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Perceptions of Gay, Lesbian, and Heterosexual Domestic Violence Among Undergraduates in Sweden



Abstract

This paper presents an experimental study of perceptions about gay, lesbian, and heterosexual domestic violence in Sweden. More than 1,000 participants were asked to read one out of eight possible fictitious scenarios of domestic violence in married couple relationships and subsequently respond to a questionnaire. Sexual orientation, victims' and batterers' gender, and severity of the violence varied across the different scenarios. The clearest result of this study was that participants perceived domestic violence to be significantly more serious when a man battered his wife than in any other case (i.e., when a woman battered her husband, when a gay man battered his husband, or when a lesbian woman battered her wife). In all types of relationships, participants matched their perceptions of domestic violence to the level of severity of the violence and participants with more negative attitudes toward women perceived domestic violence as less serious. Female participants were more concerned about lesbian domestic violence than male participants. Attitudes toward gays and lesbians mattered little for the perceptions of domestic violence.

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1. Introduction

A significant amount of past research has focused on public attitudes toward, and perceptions of, domestic violence in heterosexual relationships (Capezza & Arriaga, 2008; Harris & Cook, 1994; Locke & Richman, 1999; Pierce & Harris, 1993; Sorenson & Taylor, 2005; Taylor & Sorenson, 2005). The literature on perceptions of domestic or intimate partner violence in gay and lesbian relationship is limited to only a few studies (Harris & Cook, 1994; Poorman, Seelau, & Seelau, 2003; Seelau & Seelau, 2005; Seelau, Seelau, & Poorman, 2003; Sorenson & Thomas, 2009).¹ The absence of this research may lead to a lack of basic knowledge and understanding about domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships. This knowledge is, however, important for policy makers and other decision-makers, for designing evidence-based interventions to prevent domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships and to support men and women who are victims of domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships. This study attempts to contribute to this knowledge.

The purpose of this study is to examine people's perceptions of domestic violence in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual married couple relations in Sweden. Sweden is an interesting country for studying this issue. Public opinion of gay and lesbian relationships in Sweden is among the most liberal and tolerant in the world (Gerhards, 2010). Compared to many other countries, gay and lesbian people can openly live their lives in Sweden. There has, therefore, been a growing interest in studying the lives of gay and lesbian people in Sweden, where, in the context of the prevailing law, gays and lesbians have the same privileges and opportunities as others in that society.² Gay and lesbian couples in Sweden were allowed to enter into civil unions by the year 1995, which gave them the same legal rights and obligations as married heterosexuals, and since 2009, gay and lesbian couples have been allowed to enter into marriage. This culture and legal environment make it possible to ask people about their perceptions of gay, lesbian, and heterosexual domestic violence since the concept of gay and lesbian marriage, and thus, the possibility of gay and lesbian domestic violence, comes more naturally to people in Sweden.

Four research questions were central in this study:

1. Are people's perceptions of gay and lesbian domestic violence different from perceptions of heterosexual domestic violence?
2. Does a person's gender influence his or her perceptions of gay, lesbian, and heterosexual domestic violence?
3. What role do people's attitudes toward gays, lesbians, men, and women play in their perceptions of gay, lesbian, and heterosexual domestic violence?
4. What role does the degree of severity in the domestic violence play for people's perception of gay, lesbian, and heterosexual domestic violence?

¹ As is conventional in the literature, we use the term gay for homosexual men and the term lesbian for homosexual women throughout this paper.

² For example, for results on the demographics of gay and lesbian marriages, see Andersson, Noack, Seierstad, and Weedon-Fekjaer (2006), on registered partnerships, see Rydström (2008), on the attitudes toward gays and lesbians in health care, see Røndahl, Innala, and Carlsson (2004), on the drinking behavior of gays and lesbians, see Bergmark (1999), on the employment and earnings of gays and lesbians, see Ahmed and Hammarstedt (2010) and Ahmed, Andersson, and Hammarstedt (2011a,b,c), and on discrimination against gays and lesbians, see Ahmed, Andersson, and Hammarstedt (2008, 2011d) and Ahmed and Hammarstedt (2009).

