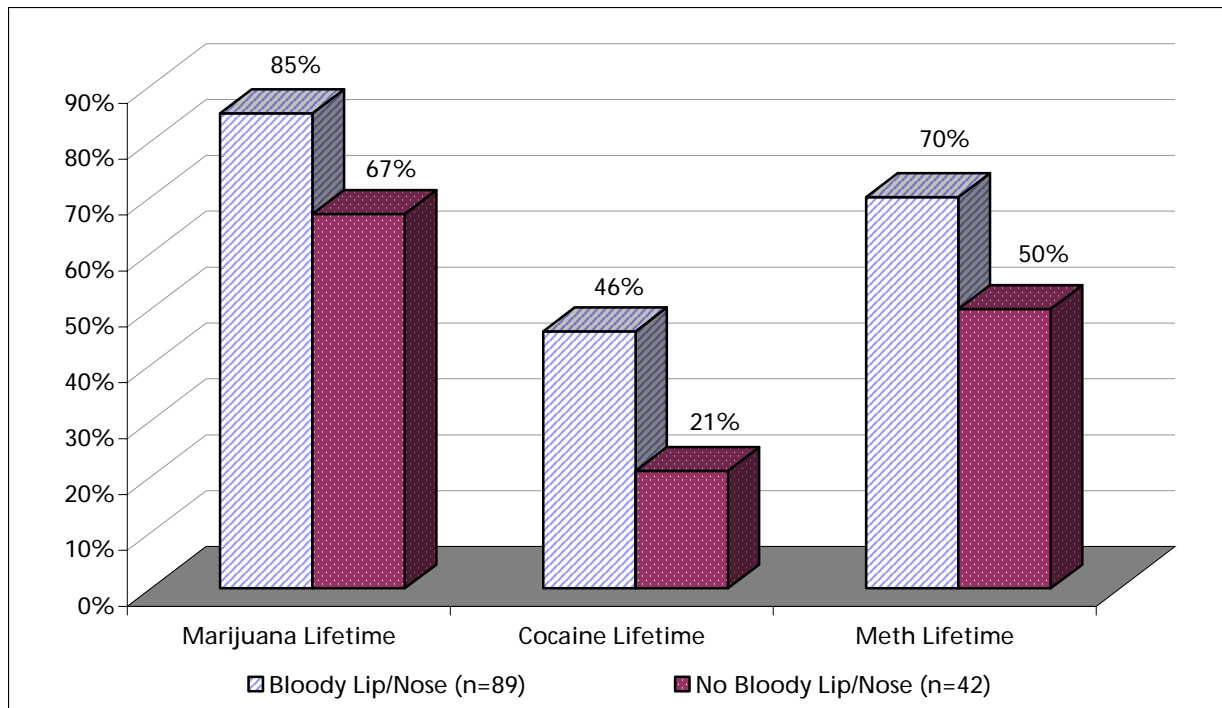


NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

Bloody Lip or Nose

Overall, more than two-thirds (68%) of those victimized by physical or sexual abuse reported that they had received a bloody lip or nose as a result (Table 3.9). As Figure 3.3 shows, use of marijuana, cocaine, and meth were significantly related to getting a bloody lip or nose. Specifically, those who reported having received this type of injury were significantly more likely to have ever used these drugs, compared to those who had not been injured in this way.

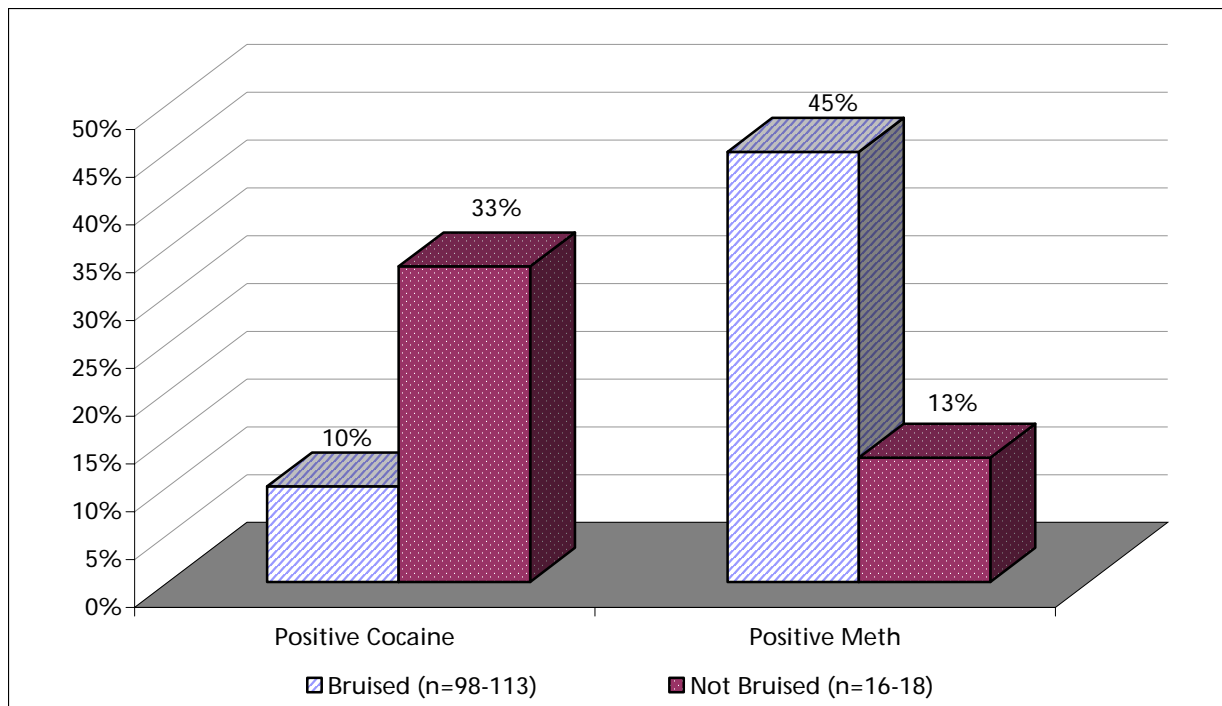
Figure 3.3
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND HAVING RECEIVED A BLOODY LIP OR NOSE AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES WHO WERE PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED
San Diego County, August 2003



Bruises

As Table 3.9 shows, bruises were the most frequent injury resulting from a physical or sexual assault, reported by 86 percent of these victims. As Figure 3.4 shows, there were only two substance use factors that were significantly related to being bruised, and interestingly, one was not in the predicted direction. That is, those who were *not* bruised were *more* likely to test positive for cocaine (33%), compared to those that had been bruised (10%). The other significant predictor was testing positive for meth, with 45 percent of those being bruised reporting use, compared to 13 percent of those that did not sustain this injury.

Figure 3.4
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND BEING BRUISED
AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES WHO WERE PHYSICALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED
San Diego County, August 2003



Sprains or Swelling

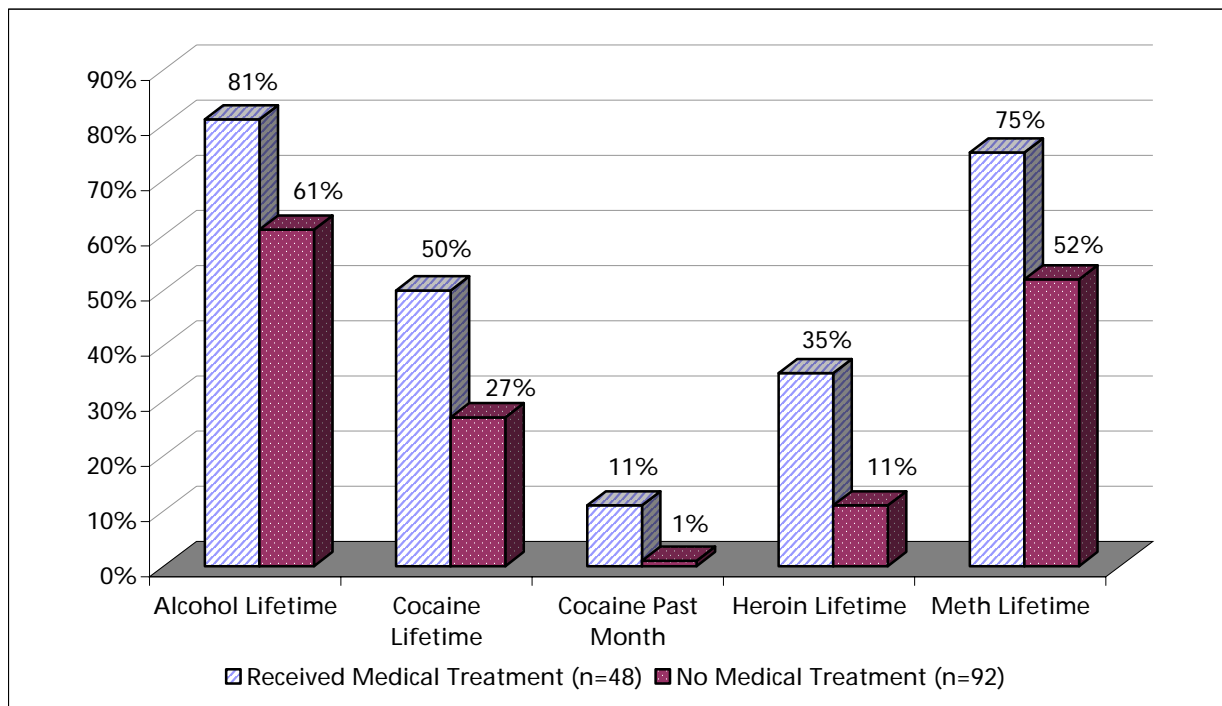
Over one-half (58%) of the respondents had experienced sprains or swelling as a result of physical or sexual abuse (Table 3.9). Analyses revealed that the only significant relationship between this injury and substance use involved testing positive for marijuana. Specifically, those who had sustained a sprain or swelling were significantly more likely to test positive for marijuana (36%), compared to those who had never had this injury (15%) (not shown).

