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Adult Survivors of Family Violence and Abuse

**A Thesis
By**

MARCIE DE LA CRUZ

**Submitted to the Graduate School of the
University of Texas-Pan American
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

August 2000

Major Subject: Sociology

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By

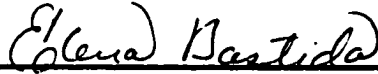
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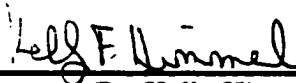
Adult Survivors of Family Violence and Abuse

A Thesis
By
MARCIE DE LA CRUZ

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The topic of family violence and abuse is a very sensitive issue. Yet, violence is a part of everyday life. Although people are constantly being bombarded by violent acts on television and in newspaper articles, family violence and abuse is a topic that is to a certain extent, taboo. Even with this taboo topic, family violence and abuse has been widely studied and researched; however, the majority of the research has concentrated on a quantitative aspect. Thus, this study looks at family violence and abuse through qualitative eyes. In the grand tradition of case studies and narratives, this qualitative study focuses on the participants' own experience with family violence and abuse. As a result, my analyses neither exhaust the meaning for nor claim generalizations about the repercussions of family violence and abuse.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

“The intense emotional meaning of family relations for almost all members of society has been observable throughout man’s history (Goode, 1964:1).” Since the beginning of time, society has emphasized the importance of the family unit (Goode, 1964). Through socialization, society instills on individuals the rights and wrongs, the dos and don’ts of the traditional family belief system. However, the religiously oriented family belief system is an ideal one. According to the Judeo Christian tradition* women and children are to obey their husbands and fathers; but in turn, husbands and fathers should love and provide them with all the necessities needed for survival. Even among those who subscribe to the traditionally religious family, the ideal family is more of a myth than a reality. Not all family members treat one another in a respectable manner. And given the greater physical strength of men, there are many who physically and/or mentally abuse their wives and children (Gelles, Straus, 1988). In the case of abuse and violent episodes, the question arises: should a wife and children obey this man no matter the situation? Many families, traditional or not, have their share of problems. Some of the problems may arise because the man is not performing “the provider” role as traditionally prescribed. In other cases, it may be that the woman is not

* It is acknowledged that in other traditionally religiously oriented families the notion of the patriarch is as important, if not more, as in the Judeo Christian. e.g. Muslim, Hindu, Far Eastern (Buddhist, Shinto) etc... However, the author is not addressing these religion and families here.

fulfilling her part as traditionally defined of caring for her husband and children or where substance abuse affects the dynamics of the family.

“There is no doubt that religious teachings play an important part in most people’s lives. Consider, for example, that in the United States alone, there are currently more than 1,300 different religions...All religions, despite of the tremendous variation among them, respond to particular human needs. Religion lends order to social life by imposing on its adherents a set of behavioral standards. Religion typically establishes different rules and often different rituals for men and women (Renzetti & Curran, 1999: 308).”

As noted by Renzetti & Curran (1999), the Holy Bible has been the inspiration for the model of total obedience in the family. It has set a family standard that has transcended time. Even when these standards have been questioned and modified, for many they are still held as the ideal. Many are still trying to achieve the family standard set forth by the Bible; the standard that men are the heads of the household and their wives and children should obey the rules and regulations set by them (e.g. Noah and his family).

The media of the 1950’s and 1960’s particularly emphasized this type of phenomena. Take for example such sitcoms as *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, *Father Knows Best*, and *Leave it to Beaver*, they all portrayed a perfect family life, i.e. the husband went off to work, while the wife stayed at home; all the children were well mannered and obedient; if the wife or the children had problems, the head of the household was always there to solve it... the ideal, picture perfect state. Fast forward to the year 2000... Even though things are a bit more liberal, the media is still portraying the earlier and stereotypical concept of the family. This basic concept is illustrated in shows like *Home Improvement*. Although, the woman isn’t quite waiting for her husband at home, there is still the element that he is the head of the household. For

example, the husband (Tim) works a full time job. He is the one earning the money in order to support his family. Furthermore when one of the kids gets in trouble, it is always he **and** the wife (Jill) that work toward a resolution. It is never the wife who makes a decision on her own... the husband is always involved in the whole process; thus affirming his status as head of household. It is through shows such as Home Improvement that the media promotes to the American people the picture perfect family and the traditional belief system.

The media is not the only one endorsing the traditional values of the family. Politicians have always used the notion of having admirable family values in order to get elected. In fact, politicians are always trying to get the “dirt” on other politicians’ family values in order to discredit their persona. The recent Clinton scandal involving adultery almost cost him the presidency. In the end it was through the loyalty of his wife and daughter that he was able to surpass the attack on his personal life. To affirm his strong values, Clinton sought the forgiveness of the church. Because it has been the church that has set the standard belief system, seeking its forgiveness was a rational and wise decision. Perhaps, among the factors that helped him the most through the impeachment process was his asking the forgiveness of the church.

Even the most famous families, i.e. the first family or celebrate families are not problem free. The happiest of families whether large or small, have their share of problems. Since it can be argued that today the true Biblical family is non-existent, it is important to research all aspects of the family, including its negative side. This study of family violence and abuse covers not only some positive aspects of family life but

discusses in great depth the repercussions of growing up in a violent and abusive household.

Statement of the Problem

The topic of family violence and abuse is a very sensitive issue. Yet, violence is a part of everyday life. Although people are constantly being bombarded by violent acts on television and in newspaper articles, family violence and abuse is a topic that is to a certain extent, taboo. Even with this taboo topic, family violence and abuse has been widely studied and researched. This research of family violence and abuse in Starr County will be a qualitative one. It will address the subject of family violence and abuse from the perspective of those who have experienced it. Specifically the research presented here will examine the narratives of seven adults who were victims of family violence and abuse. It will relate their stories of how family violence and abuse has, in general, affected their lives.

Theoretical Framework

There are numerous theories that can be applied to the topic of family violence and abuse, starting with the three major schools in sociology (structural functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interactionalism). Each of them can explain family violence and abuse. For example, structural functionalism looks at the functions of the family with Parsons leading the discussion; Marx's conflict theory looks at the conflict that occurs between categories of people (i.e. husband and wife, parents and children, siblings, etc...); and symbolic interactionalists such as Cooley, Mead, Goffman, and

others look at the individual and identity development. Although the latter are well-established sociological perspectives that have framed sociological research for decades. I have chosen more directed and specific theories to be used in this study. These theories, although not as broad in scope as the former are of greater relevance to this study since they are specific to family violence and abuse. “The field of family violence abounds with simplistic theoretical models. In the earliest research reports the model advanced was psychopathology – mental illness caused people to abuse their children, wives, and parents. Other intraindividual models proposed that family violence is caused by alcohol and drugs...the fact is that students of family violence have chosen to view family violence as a special case of violence that requires its own body of theory to explain it... Theories have been developed to explain the abuse of children; there are theories that attempt to explain spouse abuse; and there are those theories that are designed to explain family violence in general (Gelles, 1985: 359).” Among the existing specialized body of theories, eight specific theories have been selected for discussion. Since these theories are more specific and directed to family violence and abuse, I have chosen to include them in this study. In what follows, I will present a brief outline of concepts and theories in family violence and abuse (as summarized by Gelles) that will be used whenever helpful in interpreting and explaining the narratives.

1. Resource theory: the use of violence depends on the resources a participant in a system or family member can command. The more resources, the more force can be used, but the less it actually is employed.
2. General System theory: violence is viewed as a system product rather than the result of individual pathology.

3. **An Ecological Perspective:** the relationship between organism and environment; the interacting & overlapping systems in which human development occurs; an environmental quality. Maltreatment occurs out of the mismatch of parent, child, and family to neighborhood, community and situation.
4. **Exchange theory:** Violence is used when rewards are higher than costs. Example: not being punished for beating on the wife and kids and getting the desired behavior from them encourages violence.
5. **Patriarchy:** domination of women. This theory is probably one of the most common used when explaining spousal abuse.
6. **Sociobiology:** theory for explaining violence toward offspring. Theory proposes that parents will not invest in children with low reproductive potential. That is, children not genetically related to parent (adopted or stepchild) or children with low reproductive potential (handicapped or retarded) are at high risk for abuse.
7. **Economic Model:** violence is the accepted response as adaptation to stress. Stress can lead to violence and abuse. Example: beating on wife because the he is unemployed. Unemployment causes stress.
8. **Sociocultural explanation:** Societies, cultures and subcultures that approve the use of violence are thought to have the highest rates of domestic violence.

Of the eight theories indicated above, resource theory, ecological perspective, exchange theory, sociobiology, and economic model will be used through out the thesis in examining, analyzing and interpretation of the narratives to be presented in the forthcoming chapters.

Review of the Literature

The topic of family violence and abuse is an issue that has just recently lent itself to academic researchers, specifically to sociologists.

“In spite of the historical and cross-cultural evidence that the family has been the scene of interpersonal violence for as long as we have had written records of humankind and family life, and despite the fact that other disciplines had begun to study abuse and violence in families, sociological research and recognition of these topics did not begin in earnest until the 1970’s (Gelles, 1985: 348).”

Since the 1970’s the topic of family violence and abuse has been widely studied; thus there is an enormous amount of literature on the topic of the family and of family violence and abuse. In the following pages, I will review literature on the family and family violence and abuse that I feel is relevant to this study. I have divided the literature in seven sections and have sub-titled them accordingly. Each section is important to and ties in with this particular research.

The Origin of the Family:

The existence of the family has been acknowledged since the beginning of time. Although, it is not quite certain when man called a close net group of people a family. In 1884, Engels wrote the famous piece of literature *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. In this frequently cited piece, Engels wrote about prehistoric culture. He stated that it was in prehistoric culture that the family as it is known today originated. A close net group of people may have not been called a family in prehistoric culture, but it did exist. Since *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* was published, many definitions of what constitutes a family have been written. In fact,

defining the term family is not a simple task. Many have defined the family by stating that it simply involves biology. But the truth is, there is much more to a family than just being related by blood. A family should be defined as “a married couple or other group of adults kinsfolk who cooperate economically and the upbringing of children, and all or most of whom share a common dwelling (Gough, 1971: 760).”

The Religious Influence of Traditional Family:

Although family violence and abuse is a sensitive issue, there is a fair amount of literature on it and on the topic of the family. For instance, one of the most influential sets of family values has come from the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible outlines the different roles to be played by each member of the family. It is in the book of Ephesians where God made His thoughts of the “perfect family” known. Chapters five and six of Ephesians state:

“Wives, submit yourselves unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church... Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother: which is the first commandment with promise; And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Book of Ephesians Chapter 5 & 6, King James Version).”

An example of the traditional Biblical family can be found in the book of Genesis Chapters six and seven of the Old Testament. It is the story of Noah. Everyone knows the story of Noah and the ark; but many people may not be aware of his family life. Noah’s family did not question his decision to build the ark. Furthermore when people began to say Noah was crazy, his family stuck by him, no questions asked. What is more, his wife, three sons and their wives followed Noah unto the ark because he was the

head of household and his family obeyed him. Noah was a holy man, his wife submitted herself to him and his children honored both their father and mother...the Biblical traditional family.

Functions of the Family.

“The earliest of moral and ethical writings suggest that a society loses its strength if people fail in their family obligations. For example, happiness and prosperity would prevail in the society if only everyone would behave “correctly” as a family member – which primarily meant that no one should fail in his familial obligations...the family then, is not only made up of individuals, but a part of a larger social network. We are all under the constant supervision of our kin, who feel free to criticize, suggest, order, praise, or threaten, so that we will carry out our role obligations. Even in the most industrialized and urban of societies, where it is sometimes supposed that people lead rootless and anonymous lives, most people are in frequent interaction with other family members.

Men who have achieved high positions usually find that even as adults they still respond to their parents’ criticisms and are still angered or hurt by a brother’s score. Thus, it is through the family that society is able to elicit from individuals its necessary contribution to its maintenance and survival. The family, in turn, can continue to exist only if it is supported by the larger society (Goode, 1964:1,2).”