An experimental methodology was used to address these questions. Participants were randomly assigned to read one of eight fictitious scenarios about domestic violence in married couple relationships. The different scenarios varied in specific information in order to answer the research questions. After participants read the stories, they answered a set of questions that measured their perceptions of the domestic violence described. Finally, participants answered a set of questions that measured their attitudes about women, gays, and lesbians and some conventional demographic questions.

Based on previous findings on intimate partner violence in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual relationships, we hypothesized that people's perceptions would be consistent with gender-role stereotypes in the sense that men are seen as stronger than women and women are seen as more vulnerable than men (Gerber, 1991). We predicted that people would perceive domestic violence as more serious when a husband abuses the wife than when a wife abuses the husband (Feather, 1996; Gerber, 1991; Harris & Cook, 1994; Home, 1994; Willis, Hallinan, & Melby, 1996). We also predicted that the victim's and the abuser's gender would affect people's perceptions of domestic violence, not only in heterosexual relationships, but also in gay and lesbian relationships (Harris & Cook, 1994; Poorman, Seelau, & Seelau, 2003; Seelau, Seelau, & Poorman, 2003). Further, we predicted that the perceiver's gender would influence the perceptions of domestic violence in all types of relationships in the sense that female respondents would find domestic violence less acceptable and more serious than would male respondents (Home, 1994; Pierce & Harris, 1993; Stalans, 1996; Summers & Feldman, 1984). Moreover, people were expected to match their perceptions of domestic violence to the level of severity of the violence (Capezza & Arriaga, 2008). Finally, people with negative attitudes about gays and lesbians were predicted to find gay and lesbian domestic violence less serious than others.

We make a number of contributions to the literature. This is the first known study on perceptions about domestic violence within *married* gay and lesbian couples. Since the concept of gay and lesbian marriage does not exist in many countries, previous research has compared perceptions of domestic violence in non-marital gay and lesbian relationships with domestic violence in heterosexual marital relationships (Harris & Cook, 1994). This type of comparison and analysis is obviously not precise and clean. Other studies have, therefore, focused on intimate partner violence (instead of domestic violence) in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual relationships (Poorman, Seelau, & Seelau, 2003; Seelau, Seelau, & Poorman, 2003; Seelau & Seelau, 2005; Sorenson & Thomas, 2009; Taylor & Sorenson, 2005). Second, this is the first study on perceptions pertaining to domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships in Sweden. As aforementioned, Sweden is, compared to many other countries, quite tolerant of gay and lesbian lifestyles. Conducting research on domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships in a more tolerant country adds value to the field. Third, this study examines how violence severity influences people's perceptions about gay, lesbian, and heterosexual domestic violence. This study also examines what role respondents' attitudes towards gay and lesbian people play in forming perceptions about domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships.

2. Method

Participants

A total of 1,067 undergraduate students were recruited from Linnaeus University in Sweden, of which 616 were female and 451 were male. Participants' age ranged from 18 to 59 years ($M = 25$, $SD = 8.24$). Not surprisingly, the majority of participants (1,045) were heterosexuals; 2 were gay or lesbian, 15 were bisexual, and 5 described themselves as other. Sixty-six observations were excluded in the analysis due to incomplete responses. Hence, the analysis is based on the remaining 1,001 participants. All participants received cinema vouchers, worth SEK 300, as compensation.³ Confidentiality was ensured.

Materials

Each participant read a fictitious domestic violence scenario that was, in part, adapted from Kristiansen and Giulietti (1990). Information about the scenario victim's gender (male or female), the couple's sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, or heterosexual), and the severity (less and more severe) of the violence was randomly varied across participants. Each participant was randomly assigned to read one of eight possible scenarios. The scenario was written so that it would be consistent with any of the eight situations. The sexual orientation of the couple and the gender of the victim changed for each of two levels of severity of violence. The combinations of sexual orientation, gender of the victim, and severity of violence totaled eight combinations. The text of the scenario for the case in which a lesbian woman abuses her wife with less severe violence appears below:

On March 17, 2010, the police received a telephone call in which an incidence of marital violence was reported. Upon arrival at the residence where violence had occurred, police carried out interviews with the two married women. It became clear that Anna, a 48-year-old salesman in the electronics industry, had come home from work around 7 pm the current evening. In the house was then the 46-year-old wife, Maria, but no children. Maria had come home from her job as an accountant at 6 pm, about one hour later than normal. As Maria got home late from work and did not have time to shop on the way she had chosen to prepare the leftovers from yesterday's dinner as supper for the family. After having set the table and putting the food in the oven, Maria went into the living room to watch TV. When Anna came home at 7 pm, she asked Maria what she had prepared for supper. Maria replied that she had been delayed at work and did not have time to shop. Therefore, she had prepared the leftovers from yesterday's dinner. When Anna heard this, she became upset and said that Maria should begin to prioritize the family and should not always put her work first.