Receipt of Medical Treatment

Another indicator of the severity of abuse is whether or not a victim ever received medical treatment. This question was asked of all individuals who reported ever being abused. Overall, one-third (34%) reported that they had received treatment. When asked what type of treatment they had received, the majority (80%) said they went to a hospital. Other providers included clinics/urgent care facilities, the victim's own doctor, and on-site paramedics. Almost two-thirds (61%) of those who received treatment said that when they received treatment, their partner had been reported to police and almost one-half of the women who had been abused (46%) reported that there were times when they needed medical treatment but did not seek it because they were afraid the abuse would be reported to the police (not shown).

As Figure 3.5 shows, those who had received medical treatment and those who did not differed on a number of substance use characteristics. For each of these, those who received treatment were significantly more likely to report substance use than those who did not receive treatment. These substance use factors included ever consuming five or more drinks of alcohol (81% versus 61%), ever using cocaine (50% versus 27%), using cocaine in the past 30 days (11% versus 1%), ever using heroin (35% versus 11%), and ever using meth (75% versus 52%).

Figure 3.5
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE AND RECEIVING
MEDICAL TREATMENT AMONG FEMALE ARRESTEES
San Diego County, August 2003



SUMMARY

The second objective regarding the association between types and severity of domestic violence victimization and arrestee substance use was addressed in this chapter. The relationship between the two is complex and causality cannot be determined from the data presented here. However, analyses did reveal that experiencing various forms of abuse in a female arrestee's life (e.g., physical, emotional, and verbal and nonverbal threats) was significantly related to substance use history. Specifically, those who had experienced these types of abuse were more likely to have a report ever of binge drinking and using meth. Respondents also were likely to report the use of alcohol and other drugs in the most recent incident and shared the perception that it may have contributed to the situation in some way. Severity of abuse, as measured by type of injury and receipt of medical treatment, also was related to substance use, although the frequency of abuse and weapon use was not.

CHAPTER 4
FEMALE ARRESTEES COMPARED TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER CLIENTS

CHAPTER 4

FEMALE ARRESTEES COMPARED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER CLIENTS

INTRODUCTION

The current chapter presents data that addresses the third research objective: Compare the characteristics and life experiences of arrestees who reported domestic violence victimization in the past 12 months with shelter clients from a previous SANDAG study. Data are presented regarding their sociodemographic profiles, characteristics of their abusers, their history of abuse, involvement with the legal system, type and severity of abuse they sustained, substance use, and services received. It should be noted that some differences between the two groups should be reviewed with caution given the differences in the target samples and methodology in how the questions were asked on the two instruments. For this reason, descriptive comparisons are made, but statistical significance tests are not used.

BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER SAMPLE

The battered women's shelter sample consisted of interviews with 599 clients in seven emergency shelters in San Diego County between April 1997 and December 1998. The study was conducted by SANDAG researchers in collaboration with the shelters and funding support from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the California State Legislature (Pennell, Burke, and Mulmat, 2000). Researchers and shelter service providers developed an intake interview that was conducted by shelter staff with clients who stayed at least 48 hours in the shelter. The sample was considered a convenience sample and represented at least 60 percent of the total number of women seeking shelter during the 21-month period. Similar to the ADAM questionnaire, information was compiled for sociodemographic variables (e.g., age, ethnicity, educational level, employment), type of residence, arrest history, contacts with law enforcement, substance use, types of abuse experienced, frequency of abuse, severity, extent of injury, and services and medical treatment sought for abuse. For this comparison, only the 91 ADAM arrestees who reported having been abused in the past 12 months ("recent" abuse) were included.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

Ethnicity

Compared to clients in shelters, ADAM female arrestees who reported "recent" intimate abuse were more likely to be White and less likely to be Hispanic (Table 4.1). In the ADAM sample, over one-half of the women were White (51%) and 28 percent were Black. In the shelter sample, one-third (33%) were White and 19 percent were Black. Hispanic women in the ADAM sample

represented 16 percent, compared to 40 percent in the shelter group. About one-third of the shelter clients were undocumented persons and may have perceived shelters as safe places. Also, Hispanic women are less likely to report domestic violence to police. Five percent of the ADAM women and nine percent of the shelter group comprised Asian and other ethnicities.

Table 4.1
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE
AND SHELTER CLIENTS CHARACTERISTICS
San Diego County, August 2003

	Female Arrestees With Recent Abuse	Shelter Clients
Ethnicity		
White	51%	33%
Black	28%	19%
Hispanic	16%	40%
Native American	2%	3%
Asian	3%	3%
Bi/Multi-Racial	N/A	3%
Average Age	28.6	31.5
Educational Status		
No Degree	24%	34%
High School Graduate/GED	30%	25%
Vocational Degree	12%	4%
Some College	31%	30%
College	3%	7%
Foreign Education	N/A	1%
TOTAL	90-91	595-599

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Cases with missing information not included.

Age

The age range of ADAM arrestees was 18 to 57, with a mean age of 28.6 (Table 4.1). Shelter clients' mean age was 31.5, with a range from 16 to 68.

Education

About one-quarter (24%) of the ADAM arrestees had not completed high school or received their GED, while slightly more in the shelter population did not finish high school (34%) (Table 4.1). Similarly, slightly more ADAM arrestees than shelter clients completed the twelfth grade or received their GED (30% versus 25%), and were also more likely to have a vocational degree (12% versus 4%).

Employment Status

On the ADAM interview, arrestees were asked to describe their current employment status. Almost one-half (47%) of those with “recent” abuse worked (full-time or part-time), 36 percent were unemployed, 8 percent were disabled, and 10 percent described their employment status in some other way (e.g., out due to illness, homemaker, student) (Table 2.2). Shelter clients, in contrast, were asked how they supported themselves prior to the shelter admission, and multiple responses were possible. The most common response was working full- or part-time (41%), followed by their spouse or partner (38%), receiving some type of public assistance (35%), and receiving money from other sources (e.g., borrowing, inheritance, relatives, friends, or illegal activities) (not shown).

Type of Residence

The majority of women in both samples reported living in a house, apartment, or mobile home (75% of arrestees with recent abuse and 88% of the shelter clients). Thirteen percent (13%) of the arrestees reported living in a hotel, rooming house, or dormitory. This option was not provided to shelter clients, of whom five percent stated that they lived in public housing. Slightly more of the arrestees (5%) indicated that they were homeless, compared to the shelter clients (2%) (not shown).

ABUSER CHARACTERISTICS

In both the shelter interviews and the ADAM domestic violence interviews, respondents were asked to describe the person who abused them most recently, with respect to age, ethnicity, and other items of interest. In the shelter population, one percent of the abusers were female. In the arrestee population, eight percent of the abusers were reported as female. Simple analyses showed no differences on the variables of analysis based upon gender of abusers (not shown).

Ethnicity and Age

With regard to ethnicity, profiles of abusers were similar to their partners. In the arrestee population, 36 percent were White, 26 percent were Black, and 23 percent were Hispanic (Table 4.2). The remainder included bi/racial, multi-racial, Native Americans, Asians, and others. By contrast, in the shelter group, the most frequent response describing the abusers was Hispanic (39%), similar to their partners. Nearly one-third (30%) were White and 23 percent were Black. According to arrestees, the mean age of the abuser was 31.4, with a range from 17 to 54, whereas the shelter results showed an abuser average age of 34.6, and a range from 17 to 65.

Education

With respect to educational backgrounds, abusive partners of the female arrestees were slightly more educated than the shelter respondents’ abusers. Just over one-half (53%) were high school graduates and 26 percent had some college or were college graduates (Table 4.2). Only 15 percent had not graduated high school. The abusive partners of shelter clients were less likely to have graduated high school (37%) and more likely to have no degree (35%).

Table 4.2
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND
SHELTER CLIENTS ABUSER CHARACTERISTICS
San Diego County, August 2003

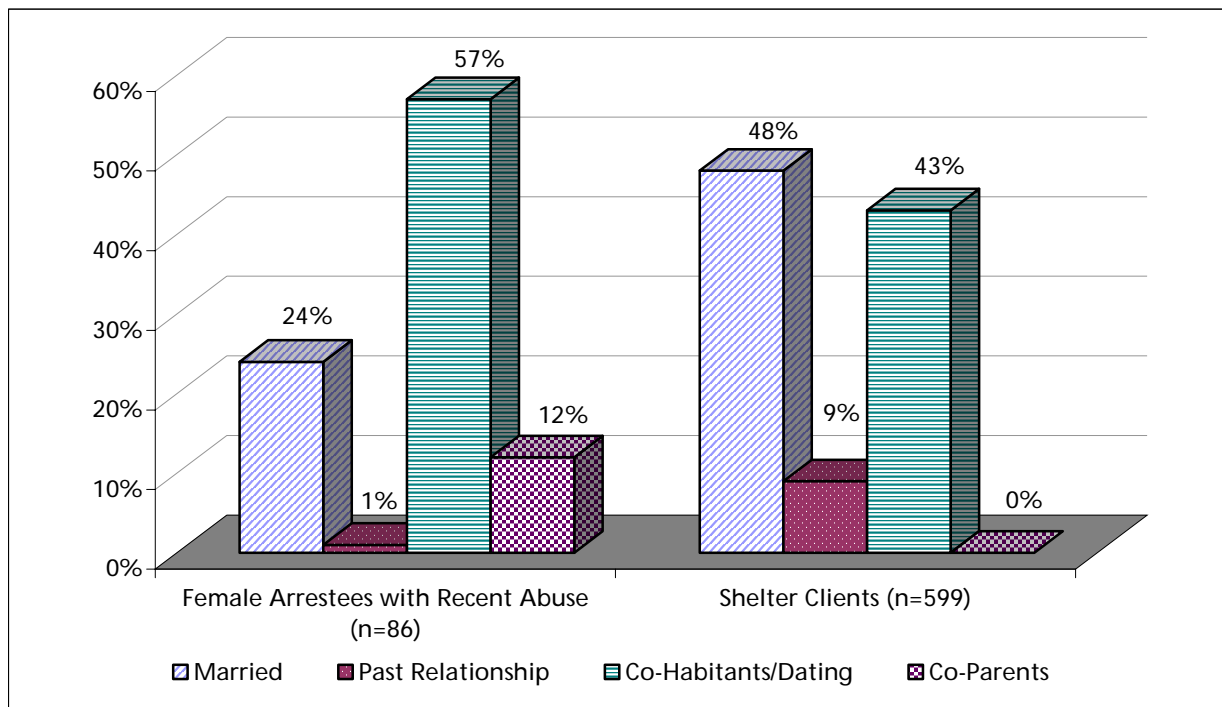
	Female Arrestees With Recent Abuse	Shelter Clients
Ethnicity		
White	36%	30%
Black	26%	23%
Hispanic	23%	39%
Native American	2%	2%
Asian	2%	3%
Bi/Multi-Racial/Other	10%	3%
Average Age	31.4	34.6
Educational Status		
High School Graduate/GED	53%	37%
Vocational Degree	5%	3%
Some College/College Graduate	26%	24%
No Degree	15%	35%
Foreign Education	1%	1%
TOTAL	80-88	535-592

