

Florida State University Libraries

Faculty Publications

The College of Social Work

2012

Correctional Officers and Domestic Violence: Experiences and Attitudes

Colby Lynne Valentine, Karen Oehme, and Annelise Martin



Correctional Officers and Domestic Violence: Experiences and Attitudes

Colby Valentine+

Karen Oehme*

Annelise Martin*

+College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

*College of Social Work, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Karen Oehme, Director
Institute for Family Violence Studies
College of Social Work, Florida State University
296 Champions Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2570
Email: koehme@fsu.edu
Phone number: (850)644-6303 (ext.1)
Fax number: (850)644-8331

Abstract

This article presents the first statewide data regarding correctional officers' attitudes about and personal experiences with domestic violence. Online surveys were administered to correctional officers as part of Florida's new broad-based effort to prevent the perpetration of domestic violence by officers in the criminal justice system. Correctional officers were asked a series of questions, including their beliefs and attitudes about the prevalence of domestic violence among colleagues, their childhood experiences with domestic violence, and their adult experiences with domestic violence. Results from the first set of data from 710 officers revealed that 33% of respondents knew about correctional officers who had committed unreported domestic violence; 30% reported that they had directly experienced domestic violence as children; and over 11% reported that they had been physically violent with a spouse or intimate partner. Multivariate statistics showed that age, race, and childhood experiences with domestic violence were significantly related to correctional officers reporting being physically abusive to an intimate partner or family member. In addition, age, gender, and childhood experiences were significantly related to correctional officers reporting episodes of domestic violence in their homes as an adult. These and other findings highlight the need for increased agency prevention efforts and research on the phenomenon of correctional officer-involved domestic violence.

Keywords: Correctional officers, domestic violence, prevention, officer-involved domestic violence, officer-perpetrated domestic violence

Introduction

The incidence of domestic violence in the U.S. is stunning, underscoring the importance of having every element of society work toward ending it. In 1994, President Clinton called on all the departments of the federal government to participate in awareness campaigns to end this crime (USDA, 2010). Since then, researchers and government entities have highlighted the epidemic of domestic violence as a public health tragedy (Berk and Loseke, 1980; National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2003; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1997; Pagelow, 1992; Robinson and Chandek, 2000; Shalala, 1994) that devastates millions of women every year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2009; Edleson, 1999; Tjaden and Thoennes; 1998, 2000). Research has also dispelled many myths about domestic violence. Thus, we know that such violence is not confined to any segment of society; it occurs across ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic boundaries (Baig, Shadigian, and Heisler, 2006; Huang and Gunn, 2001, Matud, 2007). Perpetrators are generally not mentally ill (Gondolf and White, 2001). The rates of domestic violence are similar across rural and urban areas (Eastman and Bunch, 2007), and batterers are not more likely than others to abuse alcohol (Huang and Gunn, 2001). We also know that people in all occupations experience and perpetrate domestic violence; tragically, this includes even officers charged with enforcing the law against perpetrators of this crime (Ammons, 2005; Klein and Klein, 2000; Wilt and Olson, 1996).

Over the last two decades, there has been considerable research on the phenomenon of law enforcement officer-committed domestic violence, with commentators noting the cruel irony of some batterers being responsible for upholding the law (Gershon, 2000; Johnson, Todd, and Subramanian, 2005). Researchers have noted that there are traits and skills learned in training that can make a police officer a formidable abuser (Ammons, 2005; Lott, 1995). The dangerous

nature of the job, the authority to use force, and the close bonds that are formed between officers who rely on each other for safety and support may help to strengthen a “code of silence” within police ranks, allowing domestic violence to continue (Ammons, 2005; Klein and Klein, 2000). Johnson, Todd, and Subramanian (2005) believe that common police training and skills such as knowledge of weapons, exercise of authority, and command presence and control techniques can become embedded in officers’ behavior, and “spill over” into their home lives. When used to control family members and intimate partners at home, these techniques are humiliating, abusive, and dangerous (Graves, 2004; Wetendorf, 2000).

Research on officer-involved domestic violence has ignored a large population of other sworn officers who are also charged with protecting the public. Unlike their law enforcement counterparts, and despite the fact that they outnumber police officers in some states, correctional officers have not been the focus of any major studies on domestic violence perpetration or victimization. This may be largely because uniformed law enforcement officers are simply more visible to the public in a very literal way: while police stand out in a crowd, correctional officers labor in secure facilities obscured from civilian view. The longstanding confinement of domestic violence research to the actions of law enforcement officers may also result from researchers’ heightened appreciation of the acute contradiction inherent in the violation of domestic violence laws by those whose mission is to enforce them. We argue, though, that correctional officers are responsible for what should be considered simply the next phase of enforcement. After criminals are arrested and tried, correctional officers enforce the consequences meted out by the criminal justice system.

