CHAPTER 13

Family Violence, Abuse, and Neglect

# TRUE-FALSE

1. Most situations of dating violence are reported to authorities.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 381

2. Dating violence predicts domestic abuse later on in married life.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 381 *Skill:* factual

3. In certain male peer groups, including athletes, the social construction of masculinity includes a mentality of sexual entitlement

*Answer:*  True *Page:* 382

4. Repeated instances of calling one’s date an “idiot” constitutes verbal abuse.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 383

5. Emotionally abusive relationships rarely lead to physical violence.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 384

6. Married partners are more likely to be victims of spousal homicide than are cohabitating partners.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 384

7. Married couples have the highest rate of partner violence.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 387 *Skill:* factual

8. The variable of “exposure to community and school violence” is significant because it appears as a risk factor for females but not males.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 390 *Skill:* conceptual

9. Same-sex-partner violence is not a matter of power and control as it is in heterosexual couple violence because of the absence of gender or patriarchal ideologies.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 390 *Skill:* conceptual

10. Physical child neglect is found equally in poor and nonpoor neighbourhoods.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 392 *Skill:* factual

11. Mothers’ boyfriends and stepfathers are proportionally more frequent sexual abusers of female children than are fathers.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 399 *Skill:* applied

12. Most children who are sexually abused end up following a deviant life course.

*Answer:* False *Page:* 401 *Skill:* conceptual

13. The sexual abuse of a female child by an older sibling is often more severe than when abuse is perpetrated by a peer.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 404 *Skill:* factual

14. Children physically assaulting their mothers is mainly an upper-middle-class white phenomenon.

*Answer:* True *Page:* 407 *Skill:* conceptual

15. Currently, elder abuse has very high visibility.

*Answer:*  True *Page:* 409 *Skill:* factual

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What is the sexual abuse rate of female university students in Canada?

 a. 5 percent of female students are victims of sexual abuse

 b. 12 percent of female students are victims of sexual abuse

 b. 20 percent of female students are victims of sexual abuse

 d. 28 percent of female students are victims of sexual abuse

 e. 40 percent of female students are victims of sexual abuse

*Answer:* d *Page:* 381 *Skill:* factual

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ perspective would conclude that “the social construction of masculinity involves a mentality of sexual entitlement.”

 a. Conflict

 b. Functional

 c. Interactionist

 d. Family life course

 e. Feminist

*Answer:* a *Page:* 382 *Skill:* conceptual

3. Most studies examine the origin of dating violence by looking into the perpetrators’ familial interactions. Thus, most studies have, unfortunately, only

 a. examined the sociocultural context of dating violence.

 b. used a feminist analysis of dating violence.

 c. used a genetic approach to dating violence.

 d. psychologized dating violence.

 e. used a patriarchal analysis of dating violence.

*Answer:* d *Page:* 382 *Skill:* applied

4. Males who commit dating violence are more likely to

 a. be genetically prone to violence.

 b. use drugs and engage in delinquent acts.

 c. batter their parents as well.

 d. have older siblings who are also violent.

 e. limit their violence to those closest to them.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 382

5. Verbal abuse of partners, including name-calling and profanities, may be on the increase. This increase probably stems from

 a. role modelling of abusive parents.

 b. the competitive nature of economic relationships.

 c. a general erosion of civility, particularly as reflected in the media.

 d. the decrease of the influence of feminism.

 e. the normalization of this language within peer groups.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 383

6. Verbal and psychological abuse of a partner is often

 a. caused by peer pressure.

 b. tailored to fit a partner's vulnerabilities.

 c. the result of homophobic ideologies.

 d. tailored to fit the abuser's preconceptions.

 e. caused by psychological defects in the abuser.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 383

7. The purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ abuse is to dominate, to exercise power, and to show who is “the boss.”

 a. sexual.

 b. physical

 c. psychological

 d. verbal

 e. intimate.

*Answer:* d *Page:* 383

8. In a 2004 survey, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of Canadian men reported that they had experienced spousal abuse in the past five years.

 a. 1

 b. 3

 c. 7

 d. 12

 e. 17

*Answer:* c *Page:* 384

9. The Conflicts Tactics Scale (CTS) is considered problematic because

 a. the respondents may lie about their levels of violence.

 b. it treats males and females as though they do not differ in physical strength.

 c. it doesn’t measure the number of times that a person engages in violence annually.

 d. it doesn’t take the context of the violence into account.

 e. it doesn’t include all possible acts of violence.