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding. Cases with missing information not included.

Nature of Relationship

Shelter clients were twice as likely to be married to their abuser, compared to the arrestees. When asked the nature of their relationship, just 24 percent of the arrestees stated that they were married to their abuser, compared to 48 percent of the shelter clients (Figure 4.1). Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the arrestees and 43 percent of the shelter clients were co-habitants or in a dating relationship. A small percentage were divorced or separated. An additional question to arrestees involved being co-parents (12%), but this was not asked to the shelter respondents (which may explain the higher percentage reporting a past relationship).

Figure 4.1
NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ABUSER AND
FEMALE ARRESTEE WITH RECENT ABUSE/SHELTER CLIENT
San Diego County, August 2003



Respondents in both samples also were asked how long they had been with the current partner. The average time for arrestees was 3.6 years, with a range from less than one month to 18 years. For shelter clients, the average was 6.4 years, and the range was from less than one month to 42 years (not shown).

CHILDREN

It is widely accepted that children in households where violence occurs do not experience a safe and secure environment and these experiences have ramifications for their adulthood. The majority of both groups in this study reported having children under the age of 18. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the arrestees and 86 percent of shelter clients had children in this age group, with an average of about two children per respondent in both samples. Many families with violence in the household are known to public agencies. Individuals were asked if they had ever, or at the time of the interview, had an open case with the Child Protective Services (CPS) Division of the Department of Health and Human Services. About one-half of the arrestees (45%) admitted to *ever* having a case with the children's agency and 39 percent of those (9 out of 23) stated that they had a current case with CPS. For the shelter clients, the figures were 38 percent and 17 percent, respectively, suggesting that arrestees may be more visible to public agencies (not shown).

Just less than one-half of the arrestees (42%) said that children were around the location where the most recent abuse occurred. Of those, 86 percent admitted that they could have seen or heard the abusive incident. Results for shelter clients were higher in that 62 percent said children were around the area and 94 percent admitted that children could have seen or heard the incident (not shown).

HISTORY OF ABUSE

Abuser

Individuals in both samples were asked if their partner had been involved in a previous violent relationship with an intimate. Over one-half of the arrestees (53%) who answered this question and three-quarters (75%) of the shelter clients reported that their partner had previously abused someone else. More compelling is the finding that 62 percent of the arrestees and 82 percent of the shelter clients stated that their partners had witnessed one or both of their parents in an abusive relationship. An additional question *not asked* to the shelter clients was if the abuser had been abused in childhood. One-half of the arrestees (51%) reported that their partner had been abused as a child. Of these, 81 percent reported that emotional abuse had occurred and 75 percent that physical abuse had occurred (not shown).

Victim

About one-half of the arrestees and the shelter clients reported seeing one or both of their own parents treat one another in an abusive manner. In addition, 46 percent of the arrestees reported that they had been abused in childhood (this question was not asked of shelter clients). With respect to abuse during pregnancy, almost equal percentages of arrestees (56%) and shelter clients (55%) stated that they had experienced this abuse (not shown).

This question was asked to both groups: "Have you ever been so angry that you physically hurt someone else?" Over one-half of the arrestees (56%) and 30 percent of the shelter clients reported this type of incident. When asked who was hurt, the primary target in both groups was an intimate partner (74% of arrestees and 62% of shelter clients). The victim in three percent of the arrestees' responses and for seven percent of the shelter clients was a child. Only arrestees were asked if their action was in self-defense and 60 percent indicated that was the case. Another question asked only to arrestees was if they had ever wanted to hurt themselves and 44 percent reported that they had (not shown).

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Police Response

The majority of ADAM arrestees (89%) and shelter clients (73%) indicated that the police had been called to their household for the purpose of responding to a domestic violence call. Nearly one-half (47%) of the shelter clients and 62 percent of the arrestees noted that police had been called from one to three times and 17 percent of the arrestees and 27 percent of the shelter clients stated that it occurred more than four times. When asked if anyone had been arrested as a result, 66 percent of the arrestees and 57 percent of the shelter clients responded affirmatively. In the arrestee population, 65 percent of those arrested were the abusive partners, yet 67 percent of the women admitted that they, themselves, had been arrested¹. For shelter clients, abusers were most likely arrested (41%), with only eight percent of the shelter clients reporting ever having been arrested as a result of domestic violence (not shown).

Restraining Orders

Respondents in both samples were asked if they had ever had a restraining order against an intimate partner, what type of order, if it was violated, and to describe the way it was violated.

For arrestees, 33 percent reported having had a restraining order at some time (Table 4.3). Most of these respondents reported having had temporary orders (66%) and 38 percent had permanent orders. According to arrestees, one-half (50%) of the abusers violated the order. Primary actions of non-compliance were coming to the partner's residence and calling on the phone. About one-fifth violated the order by going to the partner's place of work. When asked why they never had requested a restraining order, the majority of arrestees (67%) stated that they did not want one. Twenty-three percent (23%) said they did not think a restraining order would do any good and ten percent reported that they did not know how to get one. About one in five (20%) of the arrestees admitted that a restraining order had been filed against themselves at some time (not shown).

In comparison, 40 percent of the shelter clients reported having obtained restraining orders against their current partner, either ever, or at the time of the interview (Table 4.3). Similar to the arrest population, 65 percent had received temporary orders, but 31 percent either previously or currently had permanent restraining orders. According to 63 percent of the shelter clients who had received orders, the abusive partner had not complied with the conditions of the order. Reasons for non-compliance by abusers paralleled those of the arrestees: abuser came to partner's residence, called partner on the phone, or came to person's place of employment. Shelter clients also were asked why they did not have restraining orders. Their responses were fairly evenly distributed with the following: didn't want one (32%), they were considering getting one (21%), wanted one, but had not yet done anything about it (19%), didn't think it would do any good (13%), and six percent said they did not know how, they can't afford it, or they have to live with him anyway.

¹ Forty-two percent (42%) of these individuals had a current violent arrest charge and 20 percent had been arrested for domestic violence.

Table 4.3
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND
SHELTER CLIENTS WITH RESTRAINING ORDERS
San Diego County, August 2003

	Female Arrestees With Recent Abuse	Shelter Clients
Obtained a Restraining Order	33%	40%
TOTAL	89	599
Type of Restraining Order		
Temporary	66%	65%
Permanent	38%	31%
Emergency	10%	19%
TOTAL	29	240
Restraining Order Violated	50%	63%
TOTAL	28	208
Why Restraining Order Was Not Obtained		
Doesn't want one	67%	32%
Didn't think it would do any good	23%	13%
Lack of knowledge	10%	NA
Can't get one for some reason	5%	6%
Considering it	NA	21%
Want one, but haven't gotten yet	NA	19%
TOTAL	60	345

NOTE: Some percentages based upon multiple responses. Cases with missing information not included.