A large body of research reveals that stress and strain among correctional officers impacts both their careers and families (Finn, 2000; Lambert and Hogan, 2006; Morgan, Van

Haveren, and Pearson, 2002; Triplett, Mullings, Scarborough, 1999). Such stressors include a high workload, lack of autonomy, lack of variety, role problems, uncertainty, health and safety risks, and inadequate pay (Schaufeli and Peeters, 2000). These stressors combine to create several different categories of reactions among correctional officers, including withdrawal behaviors, health problems, and burnout. Researchers have found that rates of hypertension and heart disease are even higher among correctional officers than among police officers (Schaufeli and Peeters, 2000). Reactions to job stressors include low job satisfaction and high turnover rates, with states reporting alarmingly high rates of turnover, between 16.2% and 38% (Schaufeli and Peeters, 2000).

The Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) employs about 20,000 correctional officers, which is more than the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) reports as the number of police officers in the state (18,000; FDLE, 2009a; Florida Department of Corrections, 2010). Other states also employ large numbers of correctional officers; Texas employs over 25,000 (Texas Department of Criminal Justice, 2010). In 2009 the Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections, Walter McNeil, publically announced a startling statistic: on average, the Department arrests 60 employees per year for domestic violence offenses--about one per week (Institute for Family Violence Studies [IFVS], 2009). Thus, McNeil said, he felt “compelled to address the issue of domestic violence head on” and place more emphasis on long-term efforts to prevent the crime (IFVS, 2009). The importance of a large agency embarking on such a mission was reinforced when the state’s crime data for 2009 were revealed. While other crimes decreased overall in 2009, crimes related to domestic violence increased by 3% in the state; domestic violence related murders increased by over 15% and domestic violence manslaughter increased by over 70% (FDLE, 2010). These astonishing statistics are even more

troubling when viewed in light of the suspected overall chronic underreporting of domestic violence (Klein and Klein, 2000; Ellsberg, Heise, Pena, Agurto, and Winkvist, 2001).

Specifically, the United States Department of Justice concludes that only about half of all incidents of domestic violence are reported to the police (Greenfeld et al., 1998).

As part of its efforts to stem the tide of domestic violence within its own ranks, the DOC joined the Law Enforcement Families Partnership (LEFP), a new Florida initiative whose long-term mission is to shift the criminal justice culture and reduce and prevent officer-involved domestic violence among all public agencies. The LEFP, created at Florida State University in 2008, includes lead representatives from every major criminal justice and victim advocacy agency in the state. The project's mission is threefold: to educate all of Florida's officers about the crime of officer-involved domestic violence, to create a criminal justice culture that condemns officer-involved domestic violence and holds offenders accountable, and to prevent violence by encouraging officers to seek help so that they do not become offenders. The cornerstone of the project is an online training and resource site for Florida officers created in 2009-2010, entitled *Officer-Involved Domestic Violence: A Prevention Curriculum* (the curriculum). The present study describes early data from participant responses to surveys attached to the curriculum.

Literature Review

Although there are no known previous studies regarding correctional officers and domestic violence, researchers have been studying the prevalence and correlates of law enforcement officer-committed domestic violence since the early 1990's. Studies have consistently found that police officers report using violence with their intimate partners, but at rates that vary widely by study. In the general population, domestic violence has been estimated

to affect 10% of U.S. families (Gershon, Tiburzi, Lin, and Erwin, 2005). In comparison, rates of law enforcement police-committed domestic violence have been reported to range from 5% of respondents (Klein and Klein, 2000), to over 40% of respondents (Neidig, Russell, and Seng, 1992). Some of these estimates have been criticized because of the study's small sample size. For example, of a sample of 292 police officers, Feder (1997) found that 24% admitted they threw, smashed, hit, or kicked something or worse when engaging in a conflict with their significant other. Likewise, Ryan (2000) found that out of a sample of 210 police officers, 10% of respondents admitted to slapping, punching, or otherwise injuring a spouse or romantic partner. However, even studies with larger sample sizes found rates of officer-involved domestic violence at least similar to the rates of the general public, and sometimes much higher. For example, Gershon (2000) found that 9% of the 857 police officers sampled reported they had committed physical spouse/partner abuse. In another study with a large sample size, Johnson (1991) and colleagues found that among 728 officers, 40% of respondents reported that they had "lost control" and "behaved violently" toward their spouses. While these rates of officer-involved domestic violence may vary widely and the methods of data collection have been criticized (Bergen, Bourne-Lindamood, and Brecknock, 2000), there is no doubt that law enforcement officer-involved domestic violence does exist. Even if the self-report measures used to determine rates of officer-involved domestic violence are inexact, evidence that this crime exists can be found in the arrest records of law enforcement officers. For example, Gershon, Tiburzi, Lin, and Erwin (2005) found that between 1992 and 1998, 106 domestic violence incidence reports were filed against police officers. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) takes the position that the problem exists at some serious level and deserves careful attention regardless of estimated occurrences (IACP, 2003).