³ SEK 300 was equivalent to about EUR €32 or USD \$43 at the time of the experiment.

Maria then went into the kitchen to continue preparing the evening meal. Anna came after her and talked to her in an even higher tone. Once out in the kitchen Anna grabbed Maria's arm and gave her two sharp slaps of which the other made Maria fall to the floor. Anna left the house after that, but returned just before the police arrived.

In the more severe case of violence the last paragraph was replaced by the following:

Maria then went into the kitchen to continue preparing the evening meal. Anna came after her and talked to her in an even higher tone. Once out in the kitchen Anna grabbed Maria's arm and gave her two powerful punches of which the other made her fall to the floor. Anna gave her a couple of kicks when she was already down. After that Anna took the floor lamp that was in the kitchen and hit it repeatedly against Maria's upper body. When Maria eventually came up on her legs Anna threw a glass bowl at her. After cutting up a larger gash in Maria's forehead the bowl smashed down on the kitchen floor. Anna then screamed that she would kill Maria and chased her out of the house. Maria was forced to seek protection in the neighboring house. When the police arrived, however, both Maria and Anna had returned to the house where the next door couple was now present as well.

After reading the domestic violence scenario, the participants completed a questionnaire with 9 measures of their perceptions about the domestic violence; these were rated on a 7-point scale, as adapted from Pierce and Harris (1993). The complete text of these items appears in Table 1 and in Appendix A. Total scores ranged from 9 to 63 with higher scores reflecting respondents perceiving the scenario as more serious and being more concerned about the situation in the scenario. The total score of these 9 dependent measures was used as the main dependent variable in our regression analysis. We called this the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale. The internal consistency for the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale was $\alpha = 0.79$.⁴

After completing the questions and prompts that measured the perceptions of the domestic violence in the scenarios, participants completed a survey packet that contained the short version of the Attitudes Toward Women Scale (Spence & Hahn, 1997), the short version of the Attitude Toward Gays and Lesbians Scale (Herek & Capitanio, 1995), and some demographic questions. The Attitudes Toward Women Scale contained 14 items on a 7-point scale. The total scores ranged from 14 to 98, with higher scores reflecting increasingly negative attitudes about women. For the present sample, the internal consistency was $\alpha = 0.79$. The Attitudes Toward Gays and Lesbians Scale comprised 6 items on a 7-point scale. Total scores could range between 7 and 42, with higher scores reflecting increasingly negative attitudes toward gays and lesbians. The internal consistency for this item was $\alpha = 0.87$. All questions and items in these scales are presented in Appendix A.

⁴ Internal consistency is a measure which is based on the pair-wise correlations between different items in a scale. It says whether or not different items that are supposed to measure the same general construct in a scale produce similar result. Internal consistency is typically measured by Cronbach's α which ranges between 0 and 1. A commonly accepted rule of thumb is that Cronbach's α for a scale should be in the range $0.7 < \alpha < 0.95$ (too high α is not desirable either because then the items are redundant).

Procedure

The experiment was conducted during the spring of 2011 at Linnaeus University in Växjö. Subjects signed up to participate in the experiment. Sessions were conducted in a classroom with approximately 25-50 participants in each session. After an introduction, participants were given a questionnaire packet that contained all study materials. They were told to read the story and complete the questionnaire at their own pace. Participants first read the scenario depicting a domestic violence incident. They were randomly assigned one of the eight possible domestic violence scenarios. After reading the scenario, participants completed a battery of questions, as previously described. Sessions lasted up to 45 minutes. After the session, the experimenters thanked, paid, and debriefed the participants.

