

Community Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment: Challenges & Strategies

Jacquelyn Campbell PhD RN FAAN

Anna D. Wolf Endowed Chair

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Multi City Intimate Partner Femicide Study

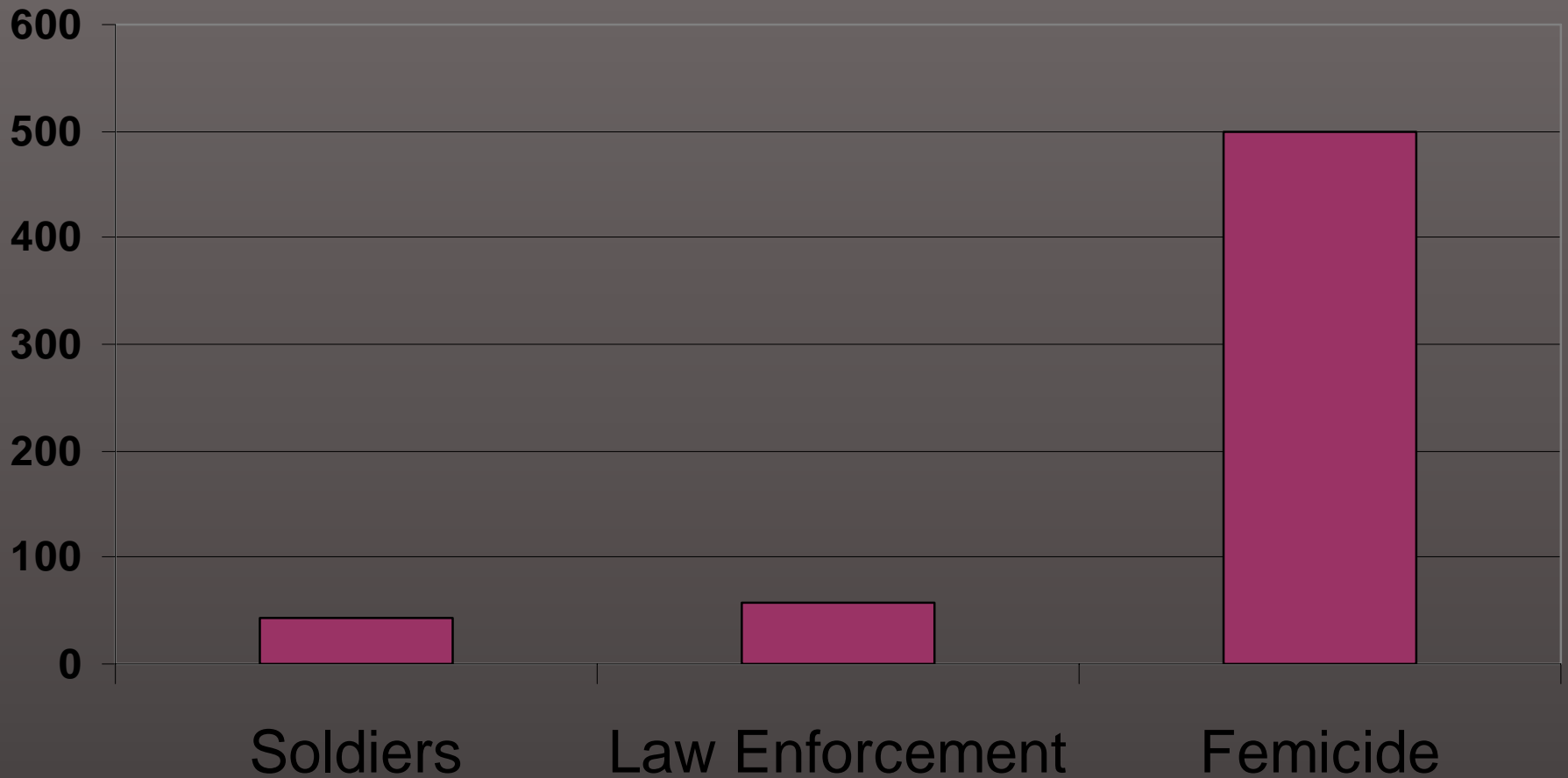
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**Intimate Violence Risk Assessment Validation Study – J. Campbell,
C. O’Sullivan & J. Roehl – NIJ #2000WTVX0011**

DV HOMICIDES (Attempteds X9?)

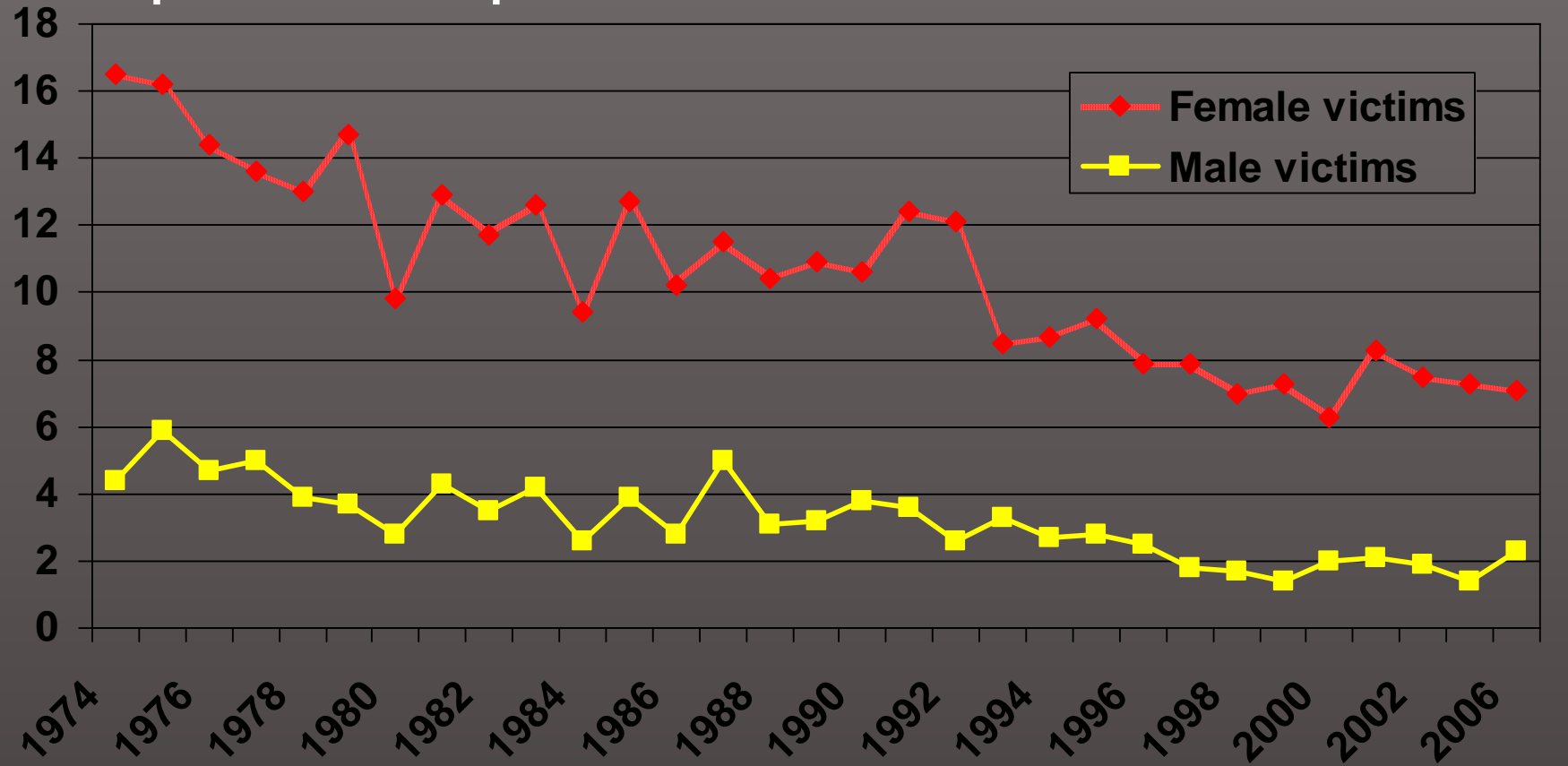
- 30 - 40% of Canadian women killed - BY HUSBAND, BF OR EX (vs. 7-10% of men) (US – 40-50% vs. 4-5% of men)
- 3:1 Ratio of women killed by intimate partners vs. men in Canada (ranges from 3-5:1 over past 20 years)
- Canada – History of DV: 62% spousal femicides; 67% male (Stats Canada '04) – 72% spousal femicides/attempteds US (Campbell 02)
 - DV against female partner; 71% Ontario DR
- More at risk when leaving or left (Wilson & Daly '93; Campbell et. al. '01)
 - 79% spousal homicides (Ont DR) – 80%: during, 1st 3 mos, 1st year
 - Eventually safer
- Women far more likely to be victims of homicide-suicide (29% vs. 2.9% Canada; .1% US)
- Aboriginal (CA & US) & immigrant women more at risk (NYC)
- 44-47% of women killed seen in health care system before killed (Sharps, Campbell '02; Wadman & Muelleman '99)