Studies of law enforcement officers have been criticized for the unclear and imprecise method of determining the rate of officer-perpetrated domestic violence (Lonsway, 2006). For example, the study by Gershon (2000) asked whether an officer had ever “gotten out of control and been physical” with a spouse or family member, providing a simple “yes” or “no” answer choice. Other studies have used the Conflict Tactics Scale to explore the presence of violence between partners (Neidig and Russell, 1992). That scale asks the number of times a person has engaged in a violent behavior during a disagreement; when analyses were conducted, this was then simplified into a “yes violence has ever occurred” category and a “no, violence has never occurred” category. This current investigation was different in crucial ways. First, questions regarding an officer’s experiences with domestic violence were asked immediately following an officer’s completion of a training module that carefully and specifically defined domestic violence. Secondly, officers were able to respond on a frequency Likert-type scale, providing more information than a simple yes-no answer.

There have also been numerous studies focusing on stress and strain experienced by correctional officers (Dowden and Tellier, 2004; Finn, 2000; Lambert, Hogan, and Allen, 2006; Lambert, Hogan, and Tucker, 2009; Tewksbury and Higgins, 2006) emphasizing that stress and strain from the work environment negatively impact officers’ health and cause them to burn out or retire prematurely (see Schaufeli and Peeters, 2000, for a review). Unlike research regarding law enforcement officers, which has linked stress and strain to family violence (Boulin-Johnson, 2000; Gershon, Barocas, Canton, Li, and Vlahov, 2009), research on correctional officers has not begun to explore the prevalence of domestic violence in general, much less its relationship to work stress. Studies allude to stress impairing correctional officers’ family life, but focus on relationship conflict arising from work stress. For example, Lambert, Hogan, and Barton (2004)

examined how work-on-family conflict negatively impacted the behaviors of correctional officers by asking questions such as, “I frequently argue with my spouse/family members about my job” and “I find that my job has negatively affected my home life.” Despite the connection researchers have drawn between a stressful work environment and a negative home life, no research has yet been conducted into whether a stressful work environment is related to a violent home life for correctional officers’ families.

Current Study

Demographics

Respondents for the present study included 710 correctional officers throughout the state of Florida who took the online multimedia training *Officer-Involved Domestic Violence: A Prevention Curriculum* during 2010. As part of the training, Florida’s statutory definition of domestic violence was outlined and discussed; thus, researchers were confident that respondents had a clear definition of the term “domestic violence” for purposes of the questions asked in the research surveys. Demographic information about the sample can be found in Table 1, including gender, race, ethnicity, age, work setting, work experience, living arrangement, and length of time as a correctional officer.

Our sample’s reporting of gender and race is consistent with the overall gender make-up of corrections employees in the state. In 2009, the DOC reported that 67.8% of its employees were male, while 32.2% were female. Regarding race, the DOC reported in 2009 that 65.9% of employees were White, 27.7% were Black, 4.9% were Hispanic, 0.8% were Other, and 0.5% were Asian (FDLE, 2009b).

Measures

In the present study, we examined responses from corrections officers who answered a variety of survey instruments attached to the curriculum's online domestic violence prevention training modules. The surveys attached were anonymous and voluntary, but users created a unique user ID which allowed researchers to track responses across numerous surveys. The surveys were included to determine user satisfaction; to assess knowledge gained from completing the modules; to explore officers' attitudes, beliefs, and experiences with domestic violence; and to assess respondents' risk factors related domestic violence. Officers were asked a number of questions, which included standardized and unstandardized measures. For the current investigation, responses to the unstandardized questions, regarding the officers' experiences and attitudes towards domestic violence, were examined. There were 10 questions, and examples include: "As a child, I was raised in a home where I *witnessed* domestic violence _____", "In the past, I have been verbally abusive to an intimate partner or family member", and "How many officers have you heard about who committed violence toward an intimate partner or family member and the violence went unreported?".

Results

Bivariate Analyses

Bivariate data analyses were conducted using SPSS: 17.0 and include descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, as well as inferential statistics, such as chi-square. Traditional use of significance testing was applied for the bivariate analyses using the $p \leq .05$ level. While running the chi-square analyses, small expected frequencies sometimes cause difficulties in the interpretation of the chi-square coefficient. Therefore, we collapsed the categories so we could accurately interpret the chi-square statistic. The authors chose to use gender and race as independent variables when conducting chi-square tests to determine whether

findings of other researchers regarding these variables might be applicable to the correctional officer population. Previous studies have demonstrated that women use violence less frequently than men (Catalano, 2007), and when they do use violence it is often for self-defense or to escape their partner's violence (Belknap and Melton, 2005; Dasgupta, 2001; Pence and Dasgupta, 2006). Furthermore, research has found that while domestic violence does occur among every racial group, it may occur among Black families at higher rates than White families (Catalano, 2007; U.S. Department of Justice, 2000; Straus and Gelles, 1986). Gender in the current study was analyzed as male and female only; transgender was dropped from the analyses because of the small number of respondents. Race was analyzed as White, Black, and Other. The category of Other included Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian, American Indian or Alaska Native, more than one race or other and were collapsed into one category because of the small number of participants in each category.