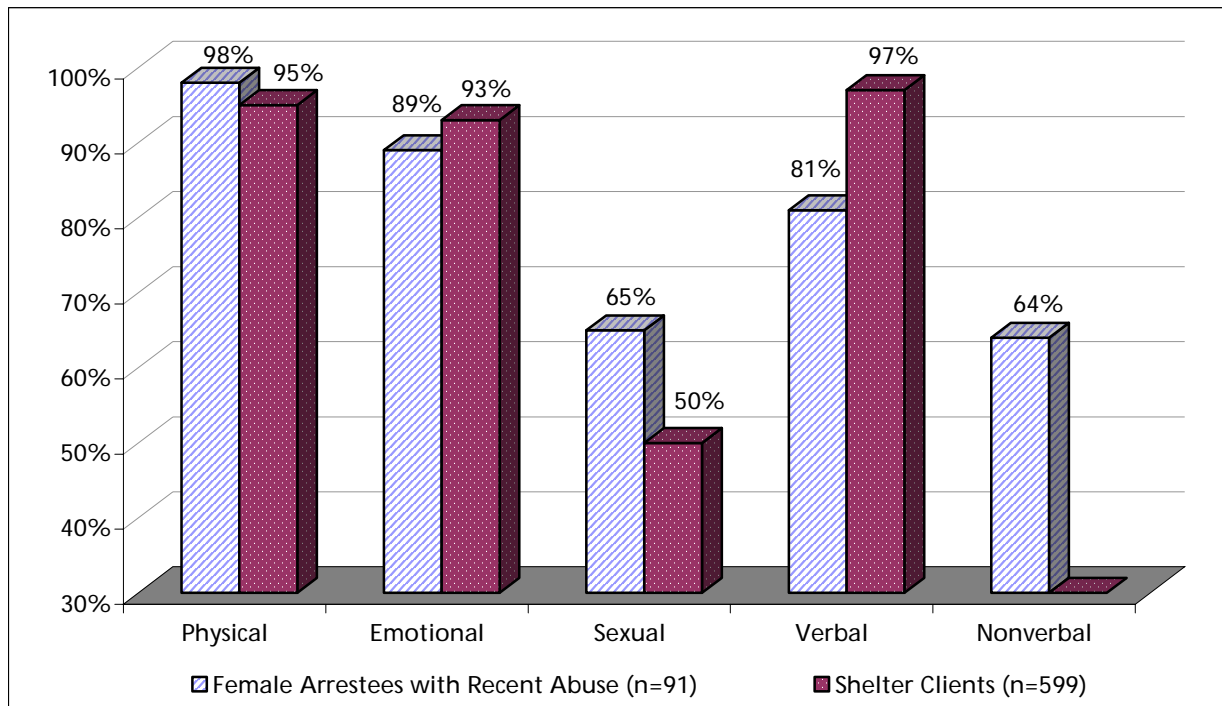
TYPE AND SEVERITY OF ABUSE

Type of Abuse

Abuse in Lifetime

Both samples were asked to describe what type of intimate abuse they had been victims of in their lifetime. As Figure 4.2 shows, almost all of the individuals in both samples had experienced physical abuse in their lifetime (98% of female arrestees and 95% of shelter clients) and around nine out of ten had experienced emotional or mental abuse. Arrestees were more likely to report that they had ever been sexually abused (65%, compared to 50%) and less likely to report that they had been verbally threatened (though this later difference may be related to how the questions were asked²). Shelter clients were not asked if they had been nonverbally threatened.

Figure 4.2
ABUSE EXPERIENCED IN LIFETIME BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003

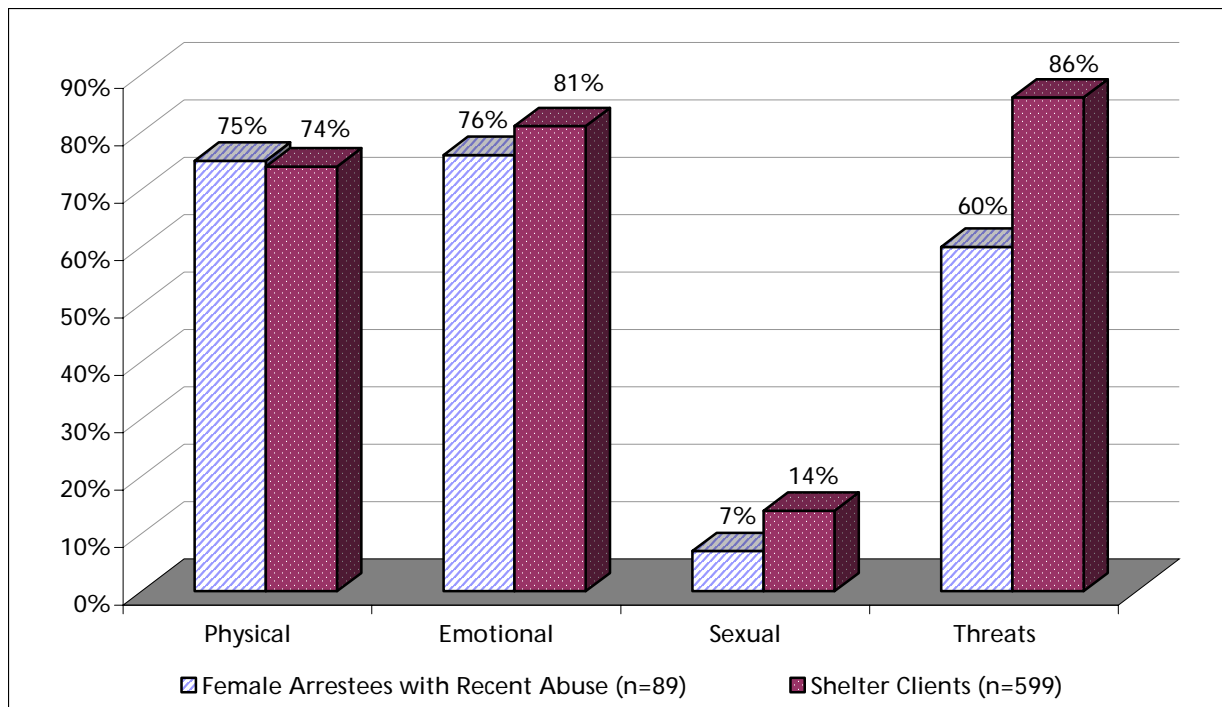


² Female arrestees were asked if they had been verbally threatened. Shelter clients were asked if they had been the victim of verbal abuse.

Abuse in Most Recent Incident

When asked what type of abuse had occurred in the most recent incident, around three-quarters of individuals in both samples reported that they had been physically or emotionally (or mentally) abused (Figure 4.3). In addition, 7 percent of arrestees and 14 percent of shelter clients said they had been sexually abused. The difference in threats reported by the shelter clients could be related to the fact that they were asked if they had been verbally abused, while arrestees were asked if they had been verbally or nonverbally threatened.

Figure 4.3
ABUSE EXPERIENCED IN MOST RECENT INCIDENT BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003