Number of Canadian Individuals Killed 2000 – 2006
Data from Brian Vallee, *The War on Women*, (2007)



CANADIAN INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE RATE 1974-06 ('91 – first inclusion of BF-GF) (F 3-5 X M)

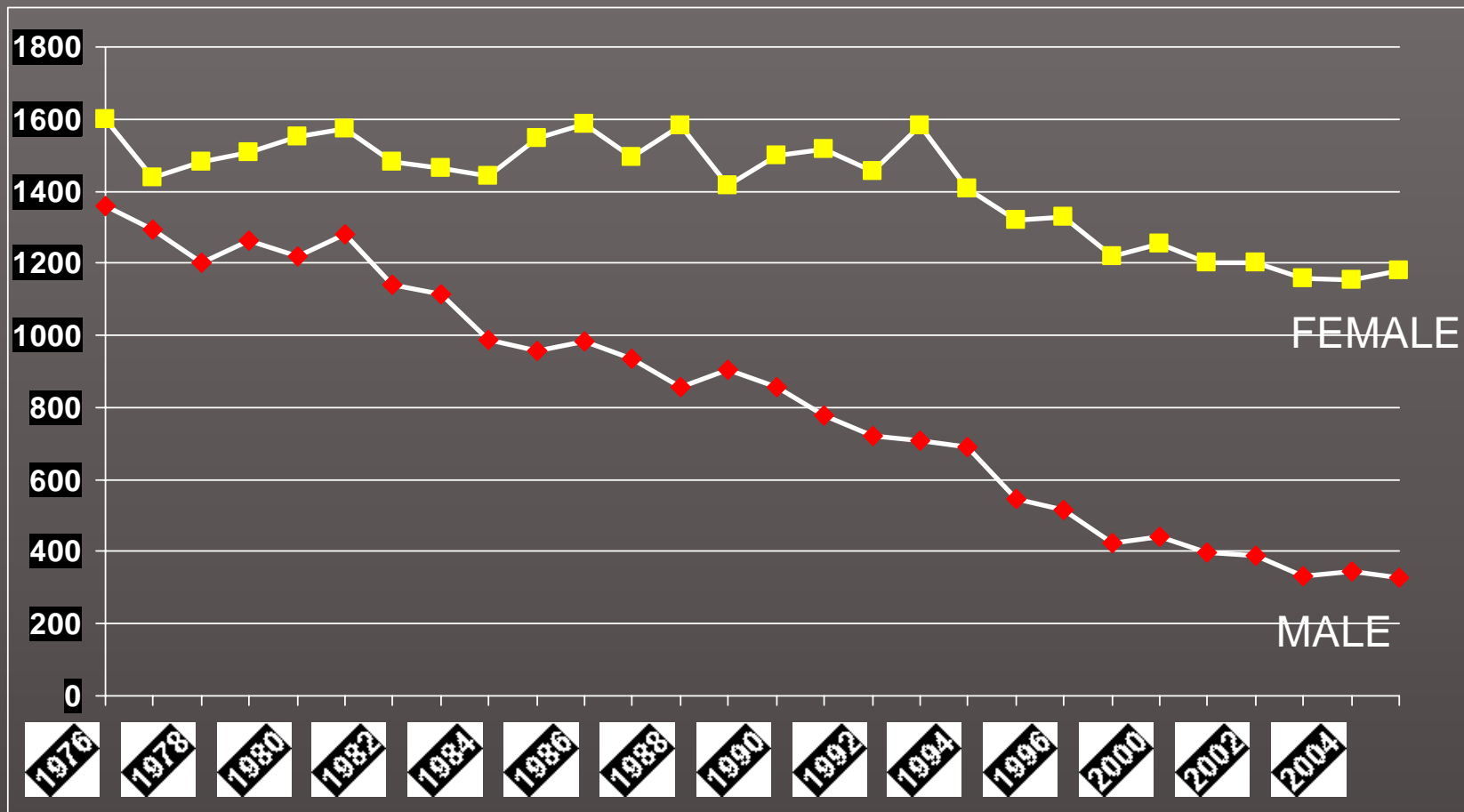
Rate per million couples – 57% decline



*BF-GF increased in '04

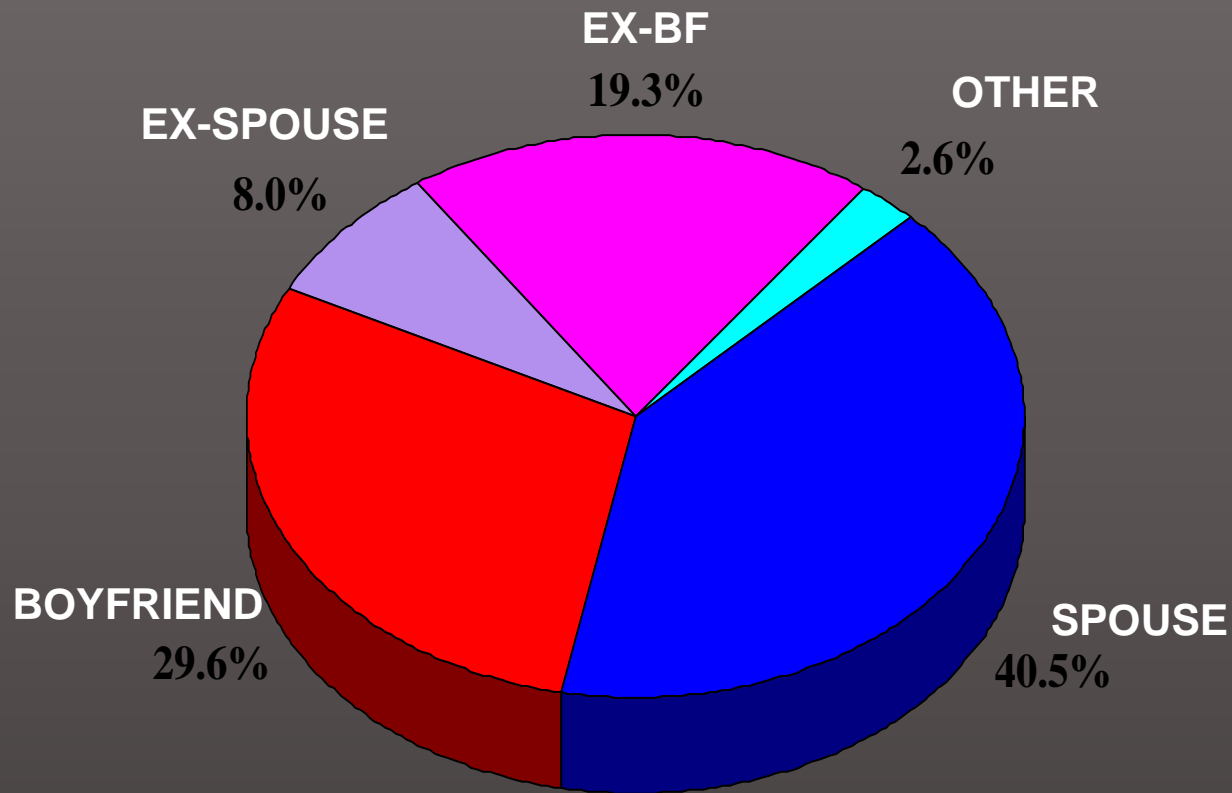
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

U.S. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE RATE DECLINE 1976-02 FBI (SHR, 1976-02; BJS '05, '07)



INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE BY PERPETRATOR IN TEN CITIES (N= 311)

(female partner perpetrator – Glass et al 2004 – Canada: 6 since '97)

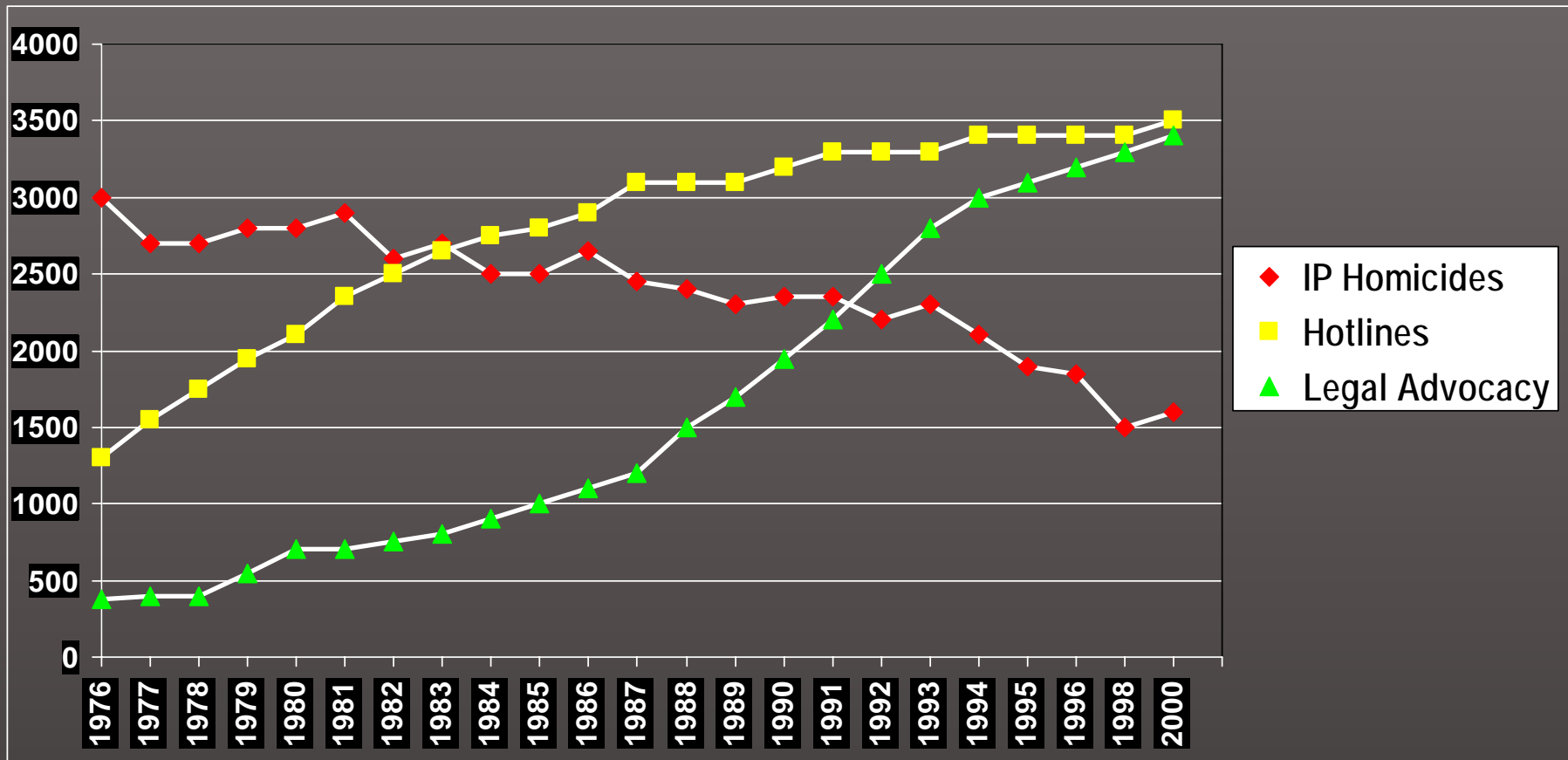


Decline in Intimate Partner Homicide and Femicide - US

- Decline in male victimization in states where improved DV laws and services - resource availability (Browne & Williams '89; '98)
- Exposure reduction - increased female earnings, lower marriage rate, higher divorce rate (Dugan, Nagin & Rosenfeld '97)
- Gun availability decline (Wilt '97; Block '95; Kellerman '93, '97- gun increases risk X3)