Respondents' Attitudes about Domestic Violence among Correctional Officers

Officers were asked a series of questions about their beliefs and opinions about whether domestic violence occurs among other correctional officers. Officers were asked to answer Yes or No to the statement: "I believe domestic violence is common in families of criminal justice officers." Approximately half (49.4%) of the respondents answered Yes (N=700; see Table 2 for a complete breakdown of responses). A chi-square test revealed that this relationship was not significant for race or gender (see Table 3 for summary of chi-square results.)

In response to the question, "How many officers have you heard about who committed violence toward an intimate partner or family member and the violence went unreported?", a majority of officers (67.3%) answered "none," while 33.7% indicated that they had heard about

at least one officer who committed unreported domestic violence (N=703; see Table 2 for a complete breakdown of responses).

The data were then further analyzed to determine whether there was a statistically significant relationship between reported knowledge about unreported officer-committed violence and race and unreported officer-committed violence and gender. Out of all the male officers who answered this question (N=427), 30.4% reported they knew one or more officer(s) who committed violence towards an intimate partner or family member and the violence went unreported. Of the 271 female officers who answered this question, 37.6% reported they knew one or more officer(s) who committed unreported violence towards an intimate partner of family member. Using a chi-square test, this difference was found to be significant, indicating that female officers were more likely to reporting knowing one or more officers who have committed unreported violence towards an intimate partner or family member (see Table 3 for summary chi-square results).

The data were also analyzed to determine whether there was a statistically significant relationship between reported knowledge about unreported officer-committed violence and race. Out of all the Black officers who answered this question (N=138), 40.6% reported they knew one or more officer(s) who committed violence towards an intimate partner or family member and the violence went unreported, while 30.5% of the 492 White officers and 39.1% of the 69 officers whose race was categorized as not White or Black reported they knew one or more officer(s) who committed violence towards an intimate partner or family member and the violence went unreported. Results from this test indicate that this difference is statistically significant (see Table 3 for summary chi-square results). Officers who responded to categories other than White were more likely to report knowing an officer who committed unreported

violence against an intimate partner or family member than White officers.

Additionally, the present study also asked correctional officers about their knowledge of colleagues who were victims of domestic violence: “About how many officers have you heard about who were unreported *victims* of domestic violence?” (emphasis original). A majority (72.8%) of correctional officers responded “none”, while 27.2% of officers chose a response other than “none” (see Table 2 for a complete breakdown), indicating that they knew at least one other correctional officer who was a victim of unreported domestic violence. A chi-square test revealed that differences by race were not significant (see Table 3).

The relationship between reported knowledge of unreported victims of domestic violence and gender was then explored. Out of all the male officers who answered this question (N=427), 23.9% reported they knew one or more officer(s) who were unreported victims of domestic violence by an intimate partner or family member, while 34.7% of the 271 female respondents reported they knew one or more officer(s) who were unreported victims of domestic violence by an intimate partner or family member. A chi-square test revealed that this difference was significant (see Table 3). Female officers were more likely to report knowing one or more officers who were unreported victims of domestic violence by an intimate partner or family member.

Respondents’ Childhood Experiences

In order to learn more about the life experiences and histories of correctional officers, the officers were asked to report information about their childhood experiences with domestic violence. Specifically, correctional officers were asked to complete the sentence: “As a child, I was raised in a home where I *witnessed* domestic violence _____” (emphasis original). Answer choices were a five-point modified Likert scale, ranging from “never” to “very frequently”. Of

the responding officers (N=699), 62.2% answered “never,” however, 37.8% indicated that they had witnessed domestic violence as a child at some frequency (see Table 4 for a complete breakdown). A further analysis by gender revealed that there is no statistically significant relationship between witnessing domestic violence as a child and gender (see Table 5).

Further analyses were then conducted to identify any differences in race among those respondents who witnessed domestic violence as a child versus those that did not witness domestic violence. Out of all the Black officers who answered this question (N=138), 44.9% reported that they did witness domestic violence as a child, while 34.0% of the 486 White officer and 49.3% of the 67 “other” officers reported that they did witness domestic violence as a child. A chi-square indicated that there is a statistically significant relationship between witnessing domestic violence as a child and race (see Table 5). Officers who reported themselves as non-White are more likely to report witnessing domestic violence as a child.

A separate question asked officers how frequently they directly experienced domestic violence as a child. The results indicated that 29.9 % of all respondents indicated that they had directly experienced some domestic violence as a child (N=696; see Table 4 for a complete breakdown). A chi-square test indicated that there is no statistically significant relationship between directly experiencing domestic violence as a child and race (see Table 5).

Further analyses were conducted to identify if there was a significant relationship between directly experiencing domestic violence as a child and gender. Of the male officers who responded (N = 421), 69.4% indicated that they had never directly experienced domestic violence as a child, while 72.2% of the 266 female respondents indicated they had never directly experienced domestic violence as a child. A chi-square test revealed that this relationship is statistically significant (see Table 5). Female correctional officers appeared to have directly

experienced domestic violence as a child more frequently than male correctional officers. This is demonstrated by the descriptive data, which indicates that females were nearly twice as likely as males to indicate that they directly experienced domestic violence as children either “frequently” or “very frequently” (see Table 5).