That is, a society will be able to get a well-behaved person that will contribute to its growth only if his/her family life is a stable one. The family will try to prepare its members for society. They will make sure their members are well-adapted individuals. They will praise him/her for a job well done and they will acknowledge his/her shortcomings in hope that the member will improve and ultimately conquer them. Similarly, a family cannot exist without the help of society. It is through society that a family can obtain all the necessities needed for survival. In other words, the unit of the family and society go hand in hand. Therefore, what happens when an individual’s family

life is not an ideal one? Is society at fault for this outcome? Can a society be blamed for producing a violent person? The economic model by Coser and Gelles (1985:361) states “the economic or social-structural model explains that violence and abuse arise out of socially structured stress. Stress, such as low income, unemployment, and illness is usually unevenly distributed in the social structures. When violence is the accepted response or adaptation to stress, stress can lead to violence and abuse.”

Defining Family Violence and Abuse:

After reading how scholars define family violence and abuse, it is quite clear that there are many different definitions. Gelles (1985: 352) states “violence has proven to be a concept that is not easy to define. Violence has frequently been used interchangeably with the term “aggregation.” While violence typically refers to a physical act, aggression frequently refers to any malevolent act that is intended to hurt another person. The hurt may not be only physical but may be emotional injury or material deprivation.” Another definition of violence proposed by Gelles and Straus (1979) states that violence is “an act carried out with the intention, or perceived intention of physically hurting another person.” On the other hand, abuse is often associated with child abuse. The official federal definition of child abuse is “the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen by a person who is responsible for the child’s welfare under circumstances which would indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened (Gelles, 1985: 351).” Needless to say, the words violence and abuse take on different meanings as soon as the word family is attached in front of them. When speaking of family violence and abuse, it becomes

personal and intimate. Family violence and abuse entails husband, wife, children and different family members. It is important to note that the literature often refers to the abuse and violence that occurs between partners as domestic violence. As a matter of fact, one must be aware that there are “two distinct forms of couple violence taking place in American households.” The first form of couple violence is referred to as “common couple violence.” Common couple violence is when both the man and woman verbally abuse each other in order to gain control of a certain situation. On the other hand, “patriarchal terrorism” refers to the abuse of women by their husbands. In patriarchal terrorism, a “husband will try to gain control of his wife as if she was his property.” In other words, it’s the “I married you, so I own you” syndrome (Johnson, 1995).

Why Family Violence and Abuses Occurs:

In reviewing the family violence and abuse literature, one cannot avoid a particular scholar named Richard J. Gelles. Richard J. Gelles has authored and published numerous amounts of books and articles on the topic of family violence and abuse. His research has covered the actual process of defining family violence and abuse all the way to its repercussions. In his book titled “Intimate Violence: The Causes and Consequences of Abuse in the American Family,” he states family violence and abuse occurs simply because it is easier for an individual to lose control of his or her anger with a family member than it is to lose control with an acquaintance or a co-worker. For instance, Gelles describes a situation in which a mild-mannered middle class man by the name of Chet easily loses his temper with his wife. Gelles states that Chet

“became especially enraged when his wife, Margorie, did a poor job keeping the house neat. Now, imagine that Chet is the manger of a mid-sized office. The

office employs a janitor who comes in the evenings to empty ashtrays, dust vacuums, and clean the office. One day, Chet comes to work and finds that although the janitor has been in, there is barely a sign that anything has been cleaned. In this situation, does Chet grab the janitor and begin to punch and hit him? (Gelles, 1988: 20-21)."

No, he does not punch and hit him because Chet knows there will be a serious punishment to pay. Chet may get fired and possibly thrown in jail for hitting the janitor. With the possibility of serving time in jail, why does Chet (and other people) find it so easy to get physically violent with a loved one? Gelles argues violence occurs because family members can "absorb outrageous violence over long periods of time with barely a whimper and rarely a cry for help (Gelles, 1988: 19)."

Needless to say, crime and violence is a very real aspect of society. In fact many, people choose to stay at home because they fear being attacked on the streets. Yet, it has been said that "you are more likely to be physically assaulted, beaten, and killed in your own home at the hands of a loved one than anyplace else, or by anyone else in our society (Gelles, 1988:18)."

Many articles on family violence and abuse have explored the notion of how much personal control is related to domestic violence. In a national sub-sample of 5,939 individuals, 401 individuals claimed to have engaged in acts of domestic violence: however, 64% stated that their acts of violence were merely common couple violence. Nonetheless, it has been concluded that men do indeed "exhibit higher scores on personal control than do women (Umberson, Anderson, Glick and Shapiro, 1998: 448)."

This conclusion may help to explain the high number of reported wife battering cases. Macmillan and Gartner (1999: 947) have analyzed "the relationship between participation

in the labor force and the risk of spousal violence against women by treating employment as a symbolic, rather than simply socioeconomic resource.” Their analyses revealed little evidence that employment as a measure of economic resources affects the risk of spousal violence. However, their findings showed that “employment is a symbolic resource in relationships (1999:957) ”

Goode (1971: 631-632) offers a different explanation on the concept of why family violence and abuse occurs. He states “in any continuing family structure, people are bound to one another through an ongoing flow of transactions which may in part be viewed as exchanges. When family members fight about what one has done to the other, they are likely to refer to these actions as exchanges, and comment on what each owes the other. In the enraged family, very likely most members feel the others owe a great deal, and pay out little, whether it is love and deference, personal service, or gifts. Even in the more harmonious family, of course, the objective observer might not always see that each person’s contribution is equal... Over time, many family relations turn sour, what each values more or less (whether it is love and deference, personal service, economic contribution or gifts) will alter, and what each is willing to do for the other may diminish, so that one or more members feel a growing sense of anger and frustration, of being in the fact cheated by the exchanges in which they engage.”

Why Victims Stay with the Abuser:

People who have a good relationship with their partner find it hard for them to understand why people stay in an abusive relationship. There are many reasons why people decide to stay with their abusive partners. For example,

"Truninger (1971) found that women attempt to dissolve a violent marriage only after a history of conflict and reconciliation. A wife makes a decision to obtain a divorce from her abusive husband when she can no longer believe her husband's promises of no more violence nor forget past episodes of violence. Truninger postulates that some of the reasons women do not break off relationships with abusive husbands are that: (1) they have negative self concepts; (2) they believe their husbands will reform; (3) economic hardship; (4) they have children who need a father's economic support; (5) they doubt they can get along alone; (6) they believe divorcees are stigmatized; and (7) it is difficult for women with children to get work (Gelles, 1976: 660)."

Strube and Barbour (1983: 786) also postulate "lack of economic resources has long been suspected of playing a major role in a battered women's tolerance of abuse. Many battered women lack the education, skills, or motivation to obtain employment. A second (and perhaps a salient) factor in the decision to terminate an abusive relationship is psychological commitment... Society places the burden of family harmony on the woman, with the implication that a failed marriage is her fault."

Child Abuse:

Although in our society, the mere mention of the words "child abuse" can send shivers up anyone's spine, child abuse does occur. What is more, the abuse of children often occurs at the hands of parents. A national survey revealed that

"68% of the mothers and 58% of the fathers reported at least one violent act toward their child during the survey year. Seven-six percent of the mothers and 71% of the fathers indicated at least one violent episode in the course of rearing their referent child... While females are more likely to use violence in parent – child relations, male children are slightly more likely to be victims. Sixty-six percent of the sons and 61% of the daughters were struck at least once in the survey year. Why sons are more likely than daughters to be victims of parental violence is open for debate. Some might argue that boys are more difficult to raise and commit more punishable offenses than daughters... In the course of growing up, boys are more likely to be pushed, grabbed, shoved, spanked, or slapped (Gelles, 1978: 589)."

On the other hand, Justice and Justice (1976) state that “the use of force, but not deadly force, against a child younger than eighteen years is justified: (1) if the actor is the child’s parent or stepparent and (2) when and to the degree the actor believes the force is necessary to discipline the child.”

Although this literature review is by no means exhaustive it provides the background necessary for introducing and researching this particular topic. The following chapter presents the methodology that guided the empirical data collection discussed throughout the thesis.

CHAPTER II

METHODS

Since the majority of research on family violence and abuse has been quantitative, obtaining individual narratives that contribute toward a better understanding on family violence is important.

The ultimate aim of the narrative investigation of human life is the interpretation of experience... Narrative approaches to understanding bring the researcher more closely into the investigative process than do quantitative and statistical methods. Through narrative, we come in contact with our participants as people engaged in the process of interpreting themselves. We then must decode, recognize, recontextualize, or abstract that life in the interest of reaching a new interpretation of the raw data experienced before us (Josselson & Lieblich, 1995: ix)."

Thus, this study looks at family violence and abuse through a qualitative methodology that allows for an in-depth investigation. In the grand tradition of case studies and narratives, this qualitative study focuses on the participants' own experience of family violence and abuse. As a result, my analyses will neither exhaust the meaning nor claim generalizations about the repercussions of family violence and abuse. It follows that this study is descriptive and exploratory relying mostly on retrospective analysis.

Since this thesis relies on a case study methodology when presenting the qualitative narratives collected for this study, I briefly discuss this methodology.

As observed by Feagin, Orum, and Sjoberg, “there are fundamental lessons that can be conveyed by the case study. Mainly these are:

1. It permits the grounding of observations and concepts about social action and social structures in natural settings studied at close hand.
2. It provides information from a number of sources and over a period of time, thus permitting a more holistic study of complex social networks of social action and social meanings.
3. It can furnish the dimensions of time and history to the study of social life, thereby enabling the investigator to examine continuity and change in lifeworld patterns.
4. It encourages and facilitates, in practice, theoretical innovation and generalization (Feagin, Orum, Sjoberg, 1991: 6).”

Moreover, Stake (1998: 86, 104) stated, “a case study is not a methodological choice, but a choice of object to be studied...The purpose of case study is not to represent the world, but to represent the case...The methods of qualitative case studies are largely the methods of disciplining personal and particularized experience).”

Case studies often utilize opened-ended interviews to collect data; therefore the participants in this research were asked to narrate their experience with family violence and abuse. Participants were selected through snowball sampling techniques. My sample size started with one friend that expressed at one time or another being a victim of family violence and abuse. She led me to the other six participants. Since I was somewhat familiar with the participants, rapport was established rather quickly. The established rapport made for a more comfortable interviewing environment for both the participant

and the interviewer; thus allowing the more intimate and personal information to be easily disclosed. The interview was conducted at the participants' convenience. All of the participants had complete control of the place and time of the face-to-face interview. One participant chose to keep a journal of her childhood memories and recollections instead of a face-to-face interview. The participant stated that she felt more comfortable writing the intimate details of her childhood than discussing them face-to-face. However if questions arose regarding the contents of the journal, she gladly filled in the gaps.

Before starting the interview process, each participant was asked to sign a consent form (see Appendix).

Participants were asked the following questions: 1. What was your childhood like? 2. What was the most memorable positive event of your childhood involving your parents or a family member? 3. How has that positive event in your childhood helped shape who you are today? 4. How has this event helped or hindered your current relationships (intimate or otherwise)? 5. What was the most memorable negative event of your childhood involving your parents or a family member? 6. How has that negative event in your childhood helped shape who you are today? 7. How has this event hindered or helped your current relationships (intimate or otherwise)? 8. In what ways are you like your parents? 9. In what ways are you different from your parents? 10. Do you think that your childhood has affected or will affect your role as a parent? Why or why not? 11. In your own words, how would you define family violence and abuse? 12. In your opinion, who or what provokes violence and abusive episodes? 13. What type of family violence and abuse have you been a victim of? 14. In what ways have you been violent or abusive toward your loved ones? etc... Given the open-ended format of the questions,

other questions arose during the interview. Participants were encouraged to share whatever experiences they found pertinent to the discussion.

Finally, I ended the open-ended interview by asking the participant to tell me about another positive event in his/her childhood involving one or both parents or a family member. Ending the interview with a positive event was important so that the participant was not left with a certain degree of rage after discussing their violent and abusive childhood. Rather, the participant was left recalling a positive aspect of their childhood and feelings of depression were less likely to surface. Participants were also administered the CES-D depression scale. The purpose of this depression survey was to assist the reader in understanding the effects of family violence and abuse, not to detect extreme levels of depression. The interview process took approximately two to three hours to complete.