*Answer:* d  *Page:* 384

10. Of the 753 spousal homicides in Canada between 1998 and 2008, the majority of victims (41 percent) were \_\_\_\_\_ the perpetrator.

 a. dating

 b. separated from

 c. divorced from

 d. married to

 e. cohabitating with

*Answer:* e *Difficulty:* challenging *Page:* 385

11. Even though many batterers are actually quite “sick” or pathological, one has to consider that

 a. pathology is culturally influenced and created.

 b. pathology is exacerbated by alcohol.

 c. this explanation fits men only.

 d. they acquired these characteristics in their childhood.

 e. treatment is not tied to psychological health.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 386

12. University-educated women

 a. rarely continue abusive relationships after the first episode.

 b. leave far sooner than most other abused women.

 c. often stay in abusive relationships longer than other women because of shame.

 d. are more likely to charge an abusive partner.

 e. are more likely to seek treatment for abuse.

*Answer:* c  *Page:* 386

13. Cohabiting couples have a higher rate of partner violence than married couples. This may be explained by the fact that

 a. men feel as though they have less control over their partner.

 b. cohabitation is not as institutionalized as marriage.

 c. they drink more.

 d. both members of the couple feel that they have little control over in the relationship.

 e. there is less concern about having a long term future.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 387

14. At the societal level, there is a higher risk of partner violence

 a. when violence existed in one’s family.

 b. when alcohol is consumed.

 c. when one of the partners is emotionally unstable.

 d. when the couple is very young.

 e. among poor couples living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

*Answer:* e *Page:* 387

15. Among blacks in the U.S., women experience higher levels of domestic violence. One explanation that is offered for this is that

 a. men internalize oppression and lash out at their partners rather than at society in general.

 b. these groups are more likely to live in environments where violence is higher.

 c. these groups are more likely drink alcohol to excess.

 d. these groups are more likely to cohabit.

 e. men in these groups tend to be more emotionally unstable.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 387

16. Under-reporting by victims of sexual abuse is more widespread among Aboriginals than among other Canadians. This is because

 a. Aboriginals believe that authorities will not take their report seriously.

 b. Aboriginals fear reprisal from the perpetrator.

 c. Aboriginals feel that they will be further discriminated against.

 d. Aboriginal culture defines abuse differently.

 e. It is not a matter of under-reporting, rather it is a matter of the Federal

 Government not accurately counting incidents of abuse in Aboriginal groups.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 388

17. The Canadian follow-ups from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth showed that boys who had witnessed some physical violence towards parents and/or sibling siblings at home were likely to exhibit

 a. both short-term aggression and long-term aggression.

 b. short-term aggression only

 c. long-term aggression only

 d. aggression toward their own spouses in the future

 e. a one-time aggressive act only.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 389

18. Rates of same-sex-partner violence

 a. are much lower than those of heterosexual couples.

 b. are higher than those of heterosexual couples.

 c. are unknown.

 d. are approximately the same as those of heterosexual couples.

 e. are measured with different instruments than those used for heterosexual

 couples.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 390

19. In Canada in 2004, bisexuals suffered from partner abuse \_\_\_\_\_ times more often than heterosexuals.

 a. 2

 b. 3

 c. 4

 d. 5

 e. 6

*Answer:* b *Page:* 390

20. It is possible that same-sex couples who go on to have a child are less abusive toward each other because

 a. they have more money.

 b. they always choose to have one child.

 c. of social selection.

 d. of social assimilation.

 e. they risk the loss of the child if the relationship ends because of violence.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 390

21. In Canada, Children’s Aid Societies were given the right to remove abused or neglected children from their homes for the first time in Ontario in

 a. 1893

 b. 1930

 c. 1950.

 d. 1983

 e. 2010

*Answer:* a *Page:* 391

22. The main source of child maltreatment (children aged 0-5) are

 a. relatives

 b. peers

 c. siblings

 d. babysitters

 e. parents

*Answer:* e *Page:* 391

23. After age 5, the most common source of child abuse is from

 a. parents.

 b. stepparents.

 c. siblings.

 d. peers.

 e. family friends.