Respondents’ Adult Experiences with Domestic Violence

All respondents were also asked generally about whether there have been “episodes of domestic violence in my home” as an adult (N=699). No attribution of the violence was requested for this question. A majority, 74%, of respondents, indicated “never”, while the remainder, 26%, indicated there were episodes of violence in their home at some frequency (see Table 6 for a complete breakdown). A chi-square test indicated that there is not a statistically significant relationship between experiencing episodes of domestic violence in their home as an adult and race (see Table 7).

The relationship between episodes of domestic violence as an adult and gender was then explored. The results revealed that 18.9% of the male officers and 36.5% of the female officers responding indicated that there had been episodes of violence in their home at some frequency. Using a chi-square test this difference was found to be significant (see Table 7). Thus, female officers are more likely to report episodes of domestic violence in their homes as an adult.

In a question exploring whether officers had adult experiences of being accused of domestic violence (N=701), 11.4% of respondents indicated, “in the past, a family member or intimate partner has accused me of domestic violence” at some frequency, whereas 88.6% of respondents answered “never” (see Table 6 for a complete breakdown). We used a chi-square test to determine if there was a relationship between the respondents’ race and a family member accusing them of domestic violence. The results indicate that there is not a statistically

significant relationship between being accused of domestic violence by a family member and race (see Table 7).

The results to this question were then explored by gender. Of the 425 male respondents, 13.4% indicated that a family member accused them of domestic violence at some frequency, while 7.1% of the 267 female respondents reported being accused at some frequency. A chi-square test revealed that this difference was statistically significant (see Table 7). Male officers are more likely to report being accused of domestic violence by an intimate partner or family member.

Two questions explored respondents' own acknowledgements of particular behaviors: "In the past, I have been verbally abusive to an intimate partner or family member" and "In the past, I have been physically violent with an intimate partner or family member." Out of all respondents, 32.2% indicated that in the past, they had at some frequency been verbally abusive to an intimate partner or family member (N=698), with 67.8% indicating "never" (see Table 6 for a complete breakdown). This relationship did not differ significantly for gender or race (see Table 7).

When asked about physical behavior, the percentages of reported behavior decrease. Overall, 11.3% of respondents indicated that they had been physically violent with an intimate partner or family member (N = 700; see Table 6 for a complete breakdown). We used a chi-square test to determine whether there was a relationship between the respondents' gender and if they reported being physically violent with an intimate partner. The results indicate that there is not a statistically significant relationship between being physically abusive to an intimate partner and gender (see Table 7).

This question was then analyzed by race. The results showed that 17.4% of Black correctional officers reported that they had been physically violent in the past, while 9.7% of White officers and 11.9% of those categorized as “Other” indicated that they had been physically violent. A chi-square indicated that this relationship was statistically significant (see Table 7). Officers who reported themselves as non-White are slightly more likely to report being physically violent towards an intimate partner.

Examining the Relationship Between Officers’ Childhood and Adult Experiences

Because of previous studies indicating a correlation between childhood and adult experiences with domestic violence (Johnson, Todd, and Subramanian, 2005), we analyzed the present group to determine whether a relationship existed for these respondents. Of the respondents who reported using physical violence with an intimate partner or family member (N=79), 74.7% also reported being raised in a home where they witnessed domestic violence as a child (see Table 8 for a complete breakdown). A chi-square test was used to determine if the relationship between these two variables was statistically significant. The results indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship between witnessing abuse as a child and adult reported use of physical violence (see Table 9). The data reveal that officers who report witnessing domestic violence as children are more likely to report using physical violence with an intimate partner or family member.

Out of all the respondents who reported using physical violence with an intimate partner or family member (N=79), 64.6% also directly experienced domestic violence as a child (see Table 9 for a complete breakdown). Further chi-square analyses revealed a statistically significant relationship between directly experiencing domestic violence as a child and reported use of physical violence (see Table 9). Therefore, officers who report directly experiencing

domestic violence as a child are more likely to report using physical violence with an intimate partner or family member.

Additional Bivariate Analyses

The current study examined several bivariate analyses; therefore, a Bonferroni correction was used to address problems that may be associated with having multiple comparisons. In the current study, 20 bivariate comparisons are analyzed; when comparing multiple relationships we want to keep the overall familywise error rate to 5%. Therefore, we evaluated each of our bivariate comparisons against .05 (the current alpha level used) divided by 20. That is, for any one comparison to be considered significant, the obtained p-value would have to be less than 0.0025 and not 0.05. This makes it more difficult to claim a significant result and decreases the chance of making a Type I error. Table 10 summarizes the statistically significant relationships that held with the Bonferroni correction.