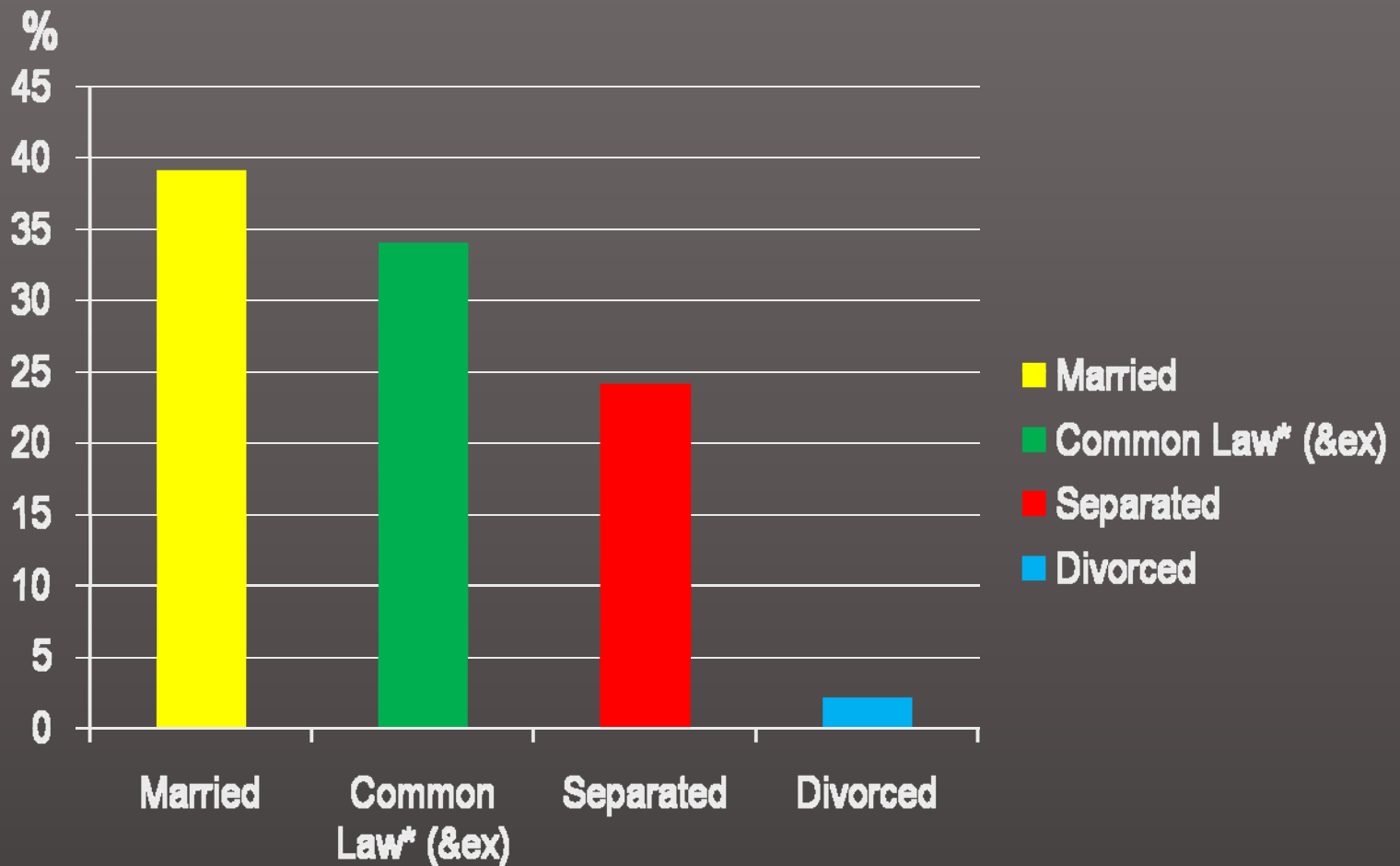
U.S. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE RATES & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES 1976-9

(Resources per 50 million - Dugan, Nagin & Rosenfeld '03)



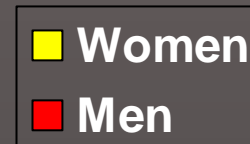
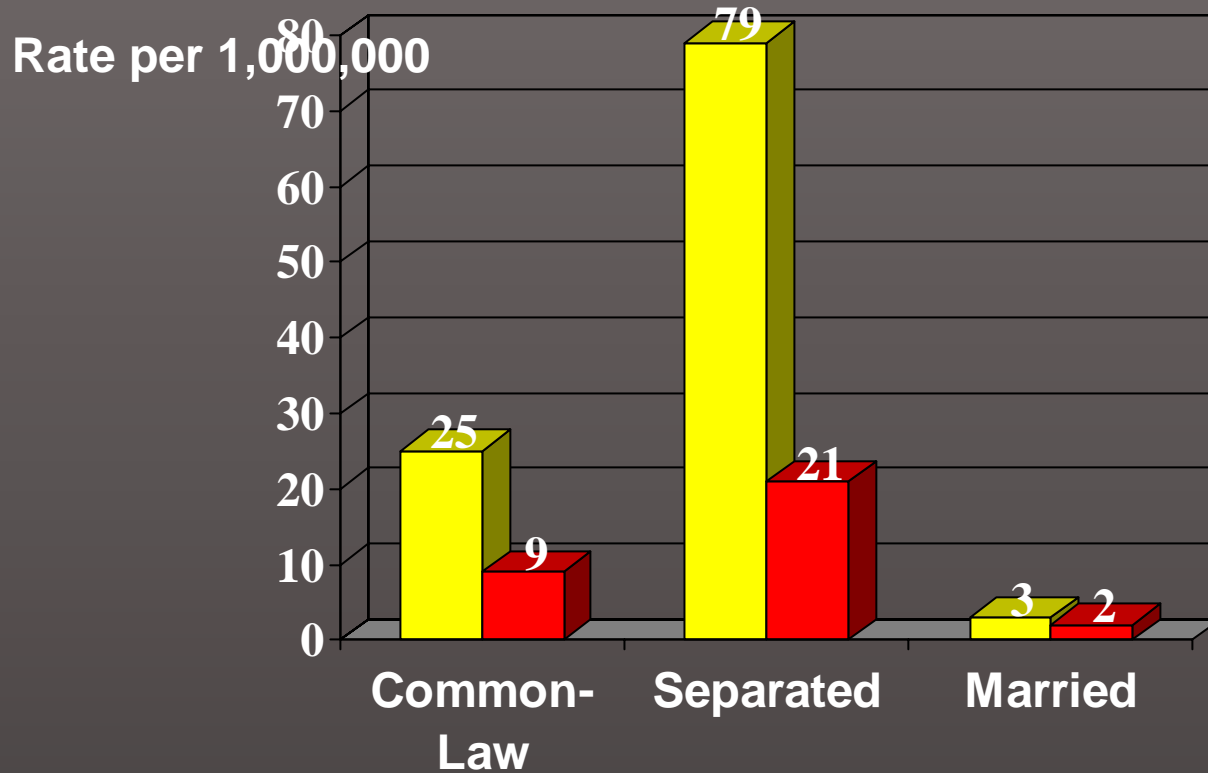
Spousal Homicide by Relationship Status

– Canada 96-05 (*vs. 14% in all Canada)



CANADIAN RATE OF SPOUSAL HOMICIDES IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS, 1996

(Family Violence, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2007)



SPOUSAL 5:1 F:M '06; 13:9 GF/BF

“Prediction is very hard to do
- especially if it is about the
future”