*Answer:* d *Page:* 391

24. Child abuse and neglect are more common in

 a. affluent neighbourhoods

 b. low-income families

 c. middle-income families

 d. foster-care homes

 e. adoptive families

*Answer:* b *Page:* 392

25. Child abuse and neglect are more common in neighbourhoods with a high concentration of poverty and violence. The most likely explanation lies in

 a. the lack of an effective community and thus social control.

 b. the violence that is all around in society at large.

 c. the poverty of the parents.

 d. these small children are probably more difficult.

 e. the fact that low-income parents are more heavily scrutinized than parents with a higher SES.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 393

26. The study of the transmission of child abuse by parents from one generation to the next is a complicated matter. Which of the following statements is the most accurate?

 a. About 70 percent of children who have been abused by their parents abuse their own children later on.

 b. Child abuse is only transmitted genetically.

 c. The meaning that people attach to having been abused is an important intervening factor.

 d. Children who have been abused unavoidably marry a person who has also been abused.

 e. Children who have been abused see this behaviour as normal in family relationships and go on to behave in the same way as adults.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 394

27. A parent’s antisocial orientation may well be one mediating factor in the transmission of violence to the next generation. What is the most likely explanation?

 a. Such parents also engage in other forms of abusive behaviours and provide a strong negative role modelling for their children.

 b. Such parents are probably aggressive by nature and pass on their genes to their children who then cannot help but become abusive parents.

 c. Such parents are poor.

 d. Such parents tend to be less intelligent and neither they nor their children understand the consequences of their actions.

 e. Such parents only show respect for aggression and therefore encourage this behaviour in their children.

*Answer:* a *Page:* 395

28. What is one specific reason for why child neglect may be increasing?

 a. child abuse is decreasing.

 b. more adults are delaying childbirth until later ages.

 c. parents are becoming unbearably strict.

 d. parents often suffer from role strain and spend too many hours employed away from home.

 e. children are increasingly seen as an inconvenience in societies which stress individual fulfillment.

*Answer:* d  *Page:* 396

29. Child neglect

 a. includes physical and verbal abuse.

 b. involves what parents actively do to their children.

 c. involves what parents fail to do for their children.

 d. is easily detected but less reported than physical abuse.

 e. is not easily detected but reported far more than physical abuse.

*Answer:* c  *Page:* 396

30. It is estimated that \_\_\_\_\_ percent of sexual offences are never reported to the

 police.

 a. 20.

 b. 40.

 c. 60.

 d. 80.

 e. 90.

*Answer:* c  *Page:* 396

31. Abuse that carries over from one generation to the next through the transmission of

 risk factors and victimization from mother to daughter is referred to as

 a. double female victimization.

 b. a gendered phenomenon.

 c. intergenerational transmission.

 d. selection.

 e. transmission of victimization.

*Answer:* a  *Page:* 399

32. Within a life course sociological framework, sexual abuse of a child

 a. carries negative psychological consequences.

 b. is generally perpetrated by a rather sick adult.

 c. constitutes an inappropriate sexual socialization.

 d. generally occurs under the influence of alcohol.

 e. is the result of poor socialization of the parents.

*Answer:* c  *Page:* 400

33. Many children grow up to forget or repress the abuse because

 a. they have had competent therapy.

 b. At the time the child may not even have realized what was happening to her or him

 c. their general memory is poor.

 d. they are too traumatized.

 e. they are not believed when they report it and come to see it as a fantasy as they get older.

*Answer:* b  *Page:* 401

34. Peer abuse is fuelled by

 a. antisocial personalities.

 b. the segregation of children by age.

 c. the general culture of violence.

 d. dangerous neighbourhoods.

 e. the fact that parents and teachers do not see it as detrimental.

*Answer:* c *Page:* 405

35. Peer sexual abuse and harassment is

 a. created by peer stressors and feelings of humiliation.

 b. largely a result of opportunity or lack of adult supervision.

 c. usually well tolerated by the victims themselves.

 d. unlikely to have long-term consequences because it is not as severe as abuse by parents.

 e. strongly disapproved of by peers themselves.

*Answer:* b *Page:* 405

36. Young people who aggress their parents are more likely to

 a. have been neglected by their parents when they were young children

 b. come from upper-class families.

 c. exhibit behavioural and intellectual deficits.

 d. also engage in bullying at school.

 e. belong to gangs and associate with peers who own guns.

*Answer:* e *Page:* 407

37. Abuse of elderly parents by adult children

 a. is usually committed by frustrated daughters who have the entire care of their frail parents.

 b. is usually resolved by institutionalizing the elderly rather than charging the adult children.

 c. is created by overcrowding.

 d. is a new phenomenon created by greed.

 e. remains poorly understood.