This study focuses on five families that are interrelated through blood or marriage. The adult children from these families were interviewed and their perspective on this subject was sought. My sample size is seven, with three females and four males. I interviewed at least one family member for each of the five families. The age of the participants ranges from twenty-one to forty-two years old. Their yearly household income ranges from \$14,000 to \$60,000. All participants have a high school level education. The education level ranges from a GED diploma to graduate school.

Because of the sensitive nature of the family violence and abuse topic, I have chosen to work with a sample size of seven. I am aware that this is a very small sample size, but working with seven people allowed me to acquire an in-depth, detailed account of their experience with family violence and abuse. Furthermore, I was able to direct my

attention and focus on the participant's own stories. I was able to give a greater more accurate attention to the narratives rather than running the risk of being overwhelmed by a large data set that is normally accumulated by a large sample size. In order to supplement the limitations imposed by the case study methodology, I administered a short instrument to 59 students at the University of Texas Pan American.

“Triangulation has been generally considered a process of using multiple perceptions to clarify meaning, verifying the repeatability of an observation or interpretation. But acknowledging that no observations or interpretations are perfectly repeatable, triangulation serves also to clarify meaning by identifying different ways the phenomenon is being seen (Stake, 1998: 97).”

As family violence and abuse is not a common occurrence, I asked 59 college students taking courses in Principles of Sociology and Test and Measurements in Psychology to fill out a short survey instrument that I constructed regarding their history of family violence and abuse. Responses from this survey broadened my understanding of the conditions experienced by the victims of family violence. It also provides a more reliable method of assessing its frequency among a population unlike that of the case studies where a “normal” distribution is expected.

The history of family violence and abuse survey consists of twenty-one questions. The same twenty-one questions were asked three times, each time for different age periods (five & under, six through eleven, and twelve through eighteen). Fifty-nine (22 males and 36 females) college students between the ages of 17 and 63 were asked to respond to questions such as: Did you witness, hear or were the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc... Were you the object of repeated name calling by your parents, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc... and other similar questions. For a complete

version of this instrument please refer to Appendix. The data from the history of violent surveys was entered in the SPSS program. Entering the survey data into the SPSS program allowed me to run fast and accurate frequencies and other statistics without the hassles that come with manual calculations.*

All participants were asked to tell their stories of violence and abuse and how it has, in general, affected their lives. I ultimately drew conclusions from the data; however this study primarily tells the participants' stories, in their own words.

* It is important to note that before running any statistics on the data, a complete reliability analysis was calculated for the questionnaire. A reliability coefficient alpha of .9641 was obtained.

Chapter III

THE VIOLENT HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE (VHQ) FINDINGS

Since the thrust of this thesis is qualitative, I wanted to obtain some general idea as to how frequent or rare family violence and abuse is in South Texas particularly among a population whose demographic characteristics is not that distinct from my selected population (victims). In order to accomplish this objective, I developed the Violent History Questionnaire (VHQ) to help organize, categorize, quantify, and standardize findings related to family violence history and experiences with violence obtained from a larger group. Fifty-nine college students from the University of Texas was administered the VHQ. The University draws students primarily from South Texas. Results from the survey may be used to provide the reader with a comparable group drawn from what is expected to be a normal distribution population. It should be noted that the students are by no means representative of South Texas. The fact that they are “college students” makes them different from the larger population of South Texas. I am not claiming that this sample of 59 students is a random sample. I am just simply noting that the information gathered from the administration of this questionnaire to this group serves as an aid in the understanding of the unusual conditions experienced by the

victims. The purpose of this smaller pilot study is simply to assess the extent to which episodes of family violence are found within families not unlike these, which are the object of study here. What is more, these college students assist in understanding the conditions of family violence that exist in our region. The results of this questionnaire compel further attention in the area of family violence in this region. In what follows, I will discuss some of the most significant findings from this study. The thrust of the discussion is centered on selected significant findings for both groups, students and victims. However, tables that present a fuller picture of this group are included in the appendix.

As discussed in the methods chapter, the seven and 59 college students filled out the three-part survey (for three different age periods). In the following, I have divided the discussion to correspond to the age periods investigated by the instrument. Accordingly each section is subtitled with its age period.

Stage 1: Five Years of Age and Under

For the five years of age and under stage, 30.5%* (Appendix Tables 1.1.1 & 1.1.2) of the college students witnessed and heard extreme episodes of anger between parents. Concurrently, 25.4% (Appendix Table 1.1.5) witnessed extreme episodes of anger among family members and 30.5% (Appendix Table 1.1.6) heard extreme episodes of anger among family members. Twenty-seven percent (Appendix Table 1.1.14) were hit in the body by a parent and 22% (Appendix 1.1.17) were hit in the body by a family member. On the other hand, 42.9% (Appendix Tables 2.1.1 & 2.1.2) of the victims witnessed and

* Percentages are based on the total of the answers of "sometimes," "often," and "almost everyday."

heard extreme episodes of anger by a parent. Forty-two percent (Appendix Table 2.1.5) witnessed extreme episodes of anger among family members and 57.2% (Appendix Table 2.1.6) heard extreme episodes of anger between family members. Forty-two percent (Appendix Table 2.1.14) of the victims were hit in the body by a parent. While only 14.3% (Appendix Table 2.1.17) of the victims were hit in the body by a family member. Although there is a percentage difference between the students and the victims. surprisingly, it is not extreme.

Stage 2: Six through Eleven Years of Age

For this age period, 35.6% (Table 1) of the college students witnessed extreme episodes of anger between parents and 39% (Table 1) heard extreme episodes of anger between parents. Thirty-two percent (Table 1) witnessed extreme episodes of anger with family members and 37.3% (Table 1) heard extreme episodes of anger with family members. Only 20.4% (Table 1) reported being hit in the body by a parent and 11.9% (Table 1) were hit in the body by a family member. On the other hand, 85.8% (Table 1) of the victims witnessed and heard extreme episodes of anger between parents. Seventy-one percent (Table 1) of the victims witnessed and heard extreme episodes of anger with family members. Fifty-seven percent (Table 1) reported being hit in body by a parent and by a family.

Stage 3: Twelve through Eighteen Years of Age

During this age period, 25.5% (Table 2) of the college students witnessed extreme episodes of anger between parents and 33.9% (Table 2) heard extreme episodes of anger between parents. Concurrently, 23.8% (Table 2) witnessed extreme episodes of anger within family members 25.5%(Table 2) heard extreme episodes of anger within family members. Almost fourteen percent (Table 2) of the college students reported being hit in the body by a parent and 5.1%(Table 2) being hit by a family member. On other hand, 71.4% (Table 2) of the victims witnessed and heard extreme episodes of anger between parents. Almost seventy-two percent (Table 2) of the victims witnessed extreme episodes of anger within family members and 57.2% (Table 2) heard extreme episodes of anger within family members. Almost forty-three percent (Table 2) reported being hit in the body by a parent and 14.3% (Table 2) being hit by a family member.

After frequencies were calculated, the victims and students were grouped together for each age period. (This was done to obtain significance values.) Oneway Anova analyses showed that during the age period of six through eleven was when the students and the victims experienced the most violence ($P = .012$).

Since the questionnaire was constructed to essentially address two areas: Did you witness & hear violence and were you the object of violence, I was able to group them together and label them witness violence (witness & heard violence) and object of violence. Using Oneway Anova, I ran descriptives on witness violence and object of violence separating the males from the females. The results indicated that males do indeed witness & hear more violence and are the object of more violence than females. For witness violence the Mean for males was 69.3636 and 58.5128 for females with $P=$

.076 (Table 3). Concurrently, for object of violence the Mean for males was 47.3913 and 33.8462 for females with $P = .001$ (Table 4). I then ran descriptives Oneway Anova on questions pertaining to were you the object of violence, the results for the age period of five and under were not significant. For the age period of six-eleven the results of the questions: Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking and slapping on the hands) by parents and Were you the object of repeated name calling by parents were significant. With $P = .053$ for were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking and slapping on the hands) by parents and $P = .036$ for were you the object of repeated name calling by parents. Thus these findings conclude that being an object of repeated name calling by parents is a problem in this area or at least with the population being studied. Perhaps, further research in this area and region would prove to be worthy of attention.

Table 1: Selected Items By Significance Level

Question	Stage	Student Freq. %	Victim Freq. %
Witness extreme episodes of anger between parents?	6-11		
Never		44.1	14.3
Hardly Ever		20.3	0
Sometimes		23.7	28.6
Often		11.9	42.9
Almost Everyday		0	14.3
Hear extreme episodes of anger between parents?	6-11		
Never		35.6	14.3
Hardly Ever		25.4	0
Sometimes		25.4	42.9
Often		13.6	28.6
Almost Everyday		0	14.3
Witness extreme episodes of anger among family members?	6-11		
Never		50.8	14.3
Hardly Ever		16.9	14.3
Sometimes		23.7	14.3
Often		6.8	57.1
Almost Everyday		1.7	0
Hear extreme episodes of anger among family members?	6-11		
Never		42.4	14.3
Hardly Ever		20.3	14.3
Sometimes		25.4	0
Often		10.2	57.1
Almost Everyday		1.7	14.3
Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking) by parents?	6-11		
Never		64.4	42.9
Hardly Ever		15.3	0
Sometimes		10.2	28.6
Often		8.5	14.3
Almost Everyday		1.7	14.3
Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking) by family members?	6-11		
Never		71.2	42.9
Hardly Ever		16.9	42.9
Sometimes		8.5	0
Often		3.4	14.3
Almost Everyday		0	0
Object of repeated name calling by a parent?	6-11		
Never		76.3	28.6
Hardly Ever		11.9	14.3
Sometimes		3.4	57.1
Often		6.8	0
Almost Everyday		1.7	0
Object of repeated name calling by a family member?	6-11		
Never		66.1	28.6
Hardly Ever		18.6	57.1
Sometimes		8.5	14.3
Often		5.1	0
Almost Everyday		1.7	0

Table 2: Selected Items By Significance Level

Question	Stage	Student Freq.	Victim Freq.
Witness extreme episodes of anger between parents?	12-18		
Never		44.1	14.3
Hardly Ever		28.8	14.3
Sometimes		11.9	0
Often		13.6	57.1
Almost Everyday		0	14.3
Hear extreme episodes of anger between parents?	12-18		
Never		37.3	14.3
Hardly Ever		27.1	14.3
Sometimes		20.3	0
Often		13.6	71.4
Almost Everyday		0	0
Witness extreme episodes of anger among family members?	12-18		
Never		42.9	0
Hardly Ever		25.4	28.6
Sometimes		11.9	28.6
Often		11.9	42.9
Almost Everyday		0	0
Hear extreme episodes of anger among family members?	12-18		
Never		40.7	0
Hardly Ever		32.2	42.9
Sometimes		13.6	28.6
Often		11.9	28.6
Almost Everyday		0	0
Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking) by parents?	12-18		
Never		74.6	57.1
Hardly Ever		10.2	0
Sometimes		8.5	28.6
Often		5.1	14.3
Almost Everyday		0	0
Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking) by family members?	12-18		
Never		81.4	71.4
Hardly Ever		11.9	14.3
Sometimes		5.1	0
Often		0	14.3
Almost Everyday		0	0
Object of repeated name calling by a parent?	12-18		
Never		74.6	28.6
Hardly Ever		6.8	0
Sometimes		10.2	28.6
Often		3.4	42.9
Almost Everyday		3.4	0
Object of repeated name calling by a family member?	12-18		
Never		76.3	42.9
Hardly Ever		8.5	28.6
Sometimes		11.9	28.6
Often		0	0
Almost Everyday		1.7	0

Table 3: Witness Violence By Gender

	Maximum
Males	126.00
Females	117.00
F(P<.05)	.076

Table 4: Object of Violence By Gender

	Maximum
Males	90.00
Females	70.00
F(P<.01)	.001

CHAPTER IV

CASE DATA AND FINDINGS

In sociology the work of the “Chicago school” in the 1920s and 1930s established the importance of qualitative research. Qualitative research is multi-method in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subjects matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural setting, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. Qualitative research involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical materials – case study, personal experience, introspective, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts – that describe routine and problematic moments and meanings in individuals lives. The word qualitative implies an emphasis on processes and meanings that are not rigorously examined, or measured (if measured at all), in terms of quantity, amount, intensity, or frequency. Qualitative researchers stress the socially constructed nature of reality, the intimate relationship between the researcher and what is studied, and the situational constraints that shape inquiry. Such research emphasizes the value-laden nature of inquiry. They seek answers to the questions that stress how social experience is created and given meaning (Denzin and Lincoln, 1994: 2).