The data reveals that officers who report witnessing domestic violence and directly experiencing violence as a child are more likely to report using domestic violence as an adult. In addition, female officers were more likely to report knowing one or more officers who were unreported victims of domestic violence by an intimate partner or family member and are more likely to report episodes of domestic violence in their homes as an adult. The fact that these relationships remain statistically significant after using the Bonferroni adjustment indicates that the findings have credibility and should be used as a starting point to further investigate domestic violence among correctional officer families.

Multivariate Analyses

To further examine the relationship between correctional officers and domestic violence, additional multivariate analyses were conducted using SAS 9.2. Traditional use of significance

testing was applied also for the multivariate analyses using the $p \leq .05$, $p \leq .01$, and $p \leq .001$ levels. However, the authors also chose to include marginal statistical significance at the $p \leq .10$ level to approximate the association between variables. Logistic regression was used to explore the relationship between three types of office-involved domestic violence: episodes of domestic violence in home as an adult (1=yes, 0=no), reported prior use of verbal abuse to an intimate partner or family member (1=yes, 0=no), and reported prior use of physical abuse to an intimate partner or family member (1=yes, 0=no) and a number of background variables including age, race (White, Black, and Other), gender, witnessing domestic violence as child, and directly experiencing domestic violence as a child.

As shown in Table 11, two demographic and two childhood history with domestic violence measures were significantly associated with correctional officers reporting episodes of domestic violence in their home as an adult. Older correctional officers were significantly more likely than younger correctional officers to report episodes of domestic violence in their home as an adult. Thus, for every one year increase in age, the odds of reporting episodes of domestic violence increase by 3%. In addition, the odds of reporting episodes of domestic violence in the home for male correctional officers are 70% less than the odds for female correctional officers. The largest effects were found for the two childhood experiences variables: witnessing domestic violence as a child and directly experiencing domestic violence as a child, which increased the likelihood of reported episodes of domestic violence in the home as an adult by 100% and 224%, respectively.

Similar to first model, Model 2 also found two demographic and two childhood history with domestic violence measures significantly associated with correctional officers reporting use of physical abuse towards a family member or intimate partner. However, the finding for age

was negatively associated with reported use of physical abuse. Younger correctional officers were significantly more likely than older correctional officers to report physically abusing an intimate partner or family member. In addition, gender was not significantly associated with reported use of physical abuse, but a statistically significant association was found for race. Black correctional officers are more likely than White correctional officers to report being physical abusive to an intimate partner or family member. The odds of reported use of physical abuse for Black correctional officers are 79% higher than the odds for White correctional officers.¹ However, “Other” races (i.e., Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian, American Indian or Alaska Native, more than one race or other) were not significantly associated with reported use of physical abuse. Gender was also not significantly associated with reported use of physical abuse. Similar to the above findings, the largest effects in Model 2 were also found for witnessing domestic violence as a child and directly experiencing domestic violence as a child, which increased the likelihood of reported use of physical abuse by 164% and 115%, respectively.

Finally, in Model 3, the two childhood experiences with domestic violence variables were the only variables significantly associated with correctional officers reported use of verbal abuse. As a result, witnessing domestic violence as a child increased the likelihood of reporting use of verbal abuse by 163% and directly experiencing domestic violence as a child increased the likelihood of reporting use of verbal abuse by 97%.

Respondent’s Views of Ways to Reduce Officer-Involved Domestic Violence

¹ It’s important to note that for the variables Black and directly experiencing domestic violence as a child, the association only reached statistical significance using a value of $p \leq .10$. Thus given the marginal significance, these findings can only be speculative at this point.

An open-ended question was included on the online survey: *If it were entirely up to you, what are the top three changes that your agency should make to reduce domestic violence in families of criminal justice officers?* Researchers were surprised that 307 correctional officers responded to this voluntary write-in question. The responses were organized into several categories, but there was a large degree of consistency in the answers, which included repeated calls for more education/training on the topic (the most frequent answer); requests for employee assistance with stress; access to free, anonymous counseling/support; calls for more time off/reduction of workload; and an emphasis on the agency providing activities for officers' families. No answers were omitted for any reason, and the entire list is available on the LEFP website: <http://familyvio.csw.fsu.edu/LEF/>.

Discussion

The results of these data suggest noteworthy findings about correctional officers' attitudes about and experiences with domestic violence. In a sample that is demographically similar to what the Florida Department of Corrections reports, almost half of the responding officers reported that they believed domestic violence is common in families of criminal justice officers. More than a third of officers personally knew *at least* one officer who had committed domestic violence that went unreported, and just under a third knew of *at least* one unreported victim of domestic violence among their colleagues. Taken together, these data suggest that many officers believe that domestic violence is common among criminal justice families because they have personal knowledge of domestic violence occurring in the homes of these families. When compared to law enforcement studies, these percentages are similar to – but less than – research data analyzed by Ryan (2000), who found that 54% of 210 responding law enforcement officers indicated that they knew of an officer in their department who was “involved” in

domestic (without specifying as a victim or a perpetrator) violence, and 64% stated they had heard rumors about an officer in their department who was involved in domestic violence.

