

# Fab Abs

## Recent Research Abstracts

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### ***FAMILY VIOLENCE***

Benda, Brent B. & Corwyn, Robert Flynn (2002) The effect of abuse in childhood and in adolescence on violence among adolescents. *Youth & Society*, 33 (3), 339-365

A study of 1031 persons from 5 public high schools examined the relative effects of elements of control, strain and social learning theories on violence among younger (<16 years) and older (>16 years) adolescents. Of special interest were the differential effects of adult abuse during childhood and during adolescence on violence of these two ages groups. Findings show that the effects of abuse by adults during childhood on violence are mediated by other study factors among older adolescents only. Attachments to female caregivers, self-esteem, and fathers' education have inverse relationships, while suicide attempts are positively related to violence only among adolescents 15 years of age or younger. Attachment to father, beliefs, and religiosity are inversely related to violence, whereas feelings of frustration and alienation are positively related to this outcome for both age groups. Implications for theory are discussed.

Dienemann, J., Campbell, J., Landenburger, K. & Curry, M.A. (2002) The domestic violence survivor assessment: a tool for counselling women in intimate partner violence relationships. *Patient Education and Counselling*, 46 (3), 221-228

Seeking to end violence and distress in their relationship in the goals of women abused by intimate partners. The theoretical framework guiding development of the domestic violence survivor assessment (DVSA) was Landenburger's theory of entrapment and recovery. Social context and need to balance care for others and herself influence women's decision-making about abuse. The DVSA was developed collaboratively between researchers and counsellors to gain a deeper understanding of battered women's cognitive states in order to assist them during counselling to effectively resolve the dilemma of their abusive relationships while experiencing personal growth. Five states are identified which a woman may experience on 11 issues concurrently at the personal, relationship or social context levels. Research to validate the DVSA and suggestions on use with women desiring to preserve their relationship or preserve their self or preserve the resolution of change is described. Using the DVSA for assessment, intervention and measuring intermediate outcomes is delineated.

Tutty, L.M.; Bidgood, B.A.; Rothery, M.A. & Bidgood, P. (2001) An evaluation of men's batterer treatment groups. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 11 (6), 645-670

15 treatment groups for men who abused intimate partners were evaluated. 104 men took part, with a completion rate of 68.3%. Socres on social desirability were utilized to adjust totals on other self-report scales. Group completers (n=71) were no different from dropouts (n=33) on the adjusted standardized measures or demographics. Group completion was associated with significant improvements on the adjusted variables of appraisal, social support, self-esteem, perceived stress, attitudes towards marriage and the family, locus of control and the marital relationship functions of roles, affective expression and communication. Importantly, adjusted scores on both the physical & non-physical abuse subscales of the Index of Spouse Abuse were significantly reduced, the latter to below the clinical cutoff. No differences were found between court-mandated and non-court-mandated group completers. The utility of using social desirability to adjust scores is highlighted.