How I Became Interested in the Topic of Family Violence and Abuse

I became interested in the topic of family violence and abuse as a teenager in high school. It was then that I noticed that many of my friends, acquaintances, and even family members were experiencing family violence and abuse. It seemed that everywhere I turned I heard another story of violence. So much so that my cousin and I

often had conversations about how these stories of violence and abuse would one day make a great book. After high school (1989) I moved to Dallas, Texas and there again I found myself hearing stories about family violence and abuse. Even musicians and TV stars were going public with their stories of violence and abuse. Stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Roseanne Arnold, and singers Eddie Veder and Kurt Cobain (to name a few) found it necessary for their well being to disclose their personal experience of family violence and abuse. Therefore, when it came time to look for a thesis topic I found myself thinking of this sensitive topic. I chose to write about five family's struggles with violence and abuse in their households. More specifically, I chose to write of seven people's personal experience with violence and abuse. I interviewed four people from four different families and three siblings that make up my fifth family. Each individual story is different from one another, yet their childhood struggles to cope with growing up in an abusive or violent home is the same.

Five Case Studies of Family Violence and Abuse

In what follows are the narratives of each of the 7 participants. In each narrative I will introduce each participant, give brief demographic information, state how each participant defined family violence and abuse, and tell of their most negative event of their childhood involving one or both parent(s). It is important to note all the names of the participants have been changed to protect their privacy.

Case 1: Time Stopped...I couldn't breathe and I couldn't hear

Alisa is a twenty-eight year old woman. She has been married for seven years and has a five-year-old son. Alisa did not graduate from high school; however six months after she left school, she earned a GED diploma. She currently works for a discount store with the price and presentation department. Her household income is approximately \$45,000 a year.

Alisa's story of family violence and abuse is a tragic tale. Due to violence and abuse, Alisa lost both of her parents (Antonio and Eve) at the age of thirteen. She spent most of her childhood living in fear and her teenage and young adulthood years struggling to cope with the loss of her parents, especially her mother. Losing her mother at such a tender age was a very difficult task for Alisa. I have known Alisa all my life, but it wasn't until her parents' death that I began to know Alisa, the person. Perhaps it is because of our close association that Alisa chose to write her experience with family violence and abuse in a journal rather than a face-to-face interview; however, in addition to her journal, we have had countless of talks about her childhood.

Alisa stated that for her family violence entails destroying personal property (i.e. grabbing personal items and breaking them or throwing them across the room), slapping, shoving, grabbing, and hitting a person. She stated that violence could entail something as small as throwing something across the room all the way to beating someone until they are black and blue all over. When I asked what she thought abuse was, she was not able to give a detailed answer. She did, however, state that abuse entails both physical and mental pain.

As a child, Alisa experienced violence and abuse from her father. She stated that all her childhood was spent in fear. It was a fear for her mother's life. She was always afraid that her father was going to end up killing her mother. On February 6, 1985, Alisa's fears became a reality. Even though there were always threats of "if you leave me, I will kill you," Alisa's mother decided to leave Antonio after many years of physical and mental abuse. One month later, Antonio followed Alisa, her mother, grandmother, and aunt Mandy to a local grocery store. He waited in the parking lot until Alisa's mother was alone before confronting her (Alisa, her grandmother, and aunt were still inside the store). Apparently, Antonio and Eve had a brief conversation and as she turned her back on him, he pulled out a machine gun and shot her approximately 10 times. As Eve was lying in a pool of her own blood, Antonio turned the gun unto his right temple and shot himself. Antonio died instantly. Eve died later that evening on an operating table. She had lost too much blood to have saved her life.

Alisa remembers that horrible day. Unfortunately that tragic day will forever remain in her memory. She stated that as both her mother and grandmother were at the check out counter, she and her aunt decided to go over to the magazine rack. In order not to stand around waiting for her mother to finish checking out, Eve went to put her groceries in the car. Outside the store, Antonio was waiting for Eve. Sadly, their confrontation and tragic event took about five minutes. In the mean time, Alisa and Mandy ran into a friend. As they were talking with their friend, they noticed that people were rushing to the parking lot. The rumor was that a car in the lot had struck a little boy. Alisa, Mandy and their friend decided to go see what happened. Alisa remembers seeing a lot of people crowding the parking lot, but they were determined to see what had

occurred. Alisa stated that as they drew closer to the accident, she noticed a body on the ground.

“The body’s face was turned in the opposite direction. I didn’t know who it was, but the body was wearing a tan colored blazer, my mom was wearing a tan colored blazer. The blazer on the body looked like the one my mother was wearing. I also remember looking at the body’s shoes and thinking those don’t look like my mother’s shoes. But as I got closer to the body, I thought ‘is it her? Please don’t let it be her.’ I looked at Mandy and said ‘Mandy its mom?’ Mandy said ‘no, it’s not!’ I said as I started to panic, “Mandy, its mom!” At that moment, I looked over to my left and about fifteen feet away I saw another body. It was my father’s body. His face had been covered with a sheet. I remember seeing his boots pointing upward and his cap lying on the ground beside him. My mother’s groceries and purse were still in the shopping basket by our car. At first I couldn’t believe what was happening, then reality hit. Time stopped... I couldn’t breathe and I couldn’t hear. My heart wanted to go so fast, but was just still... I started to run toward my mother, but someone held me back. I screamed ‘let me go,’ but they never did. By this time a family friend had made her way to me and told me that she would take my grandmother, Mandy and myself to the hospital. As we headed toward her car, I passed my father’s body. I ran toward him trying to kick his legs and shouting ‘I hate you dad, I hate you.’ At that moment I felt so much anger and rage toward him that I couldn’t think clearly. As someone pulled me away from my father, I turned to look at my mother. To my surprise, my mother had turned her head in my direction. She was looking and semi smiling at me. She was trying her best to keep eyes open that they were constantly blinking. By this time the ambulance had arrived; they put my mother in a stretcher and took her to the hospital... This was the last time I saw my mother alive.”

Case II: Bruises from a Childhood

Marie is a twenty-nine year old woman. She is currently single and lives with her family (her parents Carlos and Carol and a younger brother Andy who is eight years her junior). Marie is a college graduate and works in the field of education. Her family’s household income is approximately 60,000 a year.

Marie’s definition of family violence is very similar to Alisa’s definition. Marie stated that violence entails hearing arguments where people say horrible things to each other, with the intent of hurting the other person. It also entails physically hurting

someone i.e. hitting, pushing and shoving, slapping, etc... Abuse, to Marie, is more directed toward the mental and sexual aspect. Marie stated, "I think abuse is when a person starts saying nasty things to another person. If the person that those nasty things are said to feels badly, then he or she has just been a victim of mental abuse. Sexual abuse is constant touching and groping someone that makes them feel uncomfortable."

It is important to note that Marie was born with a minor handicap to her left arm and leg. She has little strength in her left arm and hand and walks with a slight limp. It seems her left leg is slightly shorter and thinner than her right one. Marie stated that as a child she wasn't affected by her handicap. She was very comfortable letting her friends and the people around her know about her handicap. All of her friends were very understanding and accepting of her few physical limitations. It wasn't until she became a teenager that Marie started to develop a complex about her handicap. She was no longer comfortable with herself and she tried her best to hide her handicap. She actually was and is very successful in hiding it. It takes people a long time, if ever, to notice her handicap. Marie is very self-conscious when she is around people. She feels she has to be aware of her handicap, so no one will notice it. She is afraid that if people notice her handicap they will stare, treat her differently and ultimately feel sorry for her. Marie doesn't want to be treated differently or pitted; she just wants to be treated like a healthy, normal person. Although her handicap is hardly noticeable, she stated having a "low self-esteem" because of it.

Marie remembers an incident in which her father beat her, so much so that she had bruises all over her legs and back. The beating occurred on a Sunday afternoon when Marie was fifteen years old. She had just come home from sleep over. As soon as Marie

came in the door, her father started yelling. He then got the belt and started to hit her. Marie remembers her mom crying and asking Carlos to “please stop hitting Marie.” Carlos would not stop hitting Marie. It seemed Carlos forgot it was his daughter he was hitting because he had so much rage in his eyes. Marie was in a great deal of pain, both physical and emotional pain. After Carlos stopped hitting Marie, she could not believe what had occurred, but the bruises on her body made it a reality.

What lead to the beating was a misunderstanding or lack of communication. Marie had spent Saturday night at her friend Kelly’s house. Early Sunday morning, Kelly got a call from her older sister. Apparently Kelly’s sister had gone to the lake (which is about a forty minute drive from the small town) and had car trouble. Kelly’s sister needed to be picked up at the lake. Marie and Kelly went to get Kelly’s sister without phoning Marie’s parents. Minutes before Marie, Kelly and her sister returned, Carol had called Kelly’s house looking for Marie. Kelly’s mother told her that Marie had gone to the lake, but did not explain that it was just to go pick up her daughter. It was because of this lack of communication that Carlos got so angry. Carol herself did not know why Marie’s short trip to the lake would enrage Carlos. But the fact is Carlos was enraged. Moreover, Carlos never apologized to Marie after the reason for the trip became known.

Marie stated that this particular incident was one of three violent beatings. Up to this day Marie and her mother think that those beatings were for things that didn’t deserved such a serve punishment. Carlos only physically beat Marie three times, but there was always mental abuse. Carlos would call her names like idiot, good for nothing; you’re never going to amount to anything all the way to telling her that she was not his daughter. At the time of the interview, Marie did not recall one specific incident in which

her father called her names that resulted in her feeling badly. She did, however say that there were “too many incidents (in which her father hurt her feelings) to remember just one.” Due to these “many incidents,” Marie often felt that she only had her mother’s love. Although Marie’s current relationship with her father is better; it doesn’t compare to the loving one she and her mother share. Marie stated, “My father was and is a great provider. My family never lacked any of the basic necessities... except maybe affection and understanding.”

Case III: A Lonely Childhood

Ilene is a forty –two year old woman. She is the youngest of five children. She is a mother of three sons and is currently divorced. She is a high school graduate and has taken several college courses. She works for a local law firm as a receptionist. Her household income is approximately 24,000 a year.

Ilene’s story of family violence and abuse is quite different from Alisa’s and Marie’s. Ilene experienced a different type of abuse. Her experience is one of neglect. Her mother died when Ilene was five years old and states that she has “absolutely no memories of her mother.” When her mother died, her father was so caught up with his own grief that he forgot about his family. Ilene’s oldest sister was almost fifteen years old when their mother died and she was basically thrown into the job of taking care of her four younger siblings. It was a hard job for a fifteen-year-old to take on, but under the circumstances, she did the best she could. Since Ilene was the baby of the family it was she that was most affected by their mother’s death. Ilene was the one who was deprived of a mother’s love and affection.

Ilene's definition of family violence is hearing people yelling, especially if it is the first thing you hear in the morning. Violence also entails pushing, shoving, fistfights, and the throwing of things. Moreover a victim of violence is when someone stops them from going places i.e. work, church, etc... When I asked Ilene to define abuse, she stated abuse is "mental abuse." Mental abuse to her is saying things that "hurt you and that stay with you forever. This includes being treated badly and not being there for you when you need them the most."

Growing up without a mother was hard for Ilene. As a child, Ilene remembers being lonely and afraid. In fact there were many times when Ilene was the only one at home. Feeling scared in the quiet empty house, Ilene would go to the living room turn on the television set, lie on the couch, and wait for someone to come home. Ilene would eventually fall asleep before anyone came home. These particular incidents were very common and frequent in Ilene's home.