Regarding childhood experiences with domestic violence, a high number of officers in the present study –37.8%– reported *witnessing* domestic violence as children. These numbers are consistent with, but at the high end of, research that indicates that 20-40% of the general population has witnessed domestic violence as children (Henning, Leitenberg, Coffey, Turner, and Bennett, 1996).

Questions about adult experiences with domestic violence revealed that 26% of officers overall reported that there have been episodes of domestic violence in their homes. This is higher than the general rate of domestic violence – which is estimated to affect 10% of U.S. families (Gershon, Tiburzi, Lin, and Erwin, 2005). When asked whether they themselves have engaged in such behavior, 11.3% of officers reported that they had been physically violent with an intimate partner or family member--almost identical to the rate of officers who reported being accused of domestic violence by an intimate partner or family member (11.4%). A much higher percentage of officers reported using verbal abuse with an intimate partner or family member (32.2%). The reported use of physical violence (11.4%) and the report of episodes of domestic violence (26%) reinforce researchers' conclusion that there are both victims and perpetrators among correctional officers.

Many of the officers who reported having childhood experiences with domestic violence also reported using physical violence with their families as adults. Specifically, 74.7% of officers who reported using physical violence also reported witnessing domestic violence as children, while 64.6% of officers who reported using physical violence had directly experienced domestic violence as children. This relationship was found to be statistically significant using

the chi-square analysis, even after the more rigorous Bonferroni test. Furthermore, the multivariate analyses also confirmed these results. Both childhood experiences with domestic violence were shown to increase the likelihood of reporting episodes of domestic violence in the home as an adult, past verbal abuse with an intimate partner or family member, and past physical violence with an intimate partner or family member. Some researchers have noted the link between child and adult experiences with violence (Holtzworth-Munroe, Bates, Smutzler, and Sandin, 1997; Hotaling and Sugarman, 1986; Kalmuss, 1984); others have suggested that child *witnesses* of domestic violence are more likely to commit domestic violence than children who directly *experienced* domestic violence (Johnson, Todd, and Subramanian, 2005), and future research should continue to explore the relationship between childhood experiences and adult experiences with domestic violence among correctional officers.

Female officers were more likely to report knowing officers who were victims of domestic violence. In addition, female officers were also more likely to report episodes of domestic violence in their homes. The multivariate analyses further confirmed that female correction officers are more likely than male correction officers to report episodes of domestic violence in their home as an adult. However, gender was not significantly related to reported use of verbal abuse or physical violence in the multivariate analyses. These findings may reflect some of the limitations with some of the domestic violence measures. For instance, the present study does not allow for nuanced determinations of how these officers used verbal abuse and physical violence, and whether self-defense played a role in that violence. Studies have suggested that when women use violence, it is often for self-defense or escaping another's violence (Belknap and Melton, 2005; Dasgupta, 2001; Pence and Dasgupta, 2006). Other studies have proposed that female officers may use violence more than civilian females (Gershon, 2000),

but the present study does not offer definitive confirmation of this finding. Furthermore, respondents may have been dishonest when reporting whether they have been accused of violence. Aware of accusations about a “conspiratorial silence” about discussing women’s violence toward men (Shupe, Stacey, and Hazlewood, 1987, p.46; see also Macchietto, 1992), the present researchers were nevertheless unable to further define female respondents’ behavior. The issue of women’s use of violence has been controversial both among researchers who explore civilian populations as well as researchers who explore law enforcement officers. Further research should continue to explore issues relating to female correctional officers’ use of violence before any definitive conclusions can be drawn.

In our initial analysis regarding race and domestic violence, we found evidence that non-White officers were more likely to report that they know of officers who perpetrate domestic violence. We also found that Black officers were slightly more likely to report having witnessed domestic violence as children, and more likely to report using physical violence. After further analyses, none of the bivariate relationships held after adjusting for the Bonferroni correction. The multivariate analyses, however, illustrated a marginally significant relationship between race and correctional officers’ reported use of physical abuse towards an intimate partner or family member. Black correctional officers were more likely than White correctional officers to report past use of physical abuse to an intimate partner or family member. These findings are consistent with previous research that although such violence is found in every racial group in America, domestic violence may occur in Black families at slightly higher rates (Catalano, 2007; U.S. Department of Justice, 2000; Straus and Gelles, 1986).

These findings reinforce the need for education and prevention efforts for both first-time perpetration and first-time victimization in the battle against domestic violence (CDC, 2010).

Still, the demographic data of officers in the study raise concerns about how effective such efforts can be, given the fact that over 79% of respondent officers are over the age of 30, and over half of respondents had been correctional officers for over 10 years, suggesting entrenched behavior and values. These data reveal the need to reach recruits and new trainees much earlier in their careers with prevention efforts. Project researchers have offered to include Florida's training academies in the prevention project to reach potential officers *before* they are employed in correctional facilities. Beginning in 2011, those training academies will have access to the online curriculum for all trainees to ensure that they understand the consequences of domestic violence, communicate a zero-tolerance policy, and encourage trainees to seek help when they need it.