Yogi Berra

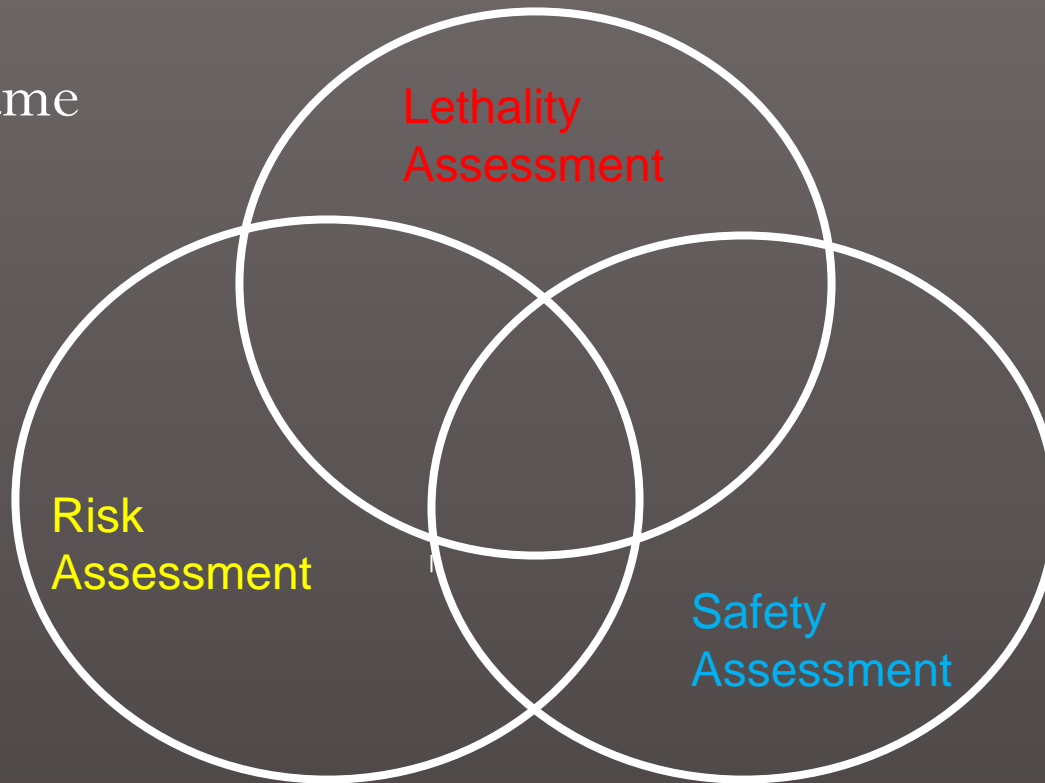
Overview of Issues

- High demand for both lethality & reoffending risk assessment by criminal justice, advocacy, victim service, & health systems
 - *Petrone vs. Pike* – Pike Co. Probation Department in PA – successfully sued (settled) under a Section 1983 ruling for failing to recognize potential lethality in a batterer – gave low level – phone only - supervision & failed to assure completion of an adequate batterer intervention program
 - Other risk assessment instruments used for general probation purposes not accurate for batterers
- Low base rates
- Relatively young science in intimate partner violence & risk assessment particularly
- 4 interacting parts to consider - instrument, risk assessor, perpetrator & *one* specific potential victim (vs. sexual assault or mental health – MacArthur study)
 - Actuarial versus structured clinical assessment
- Fears that risk assessment will be used to limit service to victims
- High stakes with either false negatives or false positives

Overlapping Concerns

Similar;

Not the same



Risk Prediction 4 Quadrant Model

(Webster et. al. '94)

(A) TRUE POSITIVES

**Predicted violence,
Violent outcomes**

Sensitivity

(B) FALSE POSITIVES

**Predicted violence
No violent outcomes**

(C) FALSE NEGATIVES

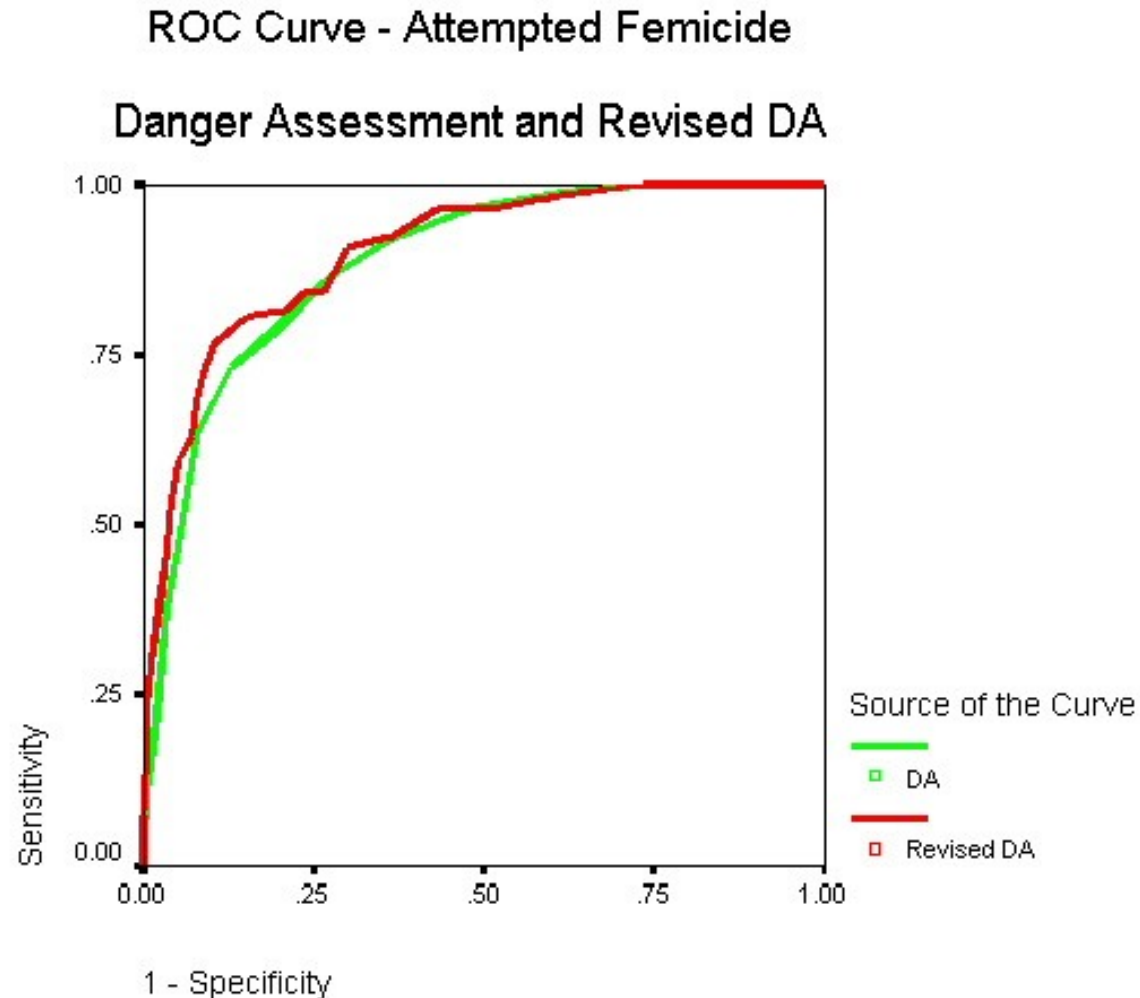
**No violence predicted,
Violence occurs**