During her childhood, Ilene was also exposed to violence. One of her oldest brothers (Larry) became an alcoholic soon after their mother's death and would often become violent. Many times her alcoholic brother would come home and start hitting Billy and Ryan (her other two brothers) while they were sleeping. Ilene stated that it was "so horrible being awoken by loud yells and fist fights." She recalls one incident where Larry was so out of hand that she had to call the police to come and stop him from hurting them. Apparently, Larry was not only hitting Billy and Ryan, but also hitting their father. Ilene remembers hiding behind a door. She was so afraid that something tragic was going to occur so much so that she called the police.

During the interview, I discovered that even though the fighting was not an everyday occurrence, it occurred often. However, Ilene stated that it didn't matter how often the fighting between her brothers occurred for her to still "remember the emotional stress it caused. The pain was always there because all the walls in our home were full of holes and our furniture was broken. Our home itself was a constant reminder of Larry's violence and of our unhappiness."

Case IV: An Adoptive Child

Kenny is a twenty eight-year-old man. He has been married for seven years and has a five-year-old son. He is a high school graduate and works for a major soft drink company as an account manger. His household income is approximately 45,000 a year.

Kenny is the only participant that is an adopted child. His parents (Lily and Frank) adopted Kenny when he was just a baby. He grew up in a household with four siblings (Kenny is the middle child; he has an older brother, an older sister and two younger brothers). As a child, Kenny stated that he was "always getting into stuff and taking it apart" because he wanted to see how things work. He also admitted that he was a "destructive kid" -- destructive because he liked to set things in his house on fire (i.e. curtains, garage, etc...) and steal "little things" from convenience stores. Growing up Kenny felt loved by his father but felt his mother had resentment toward him. What is more, he felt like he wasn't part of the family—he "stuck out like sore thumbs."

Kenny defined family violence as "physically hurting someone (i.e. beatings, trying to run someone down with a car, cursing, etc...)." On the other hand, abuse to

Kenny, entails “taking advantage of someone in any shape or form. Moreover, abuse is when you over power someone by using force.”

As early as age four, Kenny felt unloved by his mother. He recalls one incident where he, his brothers, and sister got in trouble with their parents. Apparently Kenny’s dad spanked all five of them because they did something wrong. Kenny remembers that he was the third in line to get spanked. At the time of the spanking, Kenny was trying to be strong and not cry. Since Kenny did not cry after being spanked, Lily said “Frank, you didn’t spank him hard enough, spank him again.” Using more strength, Frank spanked Kenny a second time. This time Kenny did cry. Kenny stated that he cried “not because the spanking hurt me physically, but because my feelings were hurt.” He could not believe that his mother would be “so cruel” as to want him to be spanked even harder than his brothers and sister. Kenny has never forgotten this incident and feels that his mother treated him unfairly.

During our interview, Kenny revealed that he was a victim of sexual abuse. Although he did not care to discuss it, he stated that the abuse came from “two outside sources” that he met at church, not from his parents. He then continued by saying that at age seven, he and his siblings “got curious with one another.” It was at age eleven and thirteen that the “two outside sources” sexually abused him. As Kenny disclosed this aspect of his life, his facial expression changed from a smile to that of concern and hurt.

Case V: A Story of Three Brothers

The last case study is the story of three brothers (Peter, Drew and David). Peter is the oldest brother and Drew and David are twins. I chose to interview all three siblings

because I felt it was important to get each of their stories. Because this case study is from the perspective of three different siblings, it is important to write a narrative for each. Accordingly, the different narratives are subtitled with their names.

Peter

Peter is a twenty two-year-old man. He is a high school graduate, has a medical assistant degree and is currently working on a bachelor's degree. He works at a blood and tissue clinic. His yearly income is approximately 15,000 a year.

All his life, Peter has depended on his mother (Ilene) and brothers for love and support. Last month, Peter decided to move away from home for the first time. He now lives about 250 miles from home. His decision to move away was to work at a blood and tissue clinic as a technician. Peter moved in with his brother David and now they share a two-bedroom apartment.

Peter stated that family violence and abuse are the same. He defined them both by saying that family violence and abuse was "hurting people's feelings both physically and emotionally. Violence and abuse is having bruises."

It is important to note that Peter and his brothers do not call their father, Thomas "dad." As children, they did call him dad, but once they became teenagers they started addressing him by a different name.* They have named him after a professional wrestler and a natural disaster, but to protect his identity, I shall refer to him as Tornado. The name Tornado has stuck to Thomas and everyone refers to him by this name.

* The name Tornado is not intended to figuratively mean a natural disaster but rather he is nicknamed Tornado because he looks like a professional wrestler.

Peter stated that he, his mother, and brothers experienced violence and abuse from Thomas. As a child, Peter remembers being happy. He stated that his mother always “took good care of him and his brothers.” When Peter was a seventh grader, his parents decided to divorce. His father had been unfaithful and was expecting a child with another woman. The divorce was hard on Peter, his mother and brothers. Peter felt angry and sad when Thomas left. “I was confused because I couldn’t understand why he left us. All I knew was that we were all in pain.” It wasn’t until a few years later that Peter and his brothers found out the real reason for their parent’s divorce (adultery).

A year after the divorce, Thomas came back to his family. Although Thomas was never really there for Peter, Ilene, Drew, and David in the past, they welcomed him with open arms. They were so happy to have him back. As soon as Thomas moved back home, Peter, Drew, and David noticed that there was a change in their father. Moreover it was not a good change. Thomas was heavily drinking alcohol and taking drugs. Peter stated that his father was constantly fighting with his mother. Everything Ilene said or did was wrong in the eyes of Thomas. Peter said it hurt him so much to hear Thomas call his mother awful names such as “slut” and “whore.”

Peter recalls an incident in which his dad pulled a gun on all four of them.

“It was around Christmas time 1994. Tornado was drunk and probably on drugs. He and mom were fighting and all of a sudden, I heard mom scream. I ran toward the room and saw Tornado waving a gun. As soon as David, Drew and myself came into the room, Tornado pointed the gun on my chest. I remember I was so scared. My knees and legs were shaking and sweat starting rolling down my face. I didn’t know what to do. I was so scared! Mom told Tornado to put the gun down. Tornado then started waving the gun on all of us.”

Apparently, the gun incident happened because Tornado said “he had nothing to give us for Christmas so he was going to give us our mother in a coffin as a present. I

could not believe that he actually wanted to give us that type of present. I was in shock.”

A half-hour later, Tornado came to “his senses and put the gun away. I was so relieved that he did not physically hurt us, although he did hurt us emotionally because I have never and will never forget this incident for as long as I live.”

Drew

Drew is a twenty one-year-old man. He is a college student working on a bachelor’s degree. Drew works part time at a lumberyard as a store inventory coordinator. His household income is approximately 24,000 a year. He is currently single and lives with his mother.

Drew, like his brother Peter stated that family violence and abuse are the same. He directed his definition of family violence and abuse toward his father. He stated that family violence and abuse was his father “having an argument with his mother. The look in his eyes was that of wanting to hit her. Moreover, if you looked at my mother one could see it was physically and mentally hurting her. Family violence and abuse is simply thinking about hurting a loved one, whether it is physically or mentally.”

As a child, Drew stated that he never saw or heard his father start an argument with his mother. “I always heard my mother arguing with my dad, but he never argued back.” Although, he stated that his father was “always mean.” “He would hit my brothers and myself in the head (both as a slap and with a closed fist) for discipline that wasn’t needed, but I still loved him. It wasn’t until I became a teenager that I started to develop feelings of hatred toward him. From the moment we would wake up in the morning, Tornado would start fighting with my mother. I would usually go to school

with so much anger. Having athletics first period and having to run a few miles first thing in the morning usually helped in relieving some of the anger; however, Tornado would usually ruin my whole day with his daily arguments.”

When Tornado came back home a year after the divorce, Drew stated that his father came back as a “real asshole.” He stated that he and his twin brother, David, often wondered, “what the hell was going on” with their father. Since Drew had never heard his father argue with his mother as a child, the constant arguments were a hard adjustment. At first, he thought, “What side do I take, my mother’s or my father’s?” It didn’t take long before Drew realized it was his mother’s side that he needed to take.

From the time Tornado went back home, Tornado did “stupid things” such as breaking their car’s windshield, waving a gun at them, etc... Even though the stupid things Tornado did were frightening, Drew always felt safe. He knew “nothing tragic would ever happen because both Tornado and mom had complete control over things.” Drew always believed that no matter what occurred between his parents, everything would turn out fine. However, one particular incident changed his perception. Drew recalls one day where his parents were fighting. The usual things occurred during this fight, the name calling, Tornado saying that he was going to commit suicide, etc... After the argument Tornado walked out the door.

“David and I kept an eye on him and noticed that he had picked up a can of lighter fluid, opened it and started to drink it. As David and I watched him drink the lighter fluid, we laughed, said ‘what an idiot’ and walked away. A few minutes later, we noticed that Tornado was just lying there, so David and I went to pick him up the ground and took him inside the house. This was the first time I was actually afraid. I had never been afraid before, but this time I was so afraid. – Afraid because this was the first time I didn’t know what was going to happen. I really thought Tornado was dead and he probably should have been, but he wasn’t. With a few minutes, to our surprise, Tornado started talking; he was actually fine. I was so relieved that I realized that no matter how much you hate a

person, you do not want them dead, no matter who it is or what they have done. No one deserves to die, just because you dislike the person.”

David

David is a twenty one year old man. He is a high school graduate and is currently working on a bachelor's degree. David works in a discount store as a sales clerk in the hardware and paint department. He and his brother Peter share a two bedroom. His yearly income is approximately 14,000 a year.

After high school, David decided to move away from home. He wanted to attend a particular college that was about 250 miles away from home. Although attending college was one of the reasons David decided to move away from home, it was not the main one. David's girlfriend Elizabeth had also decided to move away from home and he wanted to be near her, so he decided to move. They have been together for about four years, but at the moment, they have no plans to marry.

Like his brothers, David stated that family violence and abuse are one and the same. David defined family violence and abuse as “having to do with everyone in the family. Violence and abuse is physical and verbal fighting. It also entails name calling and constant verbal abuse.”

As a child, David was quiet and kept to himself. He was afraid of doing or saying the wrong thing in fear that his father would hit him in the head. David recalls his father always told him what to do and what to wear. He and his twin brother, Drew, had to wear the exact same thing all of the time. They had no say or choice in the matter; they had to look alike. David stated that he often felt that he and Drew were the same person because of their looks; attire, and they were always together. Tornado never allowed

Drew and David to visit or go out with their friends. Their friends were allowed to visit, but that was about it. David stated that it never bothered him not being able to go to a friend's house because his friends always "came to my house." "All of my friends liked coming to my house because they thought my mother was cool. My mother did everything with us. Things such as, bike riding, movies, watch professional wrestling, football and softball games, etc... Thus everyone thought our mother was hip and cool."

Tornado, on the other hand, was different. He was "never there for us, he never did anything with us and if on a rare occasion that he was there with us, he was mad. We could not do or saying without him hitting us on the head. I never had a good time when he was around."

After the divorce, David stated that everything changed. His mother had to take on a part time on top of her full time job. Therefore she was always working and Peter was never home. He was always with his friends, doing "heaven knows what." "Drew and I were always alone."

A year after the divorce, Tornado went back home and again "things changed" for David and Drew. They had to deal with their parent's constant fighting. David always felt fear. He was always afraid that something bad was going to happen. The gun incident (described in Peter's narrative) was also hard on David, but it was another incident that lead him to hate his father.

Apparently, Tornado had one day come home with two little ducks. He had brought them for Peter, David, and Drew. David and Drew love animals so this gift was extra special. The gift was not only something that they loved, but it came from their father; therefore making it a special gift. Excited about the new pets, David and Drew

bought a cage and a little pool for the little ducks. They loved the ducks as if they were a part of the family. Two weeks later, an intoxicated Tornado went home with the intent of giving the ducks to a next-door neighbor. When Ilene found out about Tornado's plans for the ducks, she told him that he could not give them away as they were not his to give away. Tornado then stated "if I can't give them away, then I will kill them, so no one will have them." David recalls that Ilene told them "No, you can not kill them! What's wrong with you?" Tornado then got one of the ducks and ripped his head off. David felt the duck's hot blood all over his shirt and face. David stated that after this duck incident "I started to hate my father because he gave us something and then killed it. It would have been different if he had given us money and then taken it away, but the duck was a living thing and he killed. I don't think I will ever forgive him for killing an innocent animal."