*Answer:* e *Page:* 408

## SHORT ANSWER

1. How can dating violence be analyzed within a life course perspective?

*Answer:* Dating violence can be seen as a possible outcome of risk factors such as violence within the home, sibling violence, or peer violence. Lessons learned within the family and as children in terms of the maintenance of power within relationships or the use of coercion to resolve conflicts follow some adolescents and young adults into dating relationships. This could be the case whether one is the abuser or the victim. Additionally, dating violence is often a precursor for domestic violence in cohabiting or marital relationships. Many of those who exhibit dating violence, especially among males, experienced behavioural problems as children and were more aggressive than their peers.

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2. Relate verbal abuse of partner to threats. Construct an example of what might constitute this form of verbal abuse.

*Answer:* Verbal abuse can take the form of threats and then constitutes a type of “blackmail.” The examples in the text indicate that past experiences of which people are ashamed might be used to intimidate and control them. This reveals a very clear connection between verbal abuse and the attempt to dominate and have power over the victim of those abusive threats.

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3. Present arguments against the notion that women are as violent as men in spousal abuse.

*Answer:* Firstly, although women engage in violence against men, men are physically stronger and inflict far more damage on women than women inflict on men. It is still relatively rare to find women who are truly forceful and violent in relationships. In part, this could be because retaliation by men to a violent attack by a female partner would probably mean far more physical damage to the woman than to the man. When women are violent, it is often in self-defence. Women, when physically abused by men, often end up with bruises, contusions, and broken bones. Far more women are treated in hospital for injuries inflicted by men than men are treated for injuries inflicted by women. When women attempt to leave abusive relationships, they are at much greater risk of greater violence or are even killed by male partners. Women also experience a loss of control over their lives when abused which does not seem to be experienced by men. It is also the case that women are often sexually assaulted by their partners who also physically abuse them. A patriarchal society encourages and condones violence against women as a means of controlling them and of enhancing men’s ego and status. In patriarchal North America, this acceptance of violence against women is revealed in media particularly.

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4. How is same-sex-partner violence similar to and different from opposite-sex-partner violence?

*Answer:* The estimated rates of same-sex-partner violence and opposite-sex-partner violence are virtually the same. It is based on the same issues of power and control although patriarchal ideologies and gender are not an issue. Research carried out only on gay and lesbian relationships reveal slightly higher rates than violence in heterosexual relationships. Domestic violence in gay couples is often not seen by police as domestic violence but will simply be seen as physical assault of one man against another. Alcohol is used in both same-sex-partner violence and opposite-sex-partner violence as a justification of the physical abuse. But in both relationships, alcohol is merely a facilitator as it releases inhibitions against violence; it does not cause the violence. However, bars have been and continue to be a large part of homosexual culture and social life so alcohol may play a larger facilitating role in these relationships. Although there is as yet no research on the impact of partner violence on the children of gay and lesbian couples, it could be hypothesized that fewer children in same-sex-partnerships will experience violence themselves or be affected by it in their families. This is because the achievement of a stable family relationships and the decision to have children could be indicative of a greater level of maturity in same-sex-partnerships than in heterosexual partnerships due to the greater difficulty of creating a family and having children.

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5. What are three mediating variables that play a role in the intergenerational transmission of violence, that is, from witnessing interparental violence to committing dating and partner violence?

*Answer:* One mediating variable that plays a role in the intergenerational transmission of violence is the level of violence witnessed in the home. When the level of parental violence is high, the likelihood of the male child becoming a batterer and the female child becoming a victim is also higher. The lower the level of parental violence, the less risk there is that this violence will be transmitted intergenerationally. Exposure to community and school violence also increases these risks while low community and school violence decreases the risk of intergenerational transmission of violence. A protective factor then is a higher SES whereby families are not in disadvantaged areas in which violence is greater.

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6. What are the consequences of child abuse by parents?

*Answer:* Possible injury and death are obvious consequences of child abuse by parents through physical assaults or neglect. In terms of development, children who have been abused do less well in school, are more frequently delinquent, have more peer-related problems, and are less reciprocal in their relationships. They tend to be hyper vigilant to danger and often are more aggressive and assume hostile intent on the part of others. They are frequently in conflict with authority figures and, as adults, will often suffer from psychological problems. Women who were abused as children are more likely to marry an abusive man or may become abusive themselves towards their own children or a partner. Men who were abused as children have a greater risk of abusing spouses and children as adults. Some adults who were abused as children do not themselves become aggressive but may experience depression, withdrawal from personal relationships, and have a higher likelihood of substance abuse or addiction. Others become warm and altruistic. The consequences are dependent on other factors such as the degree of abuse, the type of abuse, gender, subsequent stressors, the child’s personality, supportive siblings or other support systems such as one warm parent or a grandparent. In general, the life course of abused children plays a role in the consequences they will experience.

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