(D) TRUE NEGATIVES

**No violence predicted,
No violence occurs**

Specificity

ROC Curve Analysis – 92% under the curve for Attempted Femicides; 90% for actuals

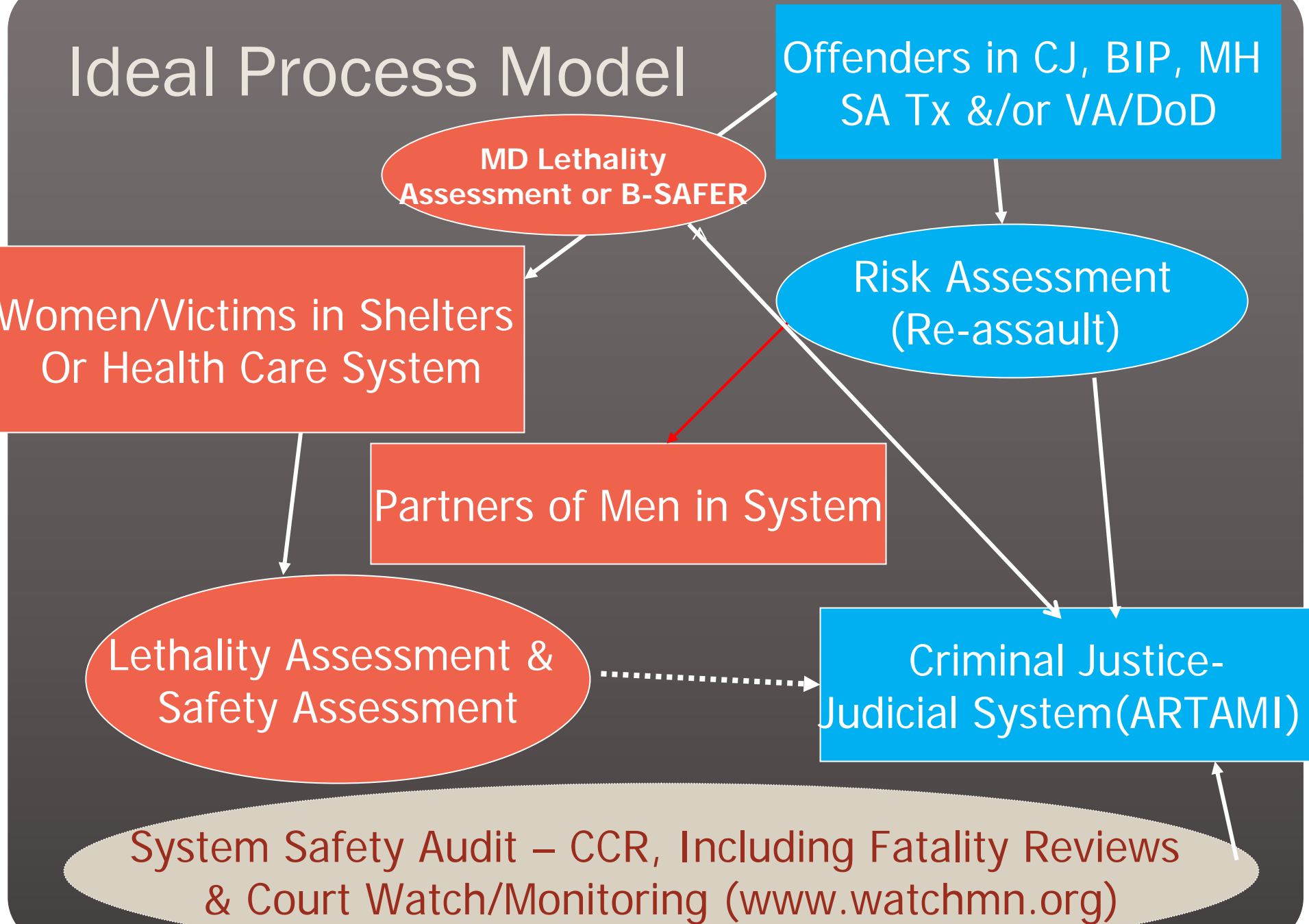


Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

Existing Evidence Based Risk Assessment Scales

Navy (DoD) FAP Risk & Safety	Victim & Offender -reoffend & safety (FA, MP, health)	Evaluation not finished (Stith, Milner '02-'04)
DV Mosaic (20) (deBecker)	Computerized/Victim (criminal justice) - lethality risk system	.65 under ROC severe re-assault
DVSI- R (Kirk Williams)	Offenders (criminal justice) short – reoffending	.71% under ROC (Williams & Grant, '06)
O.D.A.R.A. (Z. Hilton)	Offender - reoffend – (CJ)	77% under ROC ('04) “Actuarial”
PSI (Duluth)	Victim & offender - both (advocates & criminal justice)	Process evaluation (CDC) - no outcomes
PAS (D. Dutton)	Offender – intervention programs, prevention	Cross sectional validation good
SARA (Kropp et al) B-SAFER	Offender (CJ) - reoffending structured clinical judgment	Most data published best if perp. psych exam
Danger Assessment (Campbell) - LAP	Victim- Lethality (Advocates, Health)	.69% under ROC reassault; .90% att. hom

Ideal Process Model



Different Purposes in Different Parts of Systems

- For victims
 - In shelter/DV services agencies accurate appraisal of danger – basis for safety planning
 - Documentation for level of danger for use in criminal or family justice proceedings
 - First responders – get high danger cases to DV/shelter services
 - Health care system – triage purposes – assertiveness of safety planning
- For perpetrators
 - Help determine level of sanctions
 - Help determine intervention strategies
- For professionals
 - Help determine type of services – NOT to limit services
 - Aids in assessment of full picture – context – of IPV (especially with DA calendar)
 - For decision making about CJ sanctions
 - Help determine strategies to use with victims & perpetrators and children

Community Challenges

- Concerns about costs
- Concerns about liability
- Concerns about being called into court as expert when don't fully understand research/evidence lack thereof
- Safety concerns
- Systems/Agencies not talking to each other
 - Not planning together for system wide risk assessment
 - Adopting own strategies – not communicated with other parts of system as to why
 - Not understanding other agency models
 - Not communicating results or not giving credence to results from other systems
 - Not knowing how to reconcile discrepancies
 - DV Advocates afraid that Risk Assessment results will be used against victims
 - Concerned that unintended consequences not thoroughly considered

As important as the “instrument or system” – the protocol – Elements Needed:

- Agreement on purpose of risk assessment in system/agency
- Approach to victims if involved
 - What is said to encourage participation
 - What is said regarding use of results – confidentiality
 - If perpetrator – what are legalities of use of results
- Who conducts the risk assessment – first responders?
In depth assessors?
 - Credentials – training necessary

Protocol - continued

- What happens to results
 - What is communicated to victim
 - What is communicated to system – what parts and for what use
 - Where is paperwork stored – who has access
 - How can victim access later?
- Communication of protocol and development of complementary protocols among system