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

I have divided this chapter into three sections. The first section discusses the 17 open-ended interview questions and the results to the CES-D. I have grouped this first section into 12 topics. Accordingly, each topic is discussed under its own heading and where appropriate, I will tie in the VHQ results. The second section discusses the theoretical framework as it relates to each case. Finally, the last section of this chapter concludes this research on family violence and abuse with some final thoughts.

Section I:

Childhood

I thought it would be important for each participant to tell me about his or her childhood. I wanted to establish whether family violence and abuse were a part of their lives from the start. Peter, Drew, and Marie stated that their childhood was fun. They all played like normal children do and were essentially happy. It wasn't until they became teenagers that they started to experience violence and abuse from their fathers. On the other hand, David and Alisa stated that they were always afraid. -- Afraid of doing and

saying the wrong things. All of Alisa's childhood was spent in fear for her mother's life. David was afraid of getting hit on his head. As a teenager, David became afraid of the things his father did. Kenny spent his childhood feeling unloved by his mother and often got into trouble to get her attention. Ilene's childhood was spent being lonely. She felt as if no one was there to take care of her and her needs.

Who or What Provokes Violent and Abusive Episodes?

After I asked each participant how he or she would define family violence and abuse, I asked them who or what provokes violent and abusive episodes. Ilene, Alisa, and Drew stated that drugs and alcohol provoke violent and abusive episodes. David and Marie both stated that people who always think they are right and that everything has to be done their way provoke violent and abusive episodes. Kenny stated that people who are in a bad mood provoke violent and abusive episodes. Peter stated that people who do not get along with others provoke violent and abusive episodes.

Most Positive Event During Childhood

Since I asked the participants about the most negative event in their childhood, I thought it would be important to ask about a positive event in their childhood. The responses to this question turned out to be interesting. All of the participants had a very hard time trying to think of positive event in their childhood. Every participant said, "I have to think about it. Let's skip it and come back to it later." As it turned out, this question was answered by each of the participants at the end of the interview; thus I only

asked for one positive event from their childhood instead of two questions (refer to Chapter II for the purpose of asking for two positive events).

The positive events varied among the participants. Peter, Kenny, and Marie all stated that the most positive event in their childhood was when they would go on vacations with their parents. Drew stated "Christmas 1990 was the most positive event because it was the only Christmas where nothing bad occurred. All other Christmases something would occur to ruin the day." Alisa stated a 4th of July where she and her mother bought fireworks three different times simply because they were having a good time as her most positive event in her childhood. Alisa remembers that she "had a wonderful time because mom was acting like a little kid." David chose having his dad go to a track meet in which he and Drew were participating. David stated that this was the most positive event because "Tornado always said he was going to see us run and never did." David continued by saying, "of course this was before the duck incident." Ilene stated that the most positive event in her childhood was going with her sister and her sister's friends to a dance. Apparently the singer of the band paid a lot of attention to her (i.e. holding her hand and smiling at her); thus making all of the other older girls jealous of the attention.

How has the Positive Event Helped Shape Who You Are Today?

I thought it would be of importance to ask each participant how this positive event in their childhood has shaped who they are today. Ilene and David stated their positive event hadn't helped in shaping who they are today. On the other hand, the other five

participants all stated that it has helped them in becoming optimistic people. They stated that even when things are at their worst, things are always bound to get better, no matter the situation. Alisa and Drew stated that it is those positive events in their childhood that helped them cope with the negative events.

In What Ways Are You Similar to Your Parents?

Since this research is on family violence and abuse, I thought it would be important to ask each participant how they are similar to their parents. I first asked each participant how he or she was like his or her father. Peter, David, Drew, Marie, and Alisa all stated that they were most like their fathers in that they have their father's bad tempers. On the other hand, Ilene and Kenny stated that they were most like their fathers in that they have their father's passion of being a hard worker.

Secondly, I asked each of the participants how he or she was like his or her mother. Peter, David, Drew, and Marie all stated that they have their mother's good heart. Kenny stated that he was like his mother in that they are both "quick to jump to conclusions in every situation." Alisa stated that since her mother's death, she has put her "mother on a pedestal" and has essentially "idolized her." Therefore, she thinks she is neither like nor different from her. Since Ilene has "no memories of her mother," she was unable to tell me how similar to or different she is from her mother.

In What Ways Are You Different From Your Parents?

Since I asked how each of the participants was like his or her parents, I also had to ask how they are different from them. David, Drew, Marie, and Alisa all stated that they are much kinder than their fathers. Unlike their fathers, Peter, David, Drew, Marie, and Alisa try to control their tempers. Ilene stated that she was different from her father in that she was not an alcoholic. Kenny, on the other hand, stated that he is different from his father in that he smokes marijuana and his father does not.

Peter and Drew stated that they have more patience than their mother does and David stated that he is better organized. Kenny stated that he is more understanding of people. Finally, Marie stated that if her mother is mad at one person, she is mad at the whole world. Marie's mother is unable to separate the two, while Marie can and does.

Has Your Childhood Affected or Will Affect Your Role as a Parent?

In talking about growing up with violence and abuse, I wanted to inquire about how their experienced violence and abuse would affect or has affected the participant's role as a parent. For Alisa, her childhood has affected her role as a parent in that she is over protective of her son. Afraid that something may happen to her, she over indulges him and constantly tells him that she loves him. She also has trouble punishing him because "things were said and done to hurt me as a child" and doesn't want for her son to feel the things she felt (i.e. fear). Kenny stated that his childhood affected his role as a parent in that he is more understanding of the things his son does. Also because his

parents had five kids, he knows that it is better “not to have more kids than you can handle.” On the other hand, Ilene stated that growing up without a mother, she “never felt loved, so I have tried my best to give my sons all the love in the world. Up to this day, my sons are the most important people in my life.”

As for Marie, Peter, Drew, and David, they stated that their childhood would indeed affect their role as a parent. They all stated that they would try to be more patient and understanding of their kid’s doings. They would give them all the love and attention in the world. Moreover, they will make their kids feel important and special. Finally, they would discipline their children appropriately and only when necessary.

What Types of Family Violence Have You Been Exposed to and a Victim of?

During the interview, I asked each participant: what types of family violence have you been exposed to and what types of family violence have you been victim of. In order to distinguish between violence and abuse, I specifically asked two separate questions: however all of the participants (except Alisa and Ilene) answered them with the exact same response. Marie, Kenny, Peter, Drew, and David stated that they were exposed to and victims of physical violence (i.e. pushing, shoving, hitting, etc...). Since Peter, David, and Drew stated that violence and abuse are one and the same, they stated that they were also exposed to and victims of mental abuse (i.e. offensive name-calling). While Alisa and Ilene stated that they were only exposed to physical violence (i.e. pushing, shoving, hitting, etc...), they weren’t victims of it. As expected, all 7 victims were either exposed to or victims of violence, this supports the results of the VHQ in that

the significance for being an object of violence was .001 and witnessing and hearing violence was .001 among the “victim” case study group.

What Types of Abuse Have You Been Exposed to and a Victim of?

As with the previous topic, I asked the participants two different questions: what types of abuse have you been exposed to and what types of abuse have you been a victim of. Kenny stated that he was both exposed to and a victim of verbal abuse (i.e. offensive name-calling) and of sexual abuse. Marie stated that she was exposed to and a victim of verbal abuse (i.e. offensive name-calling). Alisa stated to have been exposed to verbal abuse (i.e. father calling her mother offensive names) and was a victim of mental abuse (her father's constant threats). Ilene was exposed to and the victim of neglect.

In What Ways Have You Been Violent and Abusive Toward Your Loved Ones?

Since I asked each participant what types of violence and abuse had they been exposed to and victims of, I felt that it would be interesting to ask if they have been violent or abusive toward their loved ones. David and Drew stated that they have never been extremely violent with their loved ones; however they have physically fought with each other “as brothers often do.” Alisa and Marie stated that although they haven't been extremely violent with their loved ones, they have hit, shoved and thrown things at their loved ones. Ilene stated that she has slapped her oldest son, but that is the extent of her violent streak. Kenny stated that he has never been violent toward a loved one. Peter

stated that he has done some physical fighting with his brothers and forcefully held his father down in order to protect his mother.

All of the participants with the exception of Peter stated that they have been abusive toward their loved ones. They stated that they have intentionally, at times, said things to hurt their loved ones. Peter stated that he has never been abusive toward a loved one.

How Has Your Childhood and the Negative Event in Your Childhood Helped Shape Who You Are Today and In General, How Has It Affected Your Life?

After each interview was completed, I decided to ask: in general, how has your childhood affected your life? Marie and David stated that they are better people because of their childhood. They are more understanding of people and situations. Moreover, they have tried to become responsible, hard working adults that would make their families proud of them. Although, Marie stated that her childhood overall has made a positive impact in her life, it has also made her doubt herself and her decisions. David stated that in addition to becoming a responsible hardworking adult, his childhood would definitely make him a better parent. Drew stated that his childhood has affected his life in the sense that he has a lot of anger inside of him, but that he has it under control. He stated that he is very capable of doing the same things his father does, but he would never act on those feelings. If he would act on those feelings of anger, it would only hurt the people he loves, especially himself and he is not willing to ruin his life because of anger. Peter stated that his childhood lead him to Jesus Christ. It was his faith in the Lord that

helped him deal with his childhood. He stated that as a teenager he made “some wrong choices, but quickly realized they were wrong.”

When I asked Alisa this question, she simply said, “I’m not the person I once was nor was going to be. I’m just what is left.” After her parent’s death, Alisa became a very depressed individual. She started drinking alcohol and taking drugs to help her deal with the pain of losing her parents. Getting married and becoming a mother helped Alisa cope with the pain, but it wasn’t until a few months ago that she conquered her depression. With the help of medication, Alisa is now living a normal life. Ilene stated that her childhood has affected her life in the sense that she is a “depressed individual.” Kenny simply stated “my childhood has affected my life because I often think: What’s the point to life.”

CES-D

“The CES-D is a general measure of depressive symptoms that has been used in epidemiologic studies. The scale includes 20 items and taps dimensions of depressed mood, feelings of guilt and worthlessness, loss of appetite loss, sleep disturbance, and energy level. These items are assumed to represent all the major components of depressive symptomatology. Sixteen of the items are worded negatively, whereas the other four are worded positively to avoid the possibility of patterned responses. The respondents are asked to report how often they experienced a particular “symptom” during the past week on a four-point scale: 0 (rarely or none of the time -- less than 1 day), 1 (some or a little of the time -- 1 to 2 days), 2 (occasionally or a moderate amount of the time -- 3 or 4 days), and 3 (most or all of the time -- 5 to 7 days). Scores on the CES-D scale can range from 0 to 60, with scores greater than 18 suggesting clinically significant levels of depression... A series of studies have demonstrated that the CES-D is associated with clinical diagnoses of depression; however, the CES-D is a better screening instrument than a diagnostic tool. Scores of less than 16 on the CES-D were highly associated with clinical judgments of nondepression. Conversely, scores of 17 or greater had only a moderate association with psychiatric diagnoses of depression (Kaplan, Saccuzzo, 1997: 136)”

The outcome of the 7 victim's CES-D survey ranged from 16-34 (refer to table 3 in the Appendix for these results). That is, only one of the victims did not score significant levels of depression. Although there was one victim that scored a 16, she is on the borderline in having clinically significant levels of depression. With these results, one can conclude that the victim's experience with extreme violence has affected their moods, feelings, energy, sleep, and appetite.

Section II:

Earlier, in chapter one, eight theories were introduced which presented different approaches in explaining family violence from different perspectives. A careful examination of these theories especially against the background of the empirical information presented in the case studies allows certain observations to be made. One observation is that both the economic model and resource theory explain the cause of violence in a very similar manner: Both focus on what is lacking, whether it is money or status. It can be said the two are interchangeable, but one difference sets them apart: the economic model deals solely with the financial situation while resource theory focuses on the lack of resources e.g. financial, social, personal.