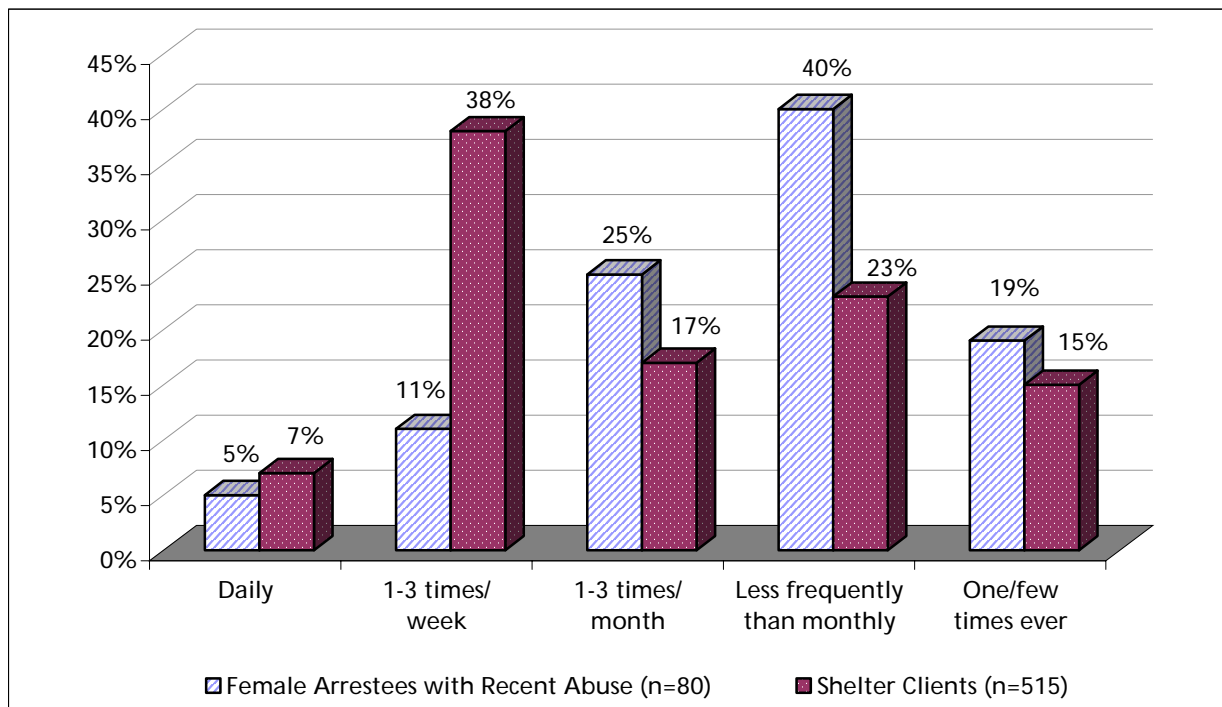


Severity of Abuse

Frequency of Abuse

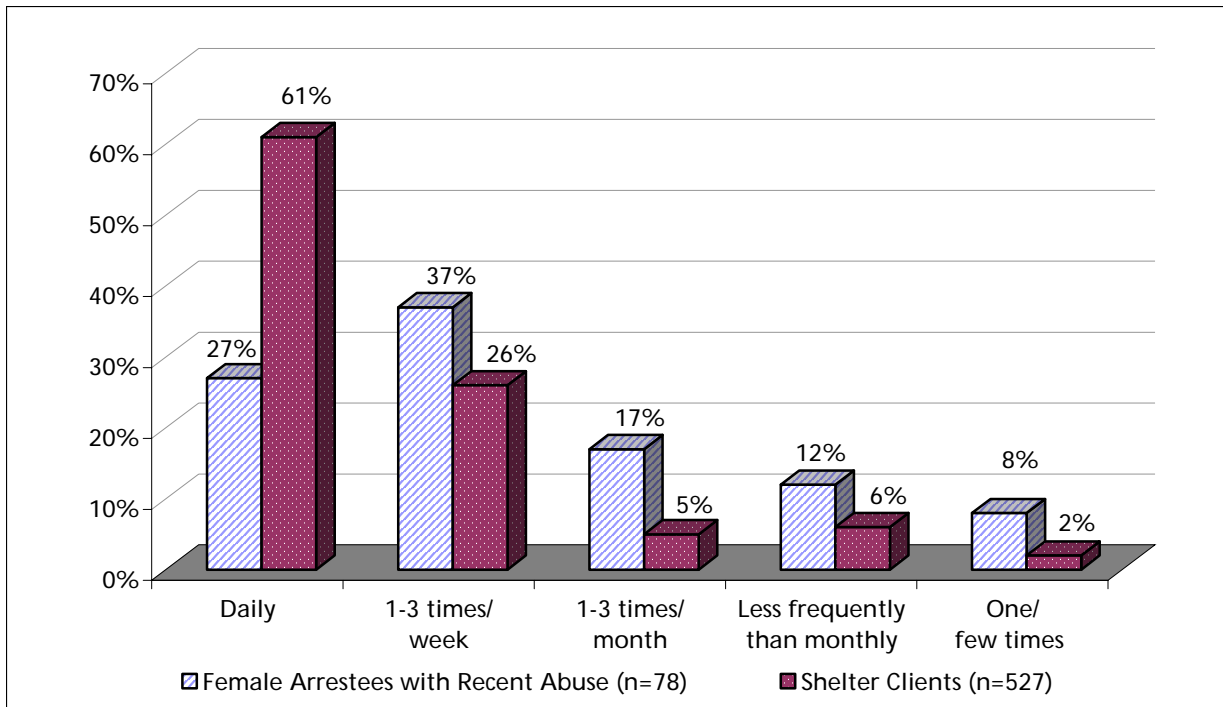
During the ADAM DV interview, arrestees were asked to describe the frequency of the abuse they had experienced during the last year. Shelter clients were asked a similar, but slightly different, question regarding the frequency of the abuse they had experienced from their current abuser. With the variation in wording of these questions in mind, there were differences in the frequency of abuse between the two groups, with shelter clients reporting more frequent abuse, overall. As Figure 4.4 shows, while a roughly equal percentage reported daily physical abuse, over one-third (38%) of shelter clients reported being physically abused one to three times a week, compared to 11 percent of arrestees. Arrestees were most likely to report that they were physically abused less frequently than monthly. Nineteen percent (19%) and 15 percent, respectively, reported that they had been physically abused only once or a few times.

Figure 4.4
FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL ABUSE REPORTED BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003



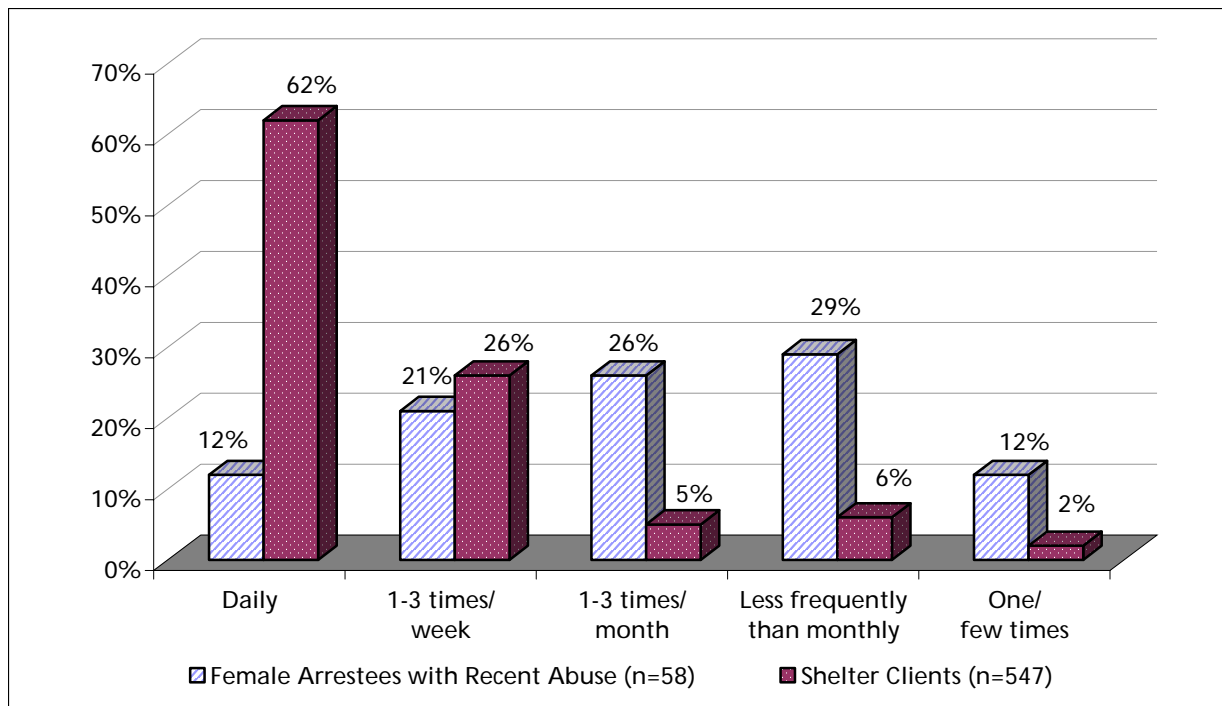
Similarly, shelter clients also reported being emotionally (or mentally) abused more often. As Figure 4.5 shows, 61 percent reported being subjected to this type of abuse on a daily basis, compared to about one-quarter (27%) of arrestees.

Figure 4.5
FREQUENCY OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE REPORTED BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003



There was also a difference in the rate at which verbal abuse occurred, though this difference could again be related to the way the question was asked to the two different samples. Specifically, 62 percent of shelter clients reported being verbally abused on a daily basis, compared to only 12 percent of female arrestees. Over one-half of the arrestees reported verbal abuse several times a month or less frequently.

Figure 4.6
FREQUENCY OF VERBAL ABUSE REPORTED BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003



Weapon Use

Individuals in both groups also were asked to describe what types of weapons had been used in incidents that had occurred in the past 12 months. However, it should be noted that shelter clients were asked this question in an open-ended format, while the arrestees were read a list of possible weapons and responded to whether or not they had been used. Most victims in both groups reported that hands had been used as weapons (96% arrestees and 93% shelter clients). Other weapons reported by both groups included knives or other sharp objects (15% each), feet or legs (53% and 20%, respectively), household items (33% and 30%, respectively), and guns (5% and 7%, respectively) (not shown).

Type of Injury

Both groups of victims were asked about what type of injury they had ever received as a result of physical or sexual abuse. Ninety-four percent (94%) of arrestees and 95 percent of shelter clients reported that they had ever been injured (not shown). However, arrestees were more likely to report sustaining a variety of different injuries. As Table 4.4 shows, the most frequent injury reported by both groups included bruises (92% and 85%, respectively) and aches and pains (90% and 78%, respectively). Arrestees were more likely to report receiving scratches, cuts, sprains, and concussions. Some injury types (e.g., black eye, bloody lip) that were included on the arrestee interview were not asked in the shelter interview and are not presented here.

Table 4.4
TYPE OF INJURIES EVER EXPERIENCED BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003

	Female Arrestees with Recent Abuse	Shelter Clients
Bruises	92%	85%
Aches and pains	90%	78%
Scratches	80%	43%
Cuts/lacerations	60%	29%
Sprain/swelling	58%	49%
Concussion	33%	16%
Fracture/broken bone	24%	23%
Broken teeth	12%	11%
Internal injuries	11%	13%
Stab wound	8%	6%
TOTAL	84	567

NOTE: Percentages based upon multiple responses

Receipt of Medical Treatment

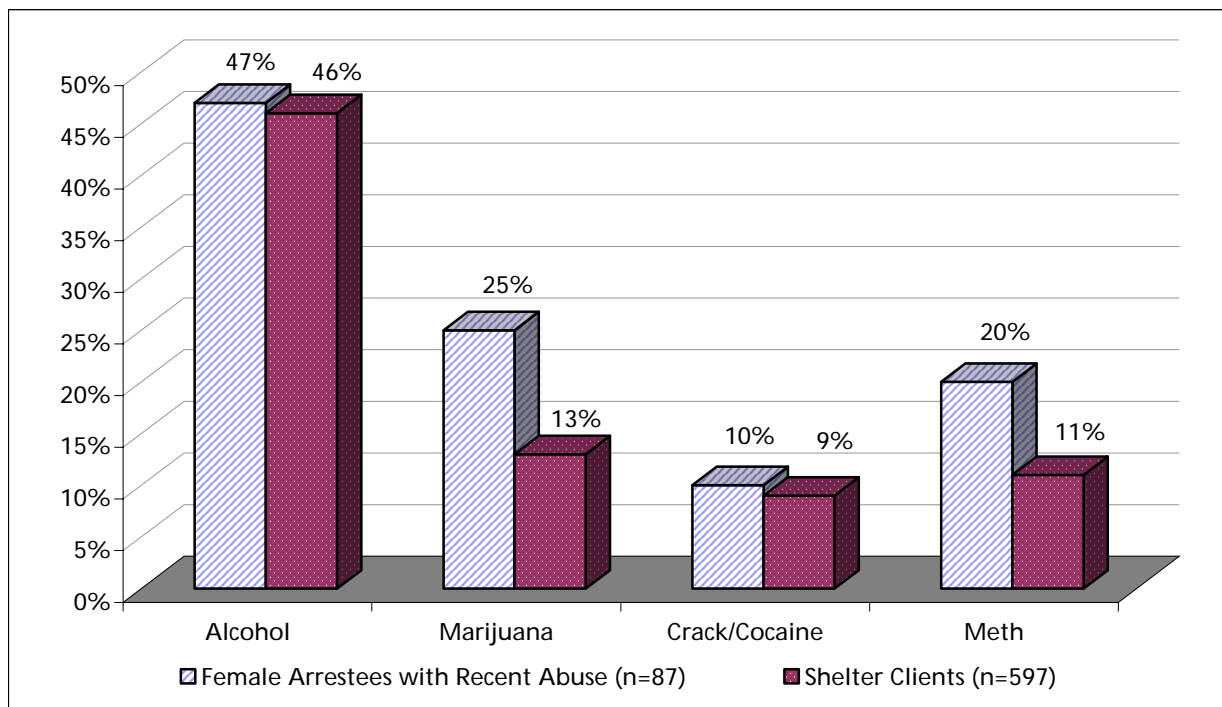
Thirty-five percent (35%) of arrestees and 42 percent of shelter clients reported that they had previously received medical treatment as a result of an abuse incident. When asked who provided this treatment, the majority in both groups said a hospital, with one-third or less also noting that a paramedic, clinic, or their own doctor provided it (not shown).