Intimate Violence Risk Assessment Validation Study

– J. Campbell, C. O’Sullivan & J. Roehl – NIJ
#2000WTVX0011

- N = 782 women who had accessed system through calling police, civil court, shelter or hospital ED’s – NY & CA (LA County)
 - Relatively severely abused – 43% severe abusive tactic from CTS last 6 mos
 - 60% retention from Time 1 – more severely abused. employed & Latina less like to return
 - 38% foreign born; 28% African American; 48% Hispanic/Latina

NIJ “RAVE” study

- Women randomly assigned to 2 of 4 risk assessment methods
 - Also CTS, WEB scale, HARASS
 - Also 40 other items hypothesized to increase risk
 - Also 2 items to assess victim’s perceived risk
- Recontacted 6 – 12 months later – interviewed by phone
 - Also a criminal justice record check for violent crime & DV offenses – only identified of the assaults women reported
 - 31% of victims were reassaulted according to victim reports & an additional 16% stalked – yet only 6% of men rearrested for DV & 11% for other crimes
- Women – especially those who saw themselves at high risk took many impressive protective actions – all kinds
- Their accuracy of perception of re-assault – significantly better than chance but

Areas ROC curve (excluding 27 victims w/no exposure to abuser) w/potential confounders

- Chance - .50
- Any & severe re-assault – all significant at $<.01$
 - DA - .67; .697
 - DV-MOSAIC .618; .647
 - DVSI - .60; .616
 - K-SID - .60; .62
 - Victim perception .62; .62
- Instruments/method = to or improved on victim assessment
- But none of approaches without serious margin of error
- DV MOSAIC most accurate for threats & stalking

Top 10 Protective measures during follow-up

	%
No voluntary contact with abuser	43
No cohabitation or intimate relationship	37
Changed locks	35
Left keys and documents w/ friend, family	28
Got a weapon (mace, few guns)	13
Stayed in shelter	11
Stayed with family or friends	7
Left town	7
Got alarm	4

Effects of protective actions on **severe** re-assault during follow-up

Baseline report	e^B	Wald	p
Not cohabitating or intimate	0.95	0.1	.832
No voluntary contact with abuser (T2)	1.07	0.1	.757
Went someplace he couldn't find her	1.92	6.2	.013
Shelter	0.40	6.8	.007
Got protective order	1.13	0.2	.643
Filed criminal complaint	1.41	2.14	.143
Abuser arrested for T1 incident	0.62	4.0	.044

Effects of protective actions on **minor-moderate** re-assault during follow-up

Baseline	e^B	Wald	p
Not cohabitating or intimate	1.37	1.54	.215
No voluntary contact with abuser (T2)	0.28	19.7	<.001
Went someplace he couldn't find her	1.57	2.2	.137
Shelter	0.30	5.6	.018
Got temp protective order	0.60	4.4	.045
Filed criminal complaint	0.90	0.2	.673
Abuser arrested for T1 incident	0.84	0.04	.839

Effects of protective actions on **stalking** during follow-up

Baseline	e^B	Wald	p
Physical abuse sev./freq.	0.94	1.2	.265
Not cohabitating or intimate	2.78	11.6	.001
No voluntary contact with abuser (T2)	1.03	0.01	.905
Someplace he couldn't find her	2.10	6.7	.010
Shelter	0.72	0.8	.371
Got temp protective order	1.76	4.4	.036
Filed criminal complaint	1.66	4.5	.033
Abuser arrested for T1 incident	0.77	1.2	.268

Conclusions re: protective actions' effects on re-assault

- Going to shelter at T1 significantly reduced risk of severe and moderate assaults
- No voluntary contact with abuser during follow-up reduced risk of moderately severe assaults
- Arrest at T1 reduced severe assaults
- OP/RO reduced moderate assaults
- Some protective actions at T2 likely to be response to assaults during follow-up
- Places she thinks he can't find her – often after a while, someone tells

Visitation & Abuse during Follow-Up – DA used in custody hearings –US & CA

- 75% children in common with abuser
- 52% - abuser having visits w/ children
- 51% of visits by court order
- Unsupervised – 73%
Supervised – 27%
- 24%: Physical abuse, threats or intimidation during exchange for visits

Children involved

- Approximately 19% of IP homicides – children also killed (Websdale '99) –
 - 49% of cases reported child abuse prior
- 16% of IP femicides in Ontario 2002-07 – at least one child also killed (DVDRC)
 - History of violence or threats to children – 27%
- For every one femicide, approximately 9 attempted femicides
 - And approximately 2/3 of cases of both – a child either witnesses femicide or first to find the body
- Plus women killed while pregnant – approximately 3% of femicide cases

IP Homicide & the Children – “Familicide?”

- 142 IP femicides in Ontario ‘02-07 – approximately 24 per year - X9 attempted homicides = 213
 - 80% with children in home = 212
 - 142 first to find body or witness
- Children often witness or first to find body in femicides – national study of IP femicide (“He Killed My Mommy” Lewandowski, Campbell et al’04)
 - Of 175 cases of actual and attempted homicides of mothers (cases with children) – 71% of cases – child either witnessed homicide or first to find body
 - Yet less than 60% received any counseling
 - Custody battles – 40% to mother’s kin; 12% to father’s (killer) kin; 5% split between mother’s & father’s; 14% to others –
 - 8% of cases prior reported child abuse

Women's Statements After Risk Assessment Process (NIJ RAVE study)

- “I never knew – this makes me much more resolved to not go back”
- “I’m gonna’ go get that permanent thing (PO) – I wasn’t gonna’ go through the hassle before but now I surely will”
- “Damn.... He is really dangerous, isn’t he? I keep foolin’ myself about that – now I *know* I gotta *do* something”
- “I knew he was scary but no one believed me – I’m going to keep pushing now”
- Quote from a woman in Canada after doing the DA “It was like filling in a piece of a puzzle – I could finally see the whole picture”

ACWS DA Study

❖ *Healing experience*

- ❖ “It was painful when I was thinking [about] all the abuse but it helps me as well to loosen my breathing.”
- ❖ “It felt good to get it off my shoulders.”

❖ *Realization of danger*

- ❖ “It was shocking to realize that you are in a terrible situation and you don’t even realize it.”
- ❖ “It helped me to know how much danger I was in. It scared me.”

❖ *Strengthening Resolve*

- ❖ “I should try more to seek outside help to prevent any abuse”
- ❖ “made me stronger in supporting my decision to be free of stress and harm, especially for my baby....stay safe and secure always, not letting my guard down”
- ❖ “Well, I want to be able to see my daughter grow. I want her to be able to be a little girl. I don’t want to keep the cycle going. I want her to see good things while she grows up and not abuse.”

Alberta – ACWS DA Study

(N = 509: 31% English Canadian; 12% other visible minority/&/or foreign born; 46.6% Aboriginal)

❖ *Hard to do*

❖ “It’s terrible to look back on!”

❖ “-very stressed –all the emotional stuff came back – feeling low”

❖ “Had to hold back tears.” “It hurts.”

❖ *Increased Awareness – decrease minimization*

❖ “Confusing and clarifying because at first impression I minimize, then realize the truth!”

❖ “It was eye opening. I have spent a lot of time trying to minimize my experiences so I could be normal.”