3. Results

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 shows selected descriptive statistics pertaining to how serious the respondents considered the domestic violence incidents. The respondents' answers are summarized in the variables A – I and in the total score given by the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale (i.e., the sum of all variables A – I). Variable A ranged from 5.69 when a female hit a female to 6.38 when a male hit a female. Thus, the respondents considered the incidence most serious when a male hit a female; only small differences existed between the cases in which a female hit a female, a male hit a male, and a female hit a male.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of Respondents' Perceptions of Domestic Violence

<i>Variable*</i>		Value	Heterosexual couple		Homosexual couple	
			Male hit female	Female hit male	Male hit male	Female hit female
A	How serious was the incident?	1-7	6.38 (0.870)	5.69 (1.407)	5.71 (1.234)	5.75 (1.194)
B	If you had witnessed this incident as a third person, how likely would it have been that you would have called the police?	1-7	5.82 (1.417)	4.80 (1.986)	5.08 (1.847)	5.08 (1.800)
C	How violent was this incident?	1-7	6.00 (1.159)	5.35 (1.487)	5.34 (1.470)	5.25 (1.361)
D	How responsible was the batterer for the incident?	1-7	6.90 (0.495)	6.68 (0.679)	6.62 (0.925)	6.70 (0.735)
E **	The batterer's actions were justified.	1-7	6.75 (1.095)	6.61 (1.091)	6.62 (1.054)	6.47 (1.363)
F **	Overall how much do you sympathize with the batterer?	1-7	6.88 (0.546)	6.52 (0.916)	6.63 (0.983)	6.42 (1.251)
G **	How responsible was the victim for the incident?	1-7	6.75 (0.726)	6.32 (0.975)	6.49 (1.095)	6.34 (1.288)
H	The victim suffered serious abuse from the batterer.	1-7	5.87 (1.423)	5.15 (1.824)	5.21 (1.702)	5.26 (1.578)
I	Overall, how much do you sympathize with the victim?	1-7	6.66 (0.775)	5.77 (1.429)	6.04 (1.333)	6.04 (1.446)
ODV S***	Sum of all variables above	1-63	58.00 (4.866)	52.89 (7.696)	53.73 (7.064)	53.31 (7.266)
	Number of respondents		251	249	250	251

Note. Standard errors are shown in parentheses.

* Each value takes a value between 1 and 7. A higher value indicates that the respondent perceives the incident as more serious.

** The variable is the reversed score of the original response.

*** The Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale: the sum of all variables A-I.

Variables B – I point toward the same result. Variable B indicates that it is more likely that the respondent would have called the police if a male hit a female than in any of the other cases. Further, compared to all other types of violence, variables C and D show that the respondent perceives the incident most violent, and believes the batterer to be most responsible for the incident, when a male hit a female. However, variables C and D show very small differences in the respondents' answers regarding the three other types of violence (i.e., if a female hits a male, if a male hits a male, or if a female hits a female).

Turning to the sum of all variables, A – I (or the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale), the same pattern emerges. The total score amounted to 58 when a male hit a female and totaled 53 for all other types of violence. Thus, the results from the descriptive statistics indicate that respondents' perceptions about the domestic violence had little to do with the sexual orientation of the victim. Instead, it appears to be related to gender. The respondents found it serious when a male hit a female, but found violence in other types of households less serious.

OLS Estimates of Respondents' Perceptions of Domestic Violence

In order to elucidate the extent to which people's perceptions pertaining to gay and lesbian domestic violence differ from those pertaining to heterosexual domestic violence, we estimated five different specifications for an OLS model. The dependent variable in our model is the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale (i.e., the total score of all variables, A – I). All explanatory variables are presented in Appendix B.

The first specification, presented in Table 2, is estimated using all of our observations, while the four specifications presented in Table 3 are estimated for each type of violence (each type of relationship). The result in Table 2 underscores what was found in the descriptive statistics: the respondent finds the incident most serious when a male hits a female. The Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale results were between 4 and 5 points higher when a male hit a female compared to other types of households.