SUBSTANCE USE

Abuser Use

As Figure 4.7 shows, just under one-half of both samples (47% of arrestees and 46% of shelter clients) reported that alcohol had been consumed by the abuser prior to the most recent incident. However, arrestees were more likely to report that the abuser had used marijuana (25% versus 13%) or meth (20% versus 11%). Twenty-eight percent (28%) of arrestees and 41 percent of shelter clients reported that the person who had abused them in the most recent incident had not used alcohol or some other drug before the incident occurred (not shown).

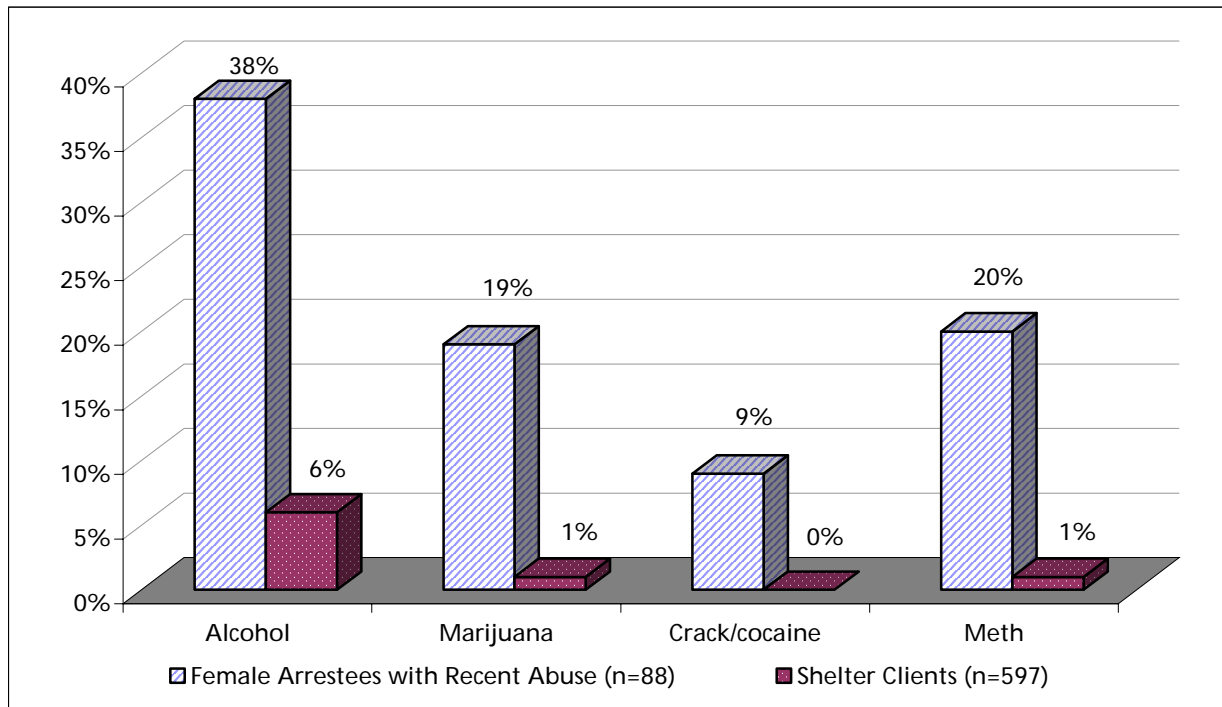
Figure 4.7
ABUSER USE OF SUBSTANCES PRIOR TO MOST RECENT INCIDENT REPORTED BY
FEMALE ARRESTEES WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENTS
San Diego County, August 2003



Victim Use

In comparison, arrestees were much more likely than shelter clients to report their own substance use prior to the most recent incident. As Figure 4.8 shows, while only six percent of shelter clients reported alcohol use, and one percent or less use of other types of drugs, these percentages were considerably higher for arrestees. This difference could be real, or possibly related to the validity of the information reported by shelter clients who may be less than truthful when residing in a shelter. This is because the majority of the shelters have a policy of not accepting clients who are currently using alcohol or other drugs.

Figure 4.8
FEMALE ARRESTEE WITH RECENT ABUSE AND SHELTER CLIENT
USE OF SUBSTANCES PRIOR TO MOST RECENT INCIDENT
San Diego County, August 2003



RECEIPT OF SERVICES

When the shelter sample was asked if they had previously received any services for domestic violence, 39 percent said that they had. When asked what types of services, the most common response was counseling and shelter. When the female arrestees were asked a similar question, only around one-fifth (21%) reported having ever received any type of service. Of the 19 that had, 9 had received counseling and 7 reported attending domestic violence classes. In addition, six arrestees reported that they had previously sought shelter from the abuser (not shown).

SUMMARY

In order to address the third objective of the current research project, information collected from female arrestees who had experienced abuse in the past 12 months was compared to previously collected information from domestic violence victims seeking protection at shelters in San Diego County. These analyses showed that the arrestees were more likely to be White and less likely to be Hispanic, compared to the shelter clients. They were also more likely to have some type of educational degree, were less likely to be married to the abuser, and less likely to have children that witnessed the abuse. Over one-half of both samples reported that the abuser had been in other abusive relationships and had witnessed abuse him/herself. Victims in both groups also reported a similar history of abuse as a child. Police were equally likely to be called to both types of households for domestic violence, but arrestees were more likely to report being arrested themselves. Most members in both groups reported being physically and emotionally abused, but shelter clients reported more frequent abuse, even though arrestees were more likely to report a greater variety of injuries. Female arrestees were more likely to report that they had used alcohol or other drugs prior to the most recent abuse incident. This may be related to accuracy of the self-report information provided by shelter clients. Shelter clients were more likely to have previously received some types of services related to their abusive situation.

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Eighty percent (80%) of San Diego female arrestees interviewed for this study reported being prior victims of domestic abuse, a rate higher than what is often reported by the general population. Of these 144 individuals, almost two-thirds had been abused in the past 12 months. Individuals who were recently abused were significantly younger, consistent with other research, and those who had never been abused were significantly less likely to have ever sought mental health treatment. The three groups of individuals interviewed (those with no abuse, those with recent abuse, and those who were ever abused but not recently) did not differ in terms of their criminal history, but those with recent abuse were significantly more likely to have been arrested currently for a violent offense, including spouse abuse. Information regarding the context of this most recent abuse situation was not captured as part of this interview so we are unable to say if actions that led to this arrest were reactive or defensive in nature. The most consistent difference between the three groups in terms of their drug use history related to methamphetamine. Specifically, those with no history of abuse were less likely to have ever tried meth, as well as to have used it in the past year or month or to test positive for it.

The use of alcohol and other drugs by victims of abuse has been cited in the literature as a means to mask the pain and trauma of victimization. While it is possible that offender and victim substance use are sometimes confounded and it is impossible to determine causality based upon these data alone, analyses were done to explore whether victim use was related to type or severity of abuse. The two consistently significant results related to alcohol and methamphetamine. Individuals who had ever been physically or emotionally abused or threatened were significantly more likely to report that they had ever used alcohol, that they had ever used methamphetamine and that they had used methamphetamine in the past month. They were also more likely to test positive for methamphetamine. Comparable rates of victims and offenders, according to the victims, had used alcohol and other drugs prior to the most recent incident, and victims generally perceived that use by both individuals had contributed in some way to the situation. While victim substance use was not significantly related to the type of abuse that had recently occurred or whether a weapon was used, it was related to whether or not the victim had ever sustained an injury and, in some cases, whether or not she received medical treatment.

With some caution related to different sampling and questioning techniques, information collected from the female arrestees in this study was compared to information collected from shelter clients as part of another study. Arrestees were more likely to be White and less likely to be Hispanic, compared to those in the shelter sample. Other differences related to age (arrestees were slightly younger), marital relationship (shelter clients were more likely to be married), and self-reported substance use prior to intake (shelter clients less likely to report using). A proportion of both groups reported that the abuser had been abused as a child and that s/he had been involved in other

abusive relationships. The police had responded to a domestic violence call at the house of the majority of clients in both samples, although arrestees were more likely to report being arrested at one of these times. A very small percentage of both groups reported having a restraining order against their spouse

RECOMMENDATIONS

Analyses of the data collected as part of this research effort have led to a number of recommendations that pertain to the fields of prevention and intervention, as well as public policy and future research.

Prevention

- Both arrestee populations and shelter populations suggest that domestic violence was experienced by both victims and offenders during childhood, supporting the theory of generational violence. Because an exposure to abuse of one parent by another, as well as alcohol and other drug use can be confounded, it is important that researchers gain a better understanding of how the two are related. In addition, studying resiliency factors that might buffer a child after exposure to one or both of these factors also is important. Such an understanding would be extremely useful to service providers working with these youth. In addition, a high proportion of each group of victims has children, suggesting the need to offer services to them as well when their parent comes into contact with either the criminal justice or domestic violence community.
- Because a greater proportion of domestic violence victims may be in younger age categories, as is the case with many types of crime, specific outreach efforts should be directed at reaching women who are under 30. Such efforts could include education on college campuses and public service announcements through young adult-friendly outlets and venues.