To further explain the thrust of resource theory, it states that the more resources a person has, the more force can be used, but the less it actually is employed. Those with the fewest resources tend to employ force and violence the most. For instance, "men tend to resort to violence when they lack the traditional resources associated with the culturally assumed dominant role of the male in the family (Gelles, 1964)." Alisa stated that her father got more violent when he was unemployed. His violent episodes were due

more to the idea that his wife was financially supporting the family and essentially taking over the role of the head of household. His lack of resources (i.e. money) led to the loss of status (i.e. head of household); thus leading to the violent physical and mental abuse of his wife. Although his loss of status contributed to violent episodes, it was not the sole reason for his abusive nature.

On the other hand, Marie stated that her father “tends to get verbally abusive when there is financial trouble.” Since his job is seasonal, “verbal abuse is commonplace in the household.” I was also informed that his physical pain (due to his disability) might contribute to his abusive nature. This type of abuse is an illustration of the economic model.

After interviewing Peter, Drew, and David, one can use exchange theory in explaining the reasons behind Thomas' violent and abusive behavior. The exchange theory states that violence is used when rewards are higher than costs. The law never punished Thomas when he pulled a gun on his family or when he killed an innocent animal and his family accepted his violent behavior time and time again and allowed him back home. Thomas used violence with his family and got a desired behavior from them: thus his reward for being violent was expectance and forgiveness from his family and never got punished for his violent actions.

Since Kenny stated that he never felt that he was part of his family. The sociobiology theory could be used in explaining his experience with violence and abuse. Kenny stated that he never felt loved by his mother. As sociobiology theory states that a parent will not invest in children that are not genetically related to them. It may be that Lily did not give Kenny time, love, and affection because he was an adoptive child.

Perhaps Ilene's neglected childhood could be explained in terms of the ecological perspective. The ecological perspective states that maltreatment occurs out of the mismatch of parent, child, and family to neighborhood, community, or situation. After the death of Ilene's mother, her father became an alcoholic. Perhaps, he was not able to come home to a neighborhood that was full of couples and happy families; thus causing him to neglect his children. The death of Ilene's mother caused a mismatch of parent, child, and family to neighborhood. Moreover, Ilene's maltreatment (neglect) occurred because she was living in an environment with no mother and an alcoholic father.

Section III: *Final Thoughts*

The purpose of this research was to tell the participant's (victims) story, of their experience with family violence and abuse in their own words. Since this study relied on a qualitative approach consisting of five interconnected families, it is expected that it will make a modest contribution toward a better understanding of the topic. The information gained from the narratives will lead to a better understanding of the effects family violence and abuse has on its victims.

In researching family violence and abuse, I have found that although people's experience with violence and abuse differ, the feelings of depression, anger, and perceptions of low self-esteem are the same. For example, all the victims stated that they feel anger towards their fathers. Moreover, they (victims) doubt their ability to make the "right" decisions. They stated that they are constantly second-guessing themselves and the decisions they make.

This research utilized seven participants from five families. As stated in chapter two, the five families discussed in this research are interconnected with one another (see figure 1 in appendix for their relationship to one another).

The Violent History Questionnaire yielded note worthy results. The VHQ results indicate that males are more likely to be the object of violence. These findings parallels results from a national survey conducted by Gelles in 1978. Because the VHQ obtained a reliability coefficient alpha of .9641, research using this instrument could be administered to a random sample. Results from such an undertaking could lead to a better understanding of the extent that family violence occurs in our society but particularly in this predominate Mexican American area.

Future qualitative studies on family violence and abuse could expand the pool of participants and thus explain with a larger group the consistency of my findings. Perhaps, having five different sets of five families that are interconnected could yield a data set that is generalizable to the larger population.

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APPENDIX

College Students (Five & Under)

Table 1.1.1*

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	29	49.2
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	11	18.6
Often	6	10.2
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.2

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	23	39.7
Hardly Ever	17	29.3
Sometimes	11	19
Often	6	10.3
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.3

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, ... between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	42	71.2
Hardly Ever	5	8.5
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	5	8.5
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

* Numbering of tables: 1st number represents the sample (1=college students, 2=victims) 2nd number represents the age period (1=5 & under, 2=6-11, 3=12-18). 3rd number represents the sequence in which the table appears in the appendix.

Table 1.1.4

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	40	67.8
Hardly Ever	9	15.3
Sometimes	3	5.1
Often	6	10.2
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.5

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	28	47.5
Hardly Ever	15	25.4
Sometimes	10	16.9
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.6

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	25	42.4
Hardly Ever	14	23.7
Sometimes	14	23.7
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	57	26.6

Table 1.1.7

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room...within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	35	59.3
Hardly Ever	12	20.3
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	3	5.1

Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	57	96.6

Table 1.1.8

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	38	64.4
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.9

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	35	59.3
Hardly Ever	17	28.8
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.10

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	33	55.9
Hardly Ever	16	27.1
Sometimes	8	13.6
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.11

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	1	1.7
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.12

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	38	64.4
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.13

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	43	72.9
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	3	5.1
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.14

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	36	62.1
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	9	15.3
Often	5	8.5
Almost Everyday	2	3.4
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.15

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	44	74.6
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.16

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	43	72.9
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	57	96.6

Table 1.1.17

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	38	64.4
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	10	16.9
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.18

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...)
by your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	40	69
Hardly Ever	8	13.8
Sometimes	7	12.1
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.19

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances,
etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	46	78
Hardly Ever	8	13.6
Sometimes	3	5.1
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.20

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	51	86.4
Hardly Ever	3	5.1
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.1.21

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	47	79.7
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	3	5.1
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

COLLEGE STUDENTS (SIX –ELEVEN)

Table 1.2.1

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	26	44.1
Hardly Ever	12	20.3
Sometimes	14	23.7
Often	7	11.9
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.2

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	21	35.6
Hardly Ever	15	25.4
Sometimes	15	25.4
Often	8	13.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.3

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, ... between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	36	61.0
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	10	16.9
Often	6	10.2
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.4

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	42	71.2
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	6	10.2
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.5

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	30	50.8
Hardly Ever	10	16.9
Sometimes	14	23.7
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.6

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	25	42.4
Hardly Ever	12	20.3
Sometimes	15	25.4
Often	6	10.2
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.7

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room...within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	34	57.6
Hardly Ever	8	13.6
Sometimes	11	18.6
Often	6	10.2
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.8

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	34	57.6
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	7	11.9
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.9

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	37	62.7
Hardly Ever	12	20.3
Sometimes	7	11.9
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.10

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	35	59.3
Hardly Ever	14	23.7
Sometimes	8	13.6
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.11

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	47	79.7
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.12

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	42	71.2
Hardly Ever	9	15.3
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.13

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.14

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	38	64.4
Hardly Ever	9	15.3
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	5	8.5
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.15

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	2	3.4
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.16

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	44	74.6
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.17

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	42	71.2
Hardly Ever	10	16.9
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.18

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	39	66.1
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.19

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances,
etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	9	15.3
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.20

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	47	79.7
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	59	100

Table 1.2.21

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	41	69.5
Hardly Ever	10	16.9
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	59	100

COLLEGE STUDENTS (TWELEVE – EIGHTEEN)

Table 1.3.1

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	26	44.1
Hardly Ever	17	28.8
Sometimes	7	11.9
Often	8	13.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.2

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	22	37.3
Hardly Ever	16	27.1
Sometimes	12	20.3
Often	8	13.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.3

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, ... between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	41	69.5
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	57	96.6

Table 1.3.4

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	44	74.6
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	3	5.1
Often	5	8.5
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.5

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	29	49.2
Hardly Ever	15	25.4
Sometimes	7	11.9
Often	7	11.9
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.6

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	24	40.7
Hardly Ever	19	32.2
Sometimes	8	13.6
Often	7	11.9
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.7

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room...within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	35	59.3
Hardly Ever	15	25.4
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.8

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	39	66.1
Hardly Ever	11	18.6
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	4	6.8
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.9

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	40	67.8
Hardly Ever	9	15.3
Sometimes	8	13.6
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.10

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	40	67.8
Hardly Ever	12	20.3
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.11

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	47	79.7
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	4	6.8
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.12

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.13

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	39	66.1
Hardly Ever	8	13.6
Sometimes	8	13.6
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.14

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	44	74.6
Hardly Ever	6	10.2
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	3	5.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.15

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	44	74.6
Hardly Ever	4	6.8
Sometimes	6	10.2
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	2	3.4
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.16

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	40	67.8
Hardly Ever	8	13.6
Sometimes	8	13.6
Often	2	3.4
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.17

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	48	81.4
Hardly Ever	7	11.9
Sometimes	3	5.1
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.18

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...)
by your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	5	8.5
Sometimes	7	11.9
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.19

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances,
etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	5	8.5
Sometimes	7	11.9
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	1	1.7
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.20

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	45	76.3
Hardly Ever	8	13.6
Sometimes	5	8.5
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

Table 1.3.21

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	51	86.4
Hardly Ever	4	6.8
Sometimes	2	3.4
Often	1	1.7
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	58	98.3

PARTICIPANTS (FIVE & UNDER)

Table 2.1.1

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.2

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.3

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, ... between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.4

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	0	0
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.5

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	0	0
Often	3	42.9
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.6

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	2	28.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.7

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room...within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.8

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.9

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.10

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.11

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	100	100

Table 2.1.12

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.13

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.14

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	2	28.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.15

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.16

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.17

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.18

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.19

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances,
etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	6	85.7
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.20

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	6	85.7
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.1.21

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	7	100
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

PARTICIPANTS (SIX-ELEVEN)

Table 2.2.1

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	1	28.6
Often	3	42.9
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.2

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	3	42.9
Often	2	28.6
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.3

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, ... between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.4

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	2	28.6
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.5

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	4	57.1
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.6

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	4	57.1
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.7

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room...within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	0	0
Often	3	42.9
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.8

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	0	0
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	2	28.6
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.9

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	0	0
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.10

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.11

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.12

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.13

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.14

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.15

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	2	28.6
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	4	57.1
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.16

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.17

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	0	0
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.18

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	2	28.6
Hardly Ever	4	57.1
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.19

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances,
etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	6	85.7
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.20

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	6	85.7
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.2.21

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

PARTICIPANTS (TWELVE-EIGHTEEN)

Table 2.3.1

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	4	57.1
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.2

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	5	71.4
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.3

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, ... between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	2	28.6
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	2	28.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.4

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	4	57.1
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.5

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	0	0
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	3	42.9
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.6

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	0	0
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	2	28.6
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.7

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room...within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.8

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	1	14.3
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	1	14.3
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.9

Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.10

Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.11

Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	3	42.9
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.12

Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.13

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	1	14.3
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	4	57.1
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.14

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.15

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents

	Frequency	Percent
Never	2	28.6
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	3	42.9
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.16

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	0	0
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.17

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by
your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	5	71.4
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	1	14.3
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.18

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	2	28.6
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.19

Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances.
etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	3	42.9
Hardly Ever	4	57.1
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.20

Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

	Frequency	Percent
Never	6	85.7
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	0	0
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 2.3.21

Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...