Alberta Model

- All shelters using DA – training of other community partners (CJ, Child Welfare, tribal entities, Health care system) about DA – what scores mean, shelter protocols with use etc.
 - Training in many communities not complete, not well attended but a start – some judicial attention
 - Particular challenges with child welfare – especially on reserve and with shelters with high proportion of aboriginal women
 - Some family court judges asking for DA results for child custody decisions – some shelters can call police with DA results for increased patrol by police in severe/extreme danger second stage housing
- Criminal Justice system - using ARTAMI & SARA – DV advocates have been trained on system
 - B-SAFER by some first responders

Also with RAVE data – 3 item version of DA – hot off the press! (Snider et al '09)

- Outcome of those 666 who took DA & full data on return - $N = 400$
- Predicting those seriously re-assaulted – life threatening – seriously choked, shot or knifed or head injury with loss of consciousness (15% of total)

5 item version – predictive validity for any and severe re-assault (ROC .79)

- Has the physical violence increased in frequency or severity over the past 6 months? 3.7 (1.9–7.1) <0.001
- Has he ever used a weapon or threatened you with a weapon? 2.1 (1.1–3.9) 0.025
- Do you believe he is capable of killing you? 2.6 (1.1–6.1) 0.027
- Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? 2.2 (1.2–4.1) 0.010
- Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? 3.0 (1.1–8.1) 0.028

*Cross-validated Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit = 0.12; Area under the curve = 0.79

If three of 5 – 83% sensitivity but 56% specificity

If four yeses of 5 – 66% sensitivity & 82% specificity

Either way – outperforms women's perception of risk by itself

Policy Possibilities

- Use 5 item version in ED, protective order hearings, child custody etc.
- If 3 of 5, do full DA and proceed based on results
- If 4 of 5, policy is to report to police &/or to DV advocacy program - her choice – do with her
- If 2 of 5 tell her has two of 5 highly predictive risk factors for serious assault/homicide – highly recommend further immediate advocacy – call with her
- If 0-1 of 5, proceed with normal referral/procedural processes for DV

Maryland Model- 2004- 07 – Washington Post 10/2/07; CNN 10/21

<http://www.mnadv.org/lethality.html>

- Under leadership of Dave Sargent – sargent47@msn.com – (retired DC officer) & Maryland Domestic Violence Network
- Collaborative process – **researchers**, criminal justice, advocates - identified need for risk assessment for first responders
- Identified need for quick **lethality** risk assessment (vs. re-assault)
- Based on research (modification of DA) & practitioner/first responder wisdom – identified 10 factors
 - e.g. – query about stepchild felt too dangerous

Maryland Process Continued

- Protocol developed – any of first 3 items plus any 6 of 10 – high risk (in Canada B-SAFER could be used)
 - Victim told of high risk
 - Told first line of defense is advocacy network – told about options available there – full range of services
 - Urged to call DV shelter hotline – officer dials
 - She can talk but does not have to – officer gives case specifics if she does not want to talk – questions & safety planning advice given
 - She is given one last opportunity to talk to advocate
 - Protective Order information also offered

Maryland Protocol – top 3

- Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?
- Has he/she used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?
- Do you think he/she might try to kill you?

Yes to any one screens in

Maryland Protocol – any 3 additional triggers protocol

- Does he/she have a gun or can get one easily?
- Has he/she ever tried to choke you
- Is he/she violently jealous or control most or all of your daily activities?
- Have you left him or separated after living together or being married in the past year?
- Is he/she unemployed?
- Has he/she threatened or tried to kill self?
- Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?
- Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?

Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? – assessor judgment about response

Maryland Pilot

- 142 Screens completed in 1 month – 3 jurisdictions
 - 85 victims (62% of the 142 screens) "screened in"
 - 52 (62% of the 85 positive screens) spoke with a counselor
 - 2 (of 3 top 3) factors with highest number of positive responses
 - Severe jealousy and controlling factor (77 yeses out of 142)
 - Strangulation (choking) factor (73 out of 142).
- Screens not problematic to administer - 95% of officer screens were understandable according to victims & to officers administering the Screens
 - 82% of officers said the Screen was "very easy" to "fairly easy" to administer
 - Screens very consistent with full DA - 89% at Severe-Extreme
- In depth interviews - consensus among counselors – made the danger “seem more real” to women – 1 police officer recounted a case where he felt like the protocol saved a life

Maryland Network Lethality Assessment Project (LAP)

- Full rollout – 2006-07 – 57 jurisdictions in MD
- Outcomes – almost one in three (284) of the 900 women who talked to a DV Advocate on the scene later showed up at a domestic violence services agency -- for a protective order, shelter, counseling, support group or other service.
 - Less than 48 DV homicides in '07 (vs. 70 per year 01-06)
- Now being used in 68 jurisdictions in MD & 8 other states +DC
 - Evaluation in Oklahoma – funded by NIJ
 - Jurisdictions have to agree to collaborative process & data collection
- On MD Eastern Shore (rural)- Total screenings: 354
 - “High danger” screenings: 57.9%
 - “High danger” victims who talk to DV counselor: 45.2% - 89.5% new
 - “High danger” victims receiving services: 15.4%

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES for PREVENTION - 83% of Cases of Femicide – (IP femicide study Campbell '02)

VICTIMS

- Police Contacts - 66% of stalked & battered women
- Any Medical Visit - 56% (27% ED visits only)
- Shelter Contacts - 4% of battered women
- Substance abuse Tx - 6%

PERPETRATORS

- Prior Arrest - 56% of batterers (32% of non)
- Mental Health System - 12%
- Substance Abuse Tx - 6%
- Child Abuse - 11% of batterers; 6% of non

Policy/Practice/Research Implications

- Need for substance abuse Tx in abusive men – concurrent with batterer intervention? Combination programs? New models needed with rigorous evaluations
- Coordinated community response with probation, courts, batterer intervention, DV victim services, children's services, fatality reviews closely working together to plan a community risk assessment strategy
- Need for collaborations btw. researchers & clinicians in substance abuse, health, criminal justice and advocacy – for advances in risk assessment – research and policy
- Deadly mix of guns, substances & IPV –

Future Directions

- “Danger Assessment is a Process not a Product” (B. Hart)
- Field developing rapidly – watch literature
- Differentiating lethality & reoffending risk - different batterer typologies may explain differences (Holtzworth-Munroe)
- Strategies for working with victims important – to increase their realistic appraisal and to determine risk factors not available from criminal record checks or from perpetrators never previously arrested – e.g. as part of batterer intervention programs
 - They need to know as much as we need to know
- Assessing safety – protective strategies as well as danger – implications for interventions
- Continuing to collect data – so practice is evidence based
- Important to develop/test risk assessment accurate for
 - children being killed/harmed
 - Immigrant & aboriginal communities
 - same sex couples
 - female perpetrators – both of homicide/attempted – may or may not be primary aggressor in prior DV

Immigration/First Nations Issues

- May pretend that understands English better than she/he does
 - Language as a means of control
 - Telephone interpreter better than nothing but best to have a member of team – imperative that some bilingual services providers
- Making risk assessment culturally appropriate – Cree/Lakoda project “Walking the Path” with DA in Alberta
- Afraid of deportation
 - Assure will not call INS
 - May have been threatened with own deportation OR a family member’s deportation – is this a risk factor for re-assault &/or homicide?

Never forget who it's for -

“please don't let her death be for nothing –
please get her story told”

(one of the Moms)