Intervention

- A high proportion of females booked into local detention facilities are either current or past victims of domestic violence. While current physical and mental health are evaluated during booking, questions about violence by a partner generally are not addressed. If the arrestee reports current or recent abuse, jail staff could offer referral sources the arrestee may access upon release from jail or provide domestic violence education to inmates who have extended stays.
- Given the relationship between intimate partner violence and substance use, it also may be beneficial for drug treatment programs to determine if clients have a history of partner abuse and to offer relevant referrals or services by appropriately trained staff that will address these associated issues.

- Both arrestees and women in shelters appear to have contact with several public agencies, including the police and CPS. Staff in all public agencies should have proper training to understand the dynamics of intimate partner violence, even when 'clients' or arrestees are presenting for different problems. Jail and shelter stays can be opportunities for positive intervention.
- Recent research regarding use of restraining orders suggests they can be helpful in protecting victims from further abuse (Holt, Kernic, Rivara, and Wolf, 2003). Findings here suggest that some victims do not obtain one because they don't want one, don't think it will do any good, or don't know how. Information regarding this option should be shared with victims and the process to obtain one should be as simple as possible.

Public Policy

- Medical mandatory reporting laws were created with the victim's safety in mind. It is important that individuals in the medical field be educated about domestic violence as well as referrals available locally. In addition, it may be more useful to make referral information available to all women seeking treatment from injuries that could be related to abuse, regardless of victim self-disclosure.
- Regardless of the nature of the relationship between use of alcohol and other drugs and domestic violence victimization, these results suggest that a victim who uses substances is more likely to be injured as a result of abuse. This public health issue should be addressed at all levels and resources should be allocated to preventing and combating this serious problem.

Future Research

- Although the relationship between intimate partner violence and substance use remains complex, some factors such as degree of injury and medical treatment and use of specific drugs appear to be significantly correlated. Also, for this research, victim meth use (ever, 30 days) was the strongest predictor, being significantly related to physical, emotional, verbal, and nonverbal abuse. Research with other groups of victims in different regions of the country would be worthwhile to determine if certain drugs are more strongly related to victimization than others, independent of other victim characteristics.
- While some research has been done researchers should continue to explore the relationship between substance use, mental health issues, and domestic violence victimization. In this study, arrestees with no abuse history were less likely to have sought mental health treatment and also less likely to have used a number of substances. Based upon these findings, it is unclear what the nature of these relationships is. Possible research questions could include further exploring the prevalence of dual diagnosis among victims, whether substance use preceded or followed the experience and the diagnosis of mental health issues and victimization, and whether these individuals are also victims of other types of crime.

- Results presented here showed arrestees who reported “recent abuse” were significantly more likely to be arrested for a violent offense, including spousal abuse. Due to the focus of this study, the contextual settings surrounding the incidents of domestic violence victimization, as well as situations in which the victim may have been arrested for abuse, could not be fully explored. Additional research with this population, which examines these issues, is needed.
- Only one question was included on the interview instrument regarding childhood abuse, and this question was only posed to those who reported ever being abused. Future studies which examine the relationship between childhood abuse, domestic violence, and substance use should include multiple questions to get at the extent of childhood victimization and should ask these questions of those who are victims of domestic violence, as well as those who are not.

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APPENDIX A
ADAM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVIEW

**ADAM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADDENDUM
San Diego Association of Governments**

____ / ____ / ____ Interview Date	Affix Response Identification Sticker Here (Or write in number if not available) _____
Interviewer ID Number: _____	Site ID#: <u>0</u> <u>4</u>

NOTE: INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN CAPITAL LETTERS. READ ALL CHOICES TO THE RESPONDENT ONLY WHEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO. UNDERLINED WORDS INDICATE THE NEED FOR EMPHASIS.

SECTION A: *I'd like to now ask you some questions about domestic abuse. Just like the previous interview, all of your answers are confidential and anonymous. Some of the questions I ask you will be very personal, so if you are uncomfortable at any time, please let me know and we can stop or take a break. If you don't want to answer a particular question I ask, just let me know. Sometimes it may be hard to remember things that happened a long time ago, so if we have to go back to questions you have already answered, that is okay. Are you ready to start?*

First, I'm going to be asking you questions about what types of intimate partner abuse you may have experienced. By intimate partner, I mean a person with whom you had an intimate sexual relationship, whether you lived together or not.

FOR ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A, ASK THE QUESTIONS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT. THAT IS, WITHIN EACH QUESTION, ASK ABOUT LIFETIME AND THEN ABOUT THE LAST 12 MONTHS. IF NO LIFETIME ABUSE, LAST 12 MONTHS SHOULD BE N/A. SEE UNIFORM DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE FOR CLARIFICATION.

1. Have you ever been physically abused by an intimate partner ... (READ DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE BELOW)	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
2. Have you ever been emotionally abused by an intimate partner ... (READ DESCRIPTION OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE BELOW)	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
3. Have you ever been sexually abused by an intimate partner ... (READ DESCRIPTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE BELOW)	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
4. Have you ever been verbally threatened with physical harm by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A

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5. Have you ever been threatened with physical harm by an intimate partner with something other than words... (READ DESCRIPTION OF NONVERBAL THREATS BELOW)	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
6. Has an intimate partner ever thrown an object at you because s/he was trying to hurt you ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
7. Have you ever been pushed, grabbed, or shoved by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
8. Have you ever been hit by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
9. Have you ever been kicked by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
10. Have you ever been slammed against a wall or some other hard surface by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
11. Have you ever been burned or scalded by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
12. Have you been strangled by an intimate partner ...	In your lifetime? 1 Yes 2 No	In the last 12 months? 1 Yes 2 No 3 N/A
IF NO ABUSE IN LIFETIME, DISCONTINUE INTERVIEW AND READ CLOSING STATEMENT AT END OF INTERVIEW. IF ANY QUESTION 6 THRU 13 IS YES, QUESTION 1 SHOULD BE YES.		

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<p>(IF NO PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE IN LIFETIME, SKIP TO SECTION B; IF NO PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE IN LAST 12 MONTHS, DON'T ASK LAST 12 MONTHS HERE)</p> <p>13. I'm now going to be asking you about the different types of injuries you may have received as a result of any physical or sexual abuse.</p> <p>1 = YES 2 = NO</p>	<p>In your lifetime, have any of the following resulted after a physical or sexual abuse incident?</p> <p>1 2 Aches & pains 1 2 Loose or broken teeth 1 2 Black eye(s) 1 2 Bloody lip/nose 1 2 Bruises 1 2 Concussion or knocked unconscious 1 2 Fractured or broken bones 1 2 Gunshot wound 1 2 Internal injuries 1 2 Cuts 1 2 Miscarriage or pregnancy complications 1 2 Scratches 1 2 Sprain or swelling 1 2 Stab wound 1 2 Burns 1 2 Bite marks 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____</p> <p>1 2 NONE (DON'T READ – SKIP TO SECTION B)</p>	<p>In the last 12 months, have any of the following resulted after a physical or sexual abuse incident?</p> <p>1 2 Aches & pains 1 2 Loose or Broken teeth 1 2 Black eye(s) 1 2 Bloody lip/nose 1 2 Bruises 1 2 Concussion or knocked unconscious 1 2 Fractured or broken bones 1 2 Gunshot wound 1 2 Internal injuries 1 2 Cuts 1 2 Miscarriage or pregnancy complications 1 2 Scratches 1 2 Sprain or swelling 1 2 Stab wound 1 2 Burns 1 2 Bite marks 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____</p> <p>1 2 NONE (DON'T READ)</p>
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SECTION B: (IF NO ABUSE AT ALL IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS SKIP TO SECTION E)
Now, I'm going to ask you questions about any types of abuse that have occurred during the last 12 months, including physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal or nonverbal threats.

<p>14. How many different intimate partners have abused you during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>_____ (NO RANGES)</p>
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<p>15. Were any of the following weapons or other items, including body parts, involved in any of these abuse incidents that took place in the last 12 months?</p> <p>1 = YES 2 = NO</p>	<p>(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO)</p> <p>1 2 Gun/firearm 1 2 Knife 1 2 Some other type of sharp object 1 2 Some type of blunt object 1 2 Brass knuckles 1 2 Some type of household item (e.g., furniture) 1 2 Hands or arms 1 2 Legs or feet 1 2 Torso 1 2 Head 1 2 Mouth or teeth (not including verbal abuse) 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____</p> <p>1 2 NONE (DON'T READ)</p>
<p>(SKIP TO Q. 18 IF NO PHYSICAL ABUSE IN LAST 12 MONTHS)</p> <p>16. Did you receive medical treatment (not including counseling) for any physical injuries as a result of abuse during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 18)</p>
<p>17. What types of medical treatment did you receive?</p> <p>1 = YES 2 = NO</p>	<p>(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO)</p> <p>1 2 Onsite by paramedics 1 2 Clinic/urgent care 1 2 Went to own doctor 1 2 Went to hospital 1 2 Anything else? (SPECIFY) _____</p>
<p>18. Were children around during any of the incidents?</p>	<p>1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 20)</p>
<p>19. Did they see or hear the incident?</p>	<p>1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown</p>