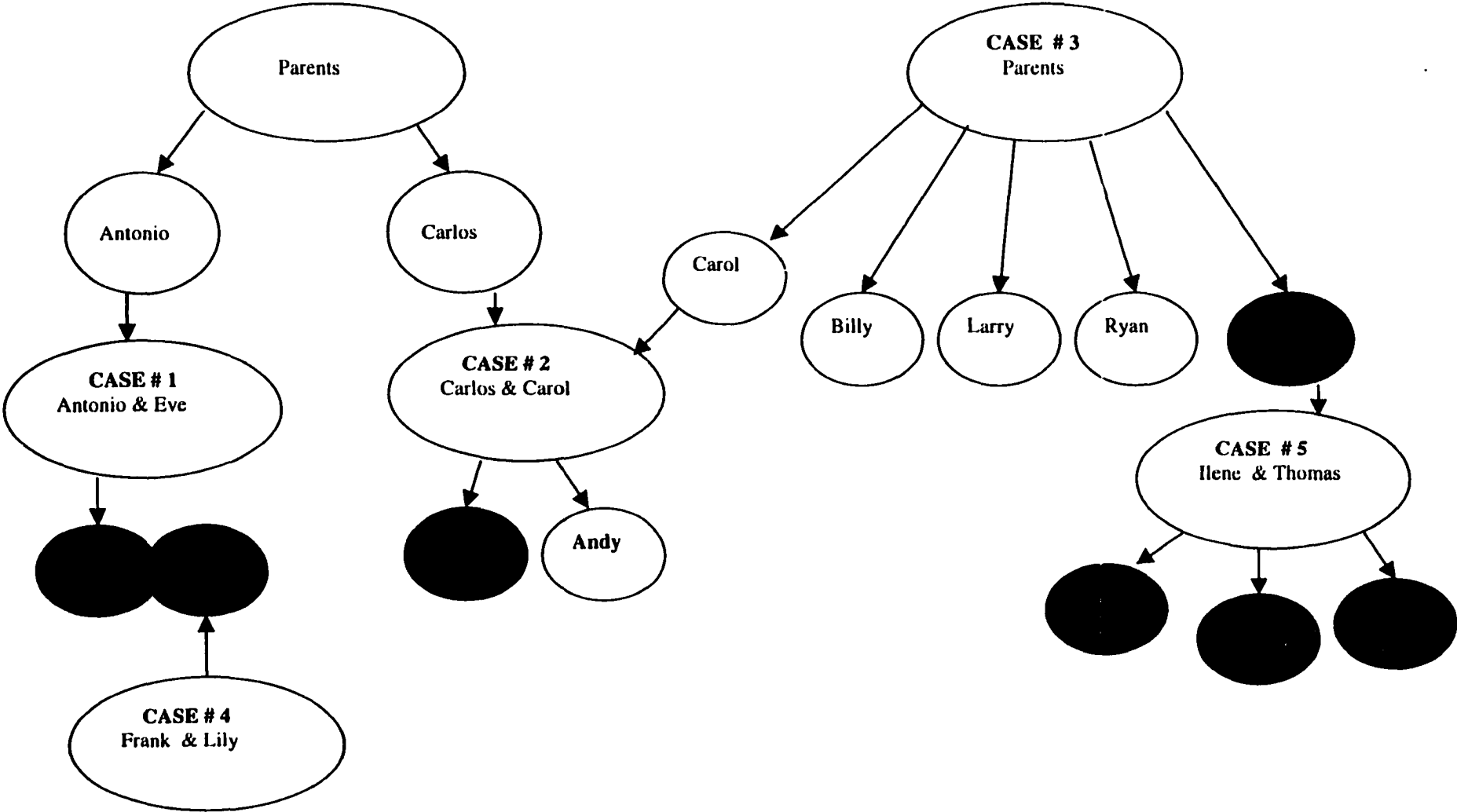
	Frequency	Percent
Never	4	57.1
Hardly Ever	1	14.3
Sometimes	2	28.6
Often	0	0
Almost Everyday	0	0
Total	7	100

Table 3
CES-D Scores

Victims	Scores
Marie	16
David	19
Ilene*	
Drew	26
Peter	28
Alisa	30
Kenny	34

* Ilene's score was not calculated because she left one of CES-D questions blank.

Family Tree



Consent Form

Purpose: Marcie De La Cruz, a graduate student of the Sociology department at the University of Texas, is conducting a research study on family violence and abuse in Rio Grande City. This research is being conducted for the added knowledge of family violence and abuse and for the completion of a Masters thesis.

Procedure: You are being asked to participate in an interview and to fill out a questionnaire about your memories and recollections about your childhood. Both the interview and the questionnaire will take approximately two and a half hours at the most.

Discomforts and Risks: The only discomforts or risks which you might expect are perhaps feelings of sadness after recalling some childhood memories or some embarrassment in disclosing personal or sensitive information. If feelings of sadness persists, please call the Rio Grande City Mental Health Agency at (956) 487-3748. Other discomforts or risks, which you might expect, are that of some normal fatigue or physical discomfort that results from sitting and answering questions.

Privacy: The name of everyone who participates in this study will be kept confidential. The consent sheet – the only sheet with your name on it – will be kept in a different place from the questionnaire. The answers on your questionnaire will be coded by computer. No one will know your individual answers. Please feel free to answer exactly as you think your situation is. No data will ever be published or released in a form in which you personally could be identified nor will this information ever be used against you in any way or form. However, I am bound by the law of the state of Texas to report any **current** child abuse reported to me.

Alternative Procedures: Your participation is voluntary. Whether you choose to participate or not, the decision is yours to make. If you decide not to participate, you will not be affected in any way or form.

Right to Withdraw Consent: You are free to withdraw consent or discontinue participating at anytime without prejudice and without affecting you. If you choose to participate, you may choose not to answer a particular question or questions with no further explanation.

Questions: If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (956) 381-2138 or 386-0968.

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review board –Human Subject's In Research. For research related problems or questions regarding subject's rights, the human subject's committee may be contacted through Dr. Juan Gonzalez, Chair, at (956) 381-2280. I understand each of the above items relating to my participation in this research study on family violence and abuse, and I hereby consent to participate in this study. I understand my records will be kept confidential and that I may withdraw my consent at any time.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

**Open-ended Questionnaire
Family Violence & Abuse History Interview**

1. Tell me about your childhood.
2. Please tell me about the most memorable positive event of your childhood involving one or both of your parents or a family member. That is, what is the most positive memory that stands out in your mind of your childhood?
3. How has that positive event in your childhood helped shape who you are today? How has this event helped or hindered your current relationships (intimate or otherwise)?
4. Now, please tell me about the most memorable negative event of your childhood involving one or both of your parents or a family member. That is, what is the most negative memory that stands out in your mind of your childhood?
5. How has that negative event in your childhood helped shape who you are today? How has this event hindered or helped your current relationships (intimate or otherwise)?
6. In what ways are you like your parents? In what ways are you different from your parents?
7. Do you think that your childhood has affected or will affect your role as a parent? Why or why not?
8. In your own words, how would define family violence?
9. In your own words, how would define abuse?
10. In your opinion, who or what provokes violent and abusive episodes?
11. What types of family violence have you been exposed to?
12. What types of abuse have you been exposed to?
13. What types of family violence have you been a victim of?
14. What types of abuse have you been a victim of?
15. In what ways have you been violent toward your loved ones?
16. In what ways have you been abusive toward your loved ones?
17. Please tell me about another positive event in your childhood involving one or both of your parents or a family member.

Violent History Questionnaire (VHQ)

The following questions pertain to different age periods of your childhood. I am aware you may not be able to recall all memories. However, please answer them according to stories you have heard about your childhood and from your own experience and recollections.

Please read the following questions and circle the best answer that best describes your situation.

Male Female Age: ____

- (5) Almost everyday _____
 (4) Often _____
 (3) Sometimes _____
 (2) Hardly ever _____
 (1) Never _____
-

DURING THE AGE OF FIVE AND UNDER

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents?					
2. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents?					
3. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between your parents?					
4. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents?					
5. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members?					
6. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members?					
7. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... within family members?					
8. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members?					
9. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?					
10. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?					
11. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?					
12. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?					
13. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents?					

- (5) Almost everyday
 (4) Often
 (3) Sometimes
 (2) Hardly ever
 (1) Never
-

14. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
15. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
16. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
17. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
18. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
19. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5
20. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5
21. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5

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(5) Almost everyday

(4) Often

(3) Sometimes

(2) Hardly ever

(1) Never

DURING THE AGE OF SIX THROUGH ELEVEN

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
6. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... within family members?	1	2	3	4	5
8. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members?	1	2	3	4	5
9. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
10. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
11. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
12. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
13. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
14. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
15. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
16. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
17. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
18. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members?	1	2	3	4	5

- (5) Almost everyday
 (4) Often
 (3) Sometimes
 (2) Hardly ever
 (1) Never
-

19. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5
20. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5
21. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5

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(5) Almost everyday

(4) Often

(3) Sometimes

(2) Hardly ever

(1) Never

DURING THE AGE OF TWELVE THROUGH EIGHTEEN

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger within your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
6. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger within your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... within family members?	1	2	3	4	5
8. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) within family members?	1	2	3	4	5
9. Did you witness extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
10. Did you hear extreme episodes of anger between your family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
11. Did you witness acts of hitting, throwing things across the room, etc... between family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
12. Did you hear threats of intended harm (both physical & verbal) between family members and others (i.e. friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...)?	1	2	3	4	5
13. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
14. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
15. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your parents?	1	2	3	4	5
16. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
17. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by your family members?	1	2	3	4	5
18. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by your family members?	1	2	3	4	5

- (5) Almost everyday
 (4) Often
 (3) Sometimes
 (2) Hardly ever
 (1) Never
-

19. Were you the object of extreme episodes of anger of friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5
20. Were you hit anywhere in the body (excluding spanking or slapping on the hands) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5
21. Were you the object of repeated name-calling (i.e. idiot, stupid, good for nothing, etc...) by friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc...?	1	2	3	4	5

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND KINESIOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - PAN AMERICAN

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MEMORANDUM

To: Marcie De La Cruz, Graduate Student, Sociology Department
Graduate Committee Chair, Dr. Elena Bastida, Sociology Department

From: Dr. Juan Gonzalez, Human Subject Committee Chair 19

Subject: Protocol for "Family Violence and Abuse"

Date: June 14, 2000

The above referenced protocol has been:

- ☐ Approved (committee review)
- ☒ Approved (expedited review, IRB #57)
- ☐ Conditionally approved (see remarks below)
- ☐ Tabled for future considerations
- ☐ Disapproved (see remarks below)

by the Institutional Review Board – Human Subjects in Research.

As stipulated in the guidelines of the IRB, this protocol will be subject to annual review by the IRB and any deviations from the protocol or change in the title must be resubmitted to the Board. At the conclusion of the study, you must fill out the enclosed report form. Good luck with your investigation.

cc: George Avellano, AVPAA/GP&R

VITA

Marcie De La Cruz
1207 West Main/P.O. Box 265
Rio Grande City, TX 78582
(956) 487-3901
mdelacruz85@hotmail.com

Education

University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, TX, 1998-present. Will graduate in August 2000 with a Master of Science in Sociology. Thesis on family violence and abuse. Current GPA: 3.9

University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, TX, 1993-1998 Graduate. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology (double major).

Work Experience

University of Texas Pan American **Edinburg, TX** **1998-present**

Position: Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant

- **Minority Biomedical Research Support Program** (National Institute of Health funded grant)
 Responsibilities include conducting personal interviews with selected population, data entry, interpretation of data utilizing SPSS program, and preparation for project presentations. Duties also include administrative duties, organization of office and record keeping of project data.
- **Department of Sociology**
 Responsibilities include teaching undergraduate Principles of Sociology, which entails choosing curriculum, constructing syllabus, preparing class lectures, examinations, and ensuring student learning.

Lori's Hallmark **Dallas, TX** **1992-1993**

Position: Assistant Manager

Responsibilities included: customer service, daily cash reports and deposits, ordering of merchandise and administrative support in preparation of time sheets.

Bolen's Hallmark **Dallas, TX** **1990-1992**

Position: Assistant Manager

Responsibilities included: customer service, daily cash reports, ordering of merchandise, store displays and supervising store function.

Computer Skills

Skilled in Microsoft Windows, Office, Word, Works, Publisher, SPSS, navigate the World Wide Web, etc...

Languages

Proficient in both English and Spanish

Awards

- Fall 1997 - Summer 1998 Dean's List
- Fall 1993 – Summer 1998 Texas Rehabilitation Scholarship
- Fall 1998 – Spring 2000 Minority Biomedical Research and Support Program Research Assistant Scholarship

Activities

Sociology Club, University of Texas Pan American: Vice President 1998-1999.
Ombudsman Program: Volunteer advocating for the elderly in nursing homes summer 1998.

Presentations

52nd Annual Scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, November 1999, San Francisco, CA. Poster Session: "Mental Health and Disability Status of the Diabetic Older Mexican American."

Responsibilities included: interpretation of data, constructed graphs and answered queries during conference.