Table 2. OLS Estimates with the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale as the Dependent Variable

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>
Constant	56.885*** (1.246)
Female hits male	-4.907*** (0.493)
Male hits male	-4.071*** (0.491)
Female hits female	-4.603*** (0.493)
Rough violence	7.021*** (0.349)
Respondent's attitudes towards gays and lesbians	-0.016 (0.024)
Respondent's attitudes towards women	-0.182*** (0.022)
Respondent's age	0.053 (0.040)
Respondent is a parent	0.045 (0.372)
Respondent is a female	0.785* (0.372)
Respondent has been a victim of any kind of battering	0.503 (0.485)
Respondent has been a perpetrator of any kind of battering	-0.160 (0.753)
Respondent is single	0.109 (0.363)
R ²	0.416
Number of respondents	1,001

Note. A higher value indicates that the respondent perceives the incident as more serious. Standard errors are shown within parentheses.

* Indicates statistical significance at the 10% level,

** Indicates statistical significance at the 5% level,

*** Indicates statistical significance at the 1% level.

As might be expected, the results in Table 2 reveal that the respondent finds the incident more serious when the violence is worse. The results also show that a respondent's attitude toward women affected the perceptions about the domestic violence. The more negative the respondent's attitude toward women, the less serious the respondent found the incident. Finally, female respondents generally found the incidents more serious than male respondents.

Table 3. Separate OLS Estimates for Different Types of Violence Within Different Types of Households with the Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale as the Dependent Variable

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	<i>hits</i>	<i>hits</i>	<i>hits</i>	<i>hits</i>
	<i>female</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>
Constant	58.577* ** (1.604)	52.260* ** (2.659)	52.582* ** (2.225)	51.727* ** (3.051)
Rough violence	5.432** * (0.469)	9.635** * (0.716)	7.334** * (0.704)	5.478** * (0.842)
Respondent's attitudes towards gays and lesbians	0.001 (0.032)	— 0.111** (0.050)	−0.013 (0.051)	0.050 (0.060)
Respondent's attitudes towards women	— 0.171** * (0.031)	— 0.167** * (0.041)	— 0.245** * (0.045)	— 0.155** * (0.055)
Respondent's age	0.013 (0.053)	0.009 (0.095)	0.142* (0.074)	0.022 (0.097)
Respondent is a parent	0.446 (0.492)	1.045 (0.842)	−1.050 (0.721)	0.063 (0.915)
Respondent is a female	0.090 (0.527)	0.485 (0.870)	0.005 (0.830)	2.250** (1.033)
Respondent has been a victim of any kind of battering	0.375 (0.664)	0.226 (1.041)	1.952* (1.057)	−0.634 (1.076)
Respondent has been a perpetrator of any kind of battering	0.037 (1.022)	1.271 (1.662)	−1.607 (1.565)	−0.478 (1.721)
Respondent is single	−0.147 (0.502)	0.941 (0.791)	0.008 (0.738)	−0.259 (0.803)
R ²	0.465	0.493	0.416	0.228
Number of respondents	251	249	250	251

Note. A higher value indicates that the respondent perceives the incident as more serious. Standard errors are shown within parentheses.

* Indicates statistical significance at the 10% level,

** Indicates statistical significance at the 5% level,

*** Indicates statistical significance at the 1% level.

Table 3 presents the corresponding results for each type of violence (each type of relationship). The results show that the incident is perceived as more serious when the violence is rough. The effect is statistically significant for all types of relationships. Further, a respondent's attitude toward gays and lesbians has little effect on how serious the respondent finds the incident, even though there were some indications that respondents with negative attitudes against homosexuals found domestic violence within lesbian households less serious than other respondents. Furthermore, the more negative a respondent's attitude toward women, the less serious the incident is

perceived. This result holds for all types of relationships. Finally, a respondent's gender only mattered when a female hit a female. Female respondents found this type of domestic violence more serious than did male respondents.

4. Conclusions

Our results show that people's perceptions pertaining to gay and lesbian domestic violence differ from people's perceptions pertaining to heterosexual domestic violence; it is considered more serious when a heterosexual male hits a heterosexual female than when a gay man hits a gay man or when lesbian females hit each other. However, people's perceptions pertaining to gay and lesbian domestic violence do not differ from those pertaining to heterosexual domestic violence when a heterosexual female hits a heterosexual male. We further find that respondents' gender affected the perceptions pertaining to gay and lesbian domestic violence; female respondents found lesbian domestic violence more serious than did male respondents.