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<p>(ONLY ASK IF PHYSICAL ABUSE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS - Q1 - IF NO, CIRCLE N/A)</p> <p>20. Using the categories on this card, how frequently were you physically abused during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>(SHOW RESPONSE CARD; ONLY CIRCLE ONE CHOICE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Daily 2 Two to three times a week 3 Once a week 4 Two to three times a month 5 Once a month 6 Six times or less per year 7 Few times ever 8 One time only 9 Varies/sporadic 10 N/A (DON'T READ)
<p>(ONLY ASK IF EMOTIONAL ABUSE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS - Q2 - IF NO, CIRCLE N/A)</p> <p>21. Using the categories on this card, how frequently were you emotionally abused during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>(SHOW RESPONSE CARD; ONLY CIRCLE ONE CHOICE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Daily 2 Two to three times a week 3 Once a week 4 Two to three times a month 5 Once a month 6 Six times or less per year 7 Few times ever 8 One time only 9 Varies/sporadic 10 N/A (DON'T READ)
<p>(ONLY ASK IF SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS - Q3 - IF NO, CIRCLE N/A)</p> <p>22. Using the categories on this card, how frequently were you sexually abused during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>(SHOW RESPONSE CARD; ONLY CIRCLE ONE CHOICE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Daily 2 Two to three times a week 3 Once a week 4 Two to three times a month 5 Once a month 6 Six times or less per year 7 Few times ever 8 One time only 9 Varies/sporadic 10 N/A (DON'T READ)

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<p>(ONLY ASK IF VERBAL OR NONVERBAL THREATS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS - Q4 OR Q5 - IF NO, CIRCLE N/A)</p> <p>23. Using the categories on this card, how frequently were you threatened with physical violence, either verbally or nonverbally, during the last 12 months?</p>	<p>(SHOW RESPONSE CARD; ONLY CIRCLE ONE CHOICE)</p> <p>1 Daily 2 Two to three times a week 3 Once a week 4 Two to three times a month 5 Once a month 6 Six times or less per year 7 Few times ever 8 One time only 9 Varies/sporadic 10 N/A (DON'T READ)</p>
<p>Section C: The next set of questions is about the <u>most recent</u> abuse incident that occurred in the last 12 months.</p>	
<p>24. What types of abuse occurred during the <u>most recent incident</u>?</p> <p>1 = YES 2 = NO</p>	<p>(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO)</p> <p>1 2 Physical 1 2 Emotional 1 2 Sexual 1 2 Verbal or nonverbal threats 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____</p>
<p>25. Did your partner use any of the following types of substances before the most recent incident?</p> <p>1 = YES 2 = NO</p>	<p>(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO)</p> <p>1 2 Alcohol 1 2 Marijuana 1 2 Crack/powder cocaine 1 2 Heroin 1 2 PCP 1 2 LSD 1 2 Methadone 1 2 Crystal Meth. 1 2 Prescribed medication 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____</p> <p>1 2 NONE (DON'T READ - SKIP TO Q. 29)</p>
<p>26. Do you think that your partner's use of alcohol or other drugs contributed to the incident in any way?</p>	<p>1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 28) 9 Unknown (SKIP TO Q. 28)</p>
<p>27. How do you think this use contributed?</p>	<p>(WRITE IN OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE)</p>

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28. Did your partner abuse you in the last 12 months when s/he wasn't using any alcohol or other drug?	1 Yes 2 No
29. Did you use any of the following types of substances before the most recent incident?	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 Alcohol 1 2 Marijuana 1 2 Crack/powder cocaine 1 2 Heroin 1 2 PCP 1 2 LSD 1 2 Methadone 1 2 Crystal Meth. 1 2 Prescribed medication 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____ 1 2 NONE (DON'T READ - SKIP TO SECTION D)
30. Do you think that your use of alcohol or other drugs contributed to the incident?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO SECTION D) 9 Unknown (SKIP TO SECTION D)
31. How do you think this use contributed?	(WRITE IN OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE.)
SECTION D: Now I'd like to ask you some questions about the partner who abused you <u>most</u> recently during the last 12 months.	
32. What is the gender of this partner?	1 Male 2 Female

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33. What is the race of this partner?	(ONLY CIRCLE ONE) 1 White 2 Black 3 Hispanic 4 Asian 5 Native American 6 Biracial/Multiracial 8 Other (SPECIFY) _____ 9 Unknown
34. How old was your partner at the time of the most recent incident?	_____ (NO RANGES)
35. What was the highest grade this partner completed in school?	(READ CHOICES; ONLY CIRCLE ONE) 1 Less than 12 years 2 High school graduate/GED 3 Some college/college graduate 4 Post graduate 5 Vocational training 6 Foreign schooling 9 Unknown
36. How long have or had you been together? (CODE MONTHS ONLY IF LESS THAN 12)	_____ Years (NO RANGES) or _____ Months (NO RANGES)
37. What was the relationship between you and this partner at the time of the most recent incident?	(READ CHOICES; ONLY CIRCLE ONE) 1 Married (Spouse) 2 Divorced/Separated (Former spouse) (SKIP TO Q. 40) 5 Co-habitants 3 Dating (Significant other) 4 Used to date (SKIP TO Q. 40) 6 Co-parents (SKIP TO Q. 40) 8 Other (SPECIFY) _____
38. (IF CURRENT SPOUSE, SIGNIFICANT OTHER, OR CO-HABITANT) Have you ever left the relationship?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 40)
39. (IF YES) How many times?	_____ (NO RANGES)
40. Has this partner been involved in other abusive intimate relationships?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
41. Did this partner ever witness his/her mother or father being abused by an intimate partner?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
42. Was this partner abused as a child?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO SECTION E) 9 Unknown (SKIP TO SECTION E)

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43. Did your partner experience ... 1 = YES 2 = NO 9 = UNKNOWN	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 9 Physical abuse? 1 2 9 Emotional abuse? 1 2 9 Sexual abuse? 1 2 9 Verbal or nonverbal threats? 1 2 9 Other (SPECIFY) _____
SECTION E: <i>The next set of questions is about you and the different types of abuse you have ever experienced.</i>	
44. Have you <u>ever</u> been abused while you were pregnant?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 46)
45. What types of abuse did you experience while pregnant? 1 = YES 2 = NO	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO; ANSWERS SHOULD CORRESPOND TO ABUSE IN LIFETIME) 1 2 Physical 1 2 Emotional 1 2 Sexual 1 2 Verbal or nonverbal threats 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____
46. Did you ever witness your mother or father being abused by an intimate partner?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
47. Were you ever abused as a child?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 49)
48. Did you experience ... 1 = YES 2 = NO	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 Physical abuse? 1 2 Emotional abuse? 1 2 Sexual abuse? 1 2 Verbal or nonverbal threats? 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____
49. Have you ever been so angry that you physically hurt someone else?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 52)
50. (IF YES) Was your action in self-defense?	1 Yes 2 No
51. Who was physically hurt? 1 = YES 2 = NO	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 Intimate partner 1 2 Children 1 2 Friend 1 2 Other relative 1 2 Stranger 1 2 Acquaintance 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____
52. Have you ever wanted to hurt yourself?	1 Yes 2 No

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SECTION F: Now, I'd like to find out a bit more about your previous contact with the criminal justice system.	
53. About how many times have the police ever been called to your household as a result of an abusive incident?	(READ CHOICES; ONLY CIRCLE ONE) 1 None (SKIP TO Q. 57) 2 One to three times 3 Four or more times
54. Has anyone in the household been arrested as result of any of those calls?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 57)
55. Was your partner ever arrested for domestic violence?	1 Yes 2 No
56. Were you ever arrested for domestic violence?	1 Yes 2 No
57. Have you ever had a restraining order against an intimate partner?	1 Yes (SKIP TO Q. 59) 2 No
58. (IF NO) Which of the following reasons have you ever had for not getting a restraining order? 1 = YES 2 = NO	(CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO, THEN SKIP TO Q. 62) 1 2 Don't know how to get one 1 2 Don't want one 1 2 Don't think it will do any good 1 2 Can't get one 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____
59. (IF YES TO Q. 57) What type of restraining order did you have? 1 = YES 2 = NO	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 Emergency 1 2 Temporary 1 2 Permanent
60. Did or has this partner complied with the conditions of the restraining order?	1 Yes (SKIP TO Q. 62) 2 No 9 Unknown (SKIP TO Q. 62)
61. How did s/he violate the restraining order? 1 = YES 2 = NO	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 Came to the residence 1 2 Called on the phone 1 2 Came to place of employment/school 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____
62. Has anyone ever had a restraining order against you?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
SECTION G: I'd like to ask you about the different types of services and support you may have received related to domestic violence.	
63. Have you <u>ever</u> received medical treatment for abuse by an intimate partner?	(IF Q. 17 IS YES, THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE YES) 1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 66)

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64. What type of medical treatment? 1 = YES 2 = NO	(READ CHOICES; CIRCLE 1 IF YES, 2 IF NO) 1 2 Onsite by paramedics 1 2 Clinic/urgent care 1 2 Went to own doctor 1 2 Went to hospital 1 2 Other (SPECIFY) _____
65. When you received medical treatment, was your partner reported to the police?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
66. Have you <u>ever</u> needed medical treatment because of abuse and didn't seek treatment because you were afraid the abuse would be reported to the police?	1 Yes 2 No
67. Have you <u>ever</u> received any public or private services to prevent domestic abuse?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 69)
68. (IF YES) What kinds of services?	(WRITE IN OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE.)
69. Have you ever been admitted to a domestic violence shelter?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO Q. 71)
70. (IF YES) How many times in your life?	_____ (NO RANGES)
71. Are you a United States citizen?	1 Yes 2 No 3 Other (SPECIFY) _____
72. Do you have children under the age of 18?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO END OF INTERVIEW)
73. How many children under the age of 18 do you have?	_____ (NO RANGES)
74. Have you ever had a case filed with the Children's Services Bureau (CSB/CPS)?	1 Yes 2 No (SKIP TO END OF INTERVIEW) 9 Unknown (SKIP TO END OF INTERVIEW)
75. Was this case related to an abuse incident?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown
76. Do you currently have an open case with the Children's Services Bureau (CSB/CPS)?	1 Yes 2 No 9 Unknown

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Thank you for your time. These are all of the additional questions I have for you at this time. Your input is very important to us.

Interviewer Comments/Notes:

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