Respondents' attitudes toward gays and lesbians did not significantly affect how serious the violence was perceived, even though there was some indication that respondents with negative attitudes toward homosexuals found domestic violence within lesbian households less serious than did other respondents. Further, respondents with a negative attitude toward women found domestic violence less serious than did respondents with a more positive attitude toward women. This holds true for domestic violence within gay, lesbian, and heterosexual households.

Finally, our results also show that the perceived severity of the incident increases with increased violence. This holds true for domestic violence in all types of households. Further, people with a negative attitude toward women found domestic violence less serious than did others. However, small differences existed in the perceived severity of domestic violence within homosexual and heterosexual households in these respects. Here, violence is perceived as most serious when a male hits a female. Thus, in the context of gay and lesbian relationships, domestic violence appears to be an issue related to gender-role stereotypes rather than an issue of sexual orientation.

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Appendices

Appendix A Questions and Statements in Different Scales

Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale

Answer range for all items below is [Not at all {...} = 1, Very much {...} = 7].

- A. How serious was the incident?
- B. If you had witnessed this incident as a third person, how likely would it have been that you would have called the police?
- C. How violent was the incident?
- D. How responsible was the batterer for the incident?
- E. The batterer's actions were justified.
- F. Overall how much do you sympathize with the batterer?
- G. How responsible was the victim for the incident?
- H. The victim suffered serious abuse from the batterer.
- I. Overall, how much do you sympathize with the victim?

Attitudes Toward Gays and Lesbians Scale

Answer range for all items below is [Strongly disagree = 1, Strongly agree = 7].

- i. Sex between two men is just plain wrong.
- ii. I think male homosexuals are disgusting.
- iii. Male homosexuality is a natural expression of sexuality in men.
- iv. Sex between two women is just plain wrong.
- v. I think lesbians are disgusting.
- vi. Female homosexuality is a natural expression of sexuality in women.

Attitudes Toward Women Scale

Answer range for all items below is [Strongly disagree = 1, Strongly agree = 7].

1. Swearing and obscenity are more repulsive in the speech of a woman than a man.
2. Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing laundry.
3. A woman should be free as a man to propose marriage.
4. Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers.
5. Women should assume their rightful place in business and all the professions along with men.
6. A woman should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as a man.
7. It is ridiculous for a woman work as a construction worker and for a man to work at a child nursery.
8. The intellectual leadership of a community should be largely in the hands of men.
9. Women should be given equal opportunity with men for apprenticeship in the various trades.
10. Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together.
11. Sons in a family should be given more encouragement to go to college than daughters.

12. In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in bringing up the children.
13. Economic and social freedom is worth far more to women than acceptance of the ideal of femininity, which has been set up by men.
14. There are many jobs for which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted.

Appendix B Explanation of Variables

Table B1. Description of the Variables Used in the OLS Regressions

<i>Dependent variable</i>	
Opinion of Domestic Violence Scale	Total score of variables A to I, numerical and ranges from 9 to 63. A higher value indicates that the respondent considers the incidence to be more serious.
<i>Independent variables</i>	
Male hits female	Reference
Female hits male	1 if a woman hits her husband, otherwise 0.
Male hits male	1 if a man hits his husband, otherwise 0.
Female hits female	1 if a woman hits her wife, otherwise 0.
Rough violence	1 if the violence was rough and serious, 0 if it was not serious.
Respondent's attitudes toward gays and lesbians	Numerical and ranges from 1 to 42. The higher the respondent's value, the more negative attitude toward gays and lesbians.
Respondent's attitudes toward women	Numerical and ranges from 1 to 98. The higher the respondent's value, the more negative attitude toward women.
Respondent is a parent	1 if the respondent is a parent, otherwise 0.
Respondent is a female	1 if the respondent is a female, otherwise 0.
Respondent has been a victim of any kind of battering	1 if the respondent has ever been a victim of any kind of battering, otherwise 0.
Respondent has been a perpetrator of any kind of battering	1 if the respondent has ever been a perpetrator of any kind of battering, otherwise 0.
Respondent is single	1 if the respondent is single, otherwise 0.