Limitations

Although the questions asked in the present study included more than simple "yes" or "no" response options, some of the results are difficult to interpret with precision. For example, the option of "rarely" on a scale from "never" to "very frequently" did not provide much information about how often violence was witnessed, experienced, or perpetrated by officers. The word "rarely" was intended by researchers to differentiate from other options that might indicate *ongoing* violence; however, because the majority of responses other than "never" were "rarely," researchers were not able draw conclusions about the amount of domestic violence respondents witnessed. Instead, we could only conclude the percentage of officers who actually reported witnessing, experiencing, or perpetrating violence. Researchers used the knowledge gained from this limitation to guide future research on the topic. The word "rarely" was changed to include a definition - "once or twice" -, which may help better interpret future results.

Furthermore, as in any social science research, there is reason to believe that responses to

self-report questionnaires may be less than fully truthful. Because of this, especially considering the tendency for individuals to underreport incidences of domestic violence (Greenfeld et al., 1998), there is strong reason to believe that the rates reported in this article are lower than actual experiences. To address this issue, the authors subsequently added a social desirability scale to the surveys, results of which will be analyzed and described in future articles.

Finally, although researchers have no reason to believe that correctional officers in other jurisdictions have had different experiences, the present study exclusively concerns Florida's correctional officers. Thus, it would be useful to be able to compare Florida's experiences with that of officers in other states. The sheer numbers of correctional officers in the United States and the importance of their role in keeping the public safe justify such an inquiry.

Implications for the Field

The large percentage of respondents who reported believing that domestic violence is common in criminal justice families, knowing about unreported victims and perpetrators of the crime, and coming from homes where domestic violence occurred justifies the large-scale prevention efforts currently initiated in the state among agencies that employ officers.

Further, despite the fact that cause-effect relationships have not been established to identify the precise root of domestic violence perpetration, child experiences with domestic violence are considered risk factors for adult experiences with the crime. Thus, the data from the present study may provide important information for the field. Childhood witnessing or experiencing of domestic violence has not been shown to affect individuals in a consistent or predictable way; specific characteristics of each child's abuse history or family characteristics can change the degree of psychological distress experienced by each victim (Silvern et al., 1995). Still, correctional agencies can look to the data not to seek to identify those who may have

markers that indicate higher risk for using adult violence because of their childhood experiences, but to take action to provide assistance for officers who have experienced psychological distress because of their past experiences. Correctional agencies that are made aware of the high rates of childhood victimization among their personnel may be able to offer and promote specific support to officers who seek treatment through such channels as employee assistance programs, counseling, and support.

Agencies should be heartened by the fact that so many officers affirmatively seek more information on the topic of officer-involved domestic violence, as evidenced by responses to open-ended questions on officers' own ideas for preventing such violence.

Future Research

The LEFP is a long-term project that may yield important contributions to the future of prevention work, but it is a new initiative undertaken in only one state. Research generally among correctional officers includes broad opportunities for study, with the potential benefit of finding ways to reduce negative outcomes in officers' personal and family life. The current investigation served as an initial descriptive exploration of the never before studied phenomenon of correctional officer-involved domestic violence. The results from both the bivariate and multivariate analyses further highlight the need to continue to explore the complex relationship between correctional officers and domestic violence. Related data from the surveys attached to the LEFP curriculum suggest that the correctional officers who took the curriculum reported higher occupational and organizational stress levels than did their responding police counterparts, at least in the pilot study (Summerlin, Oehme, Stern, and Valentine, 2010). Future data from the LEFP project will reveal if those increased stress levels continue to be reported, and may begin to show whether there are any correlates between stress level and reported

involvement with domestic violence perpetration or victimization. The LEFP team will also seek to gauge this population's commission of violence as it may be linked to depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and alcohol use, all of which have been suggested as risk factors for domestic violence in law enforcement families (Johnson, Todd, and Subramanian, 2005). Such variables and dynamics are worthy of the study and discussion that have been initiated in the state for finding ways to reduce and prevent domestic violence among *all* officers.

References

- Ammons, J. (2005). Batterers with badges: Officer-involved domestic violence. *Women Lawyers Journal*, 90(5), 28–39.
- Baig, A., Shadigian, E., and Heisler, M. (2006). Hidden from plain sight: Residents' domestic violence screening attitudes and reported practices. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 21, 949–954.
- Belknap, J., and Melton, H. (2005). Are heterosexual men also victims of intimate partner abuse? Retrieved from http://new.vawnet.org/category/Main_Doc.php?docid=370
- Bergen, G. T., Bourne-Lindamood, C., and Brecknock, S. (2000). In D.C. Sheehan (Ed.), *Domestic Violence by Police Officers* (63 – 73). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Berk, S. F and Loseke, D. R. (1980). “Handling” family violence: Situational determinants of police arrest in domestic disturbances. *Law and Society Review*, 15(2), 317–346.
- Boulin-Johnson, L. (2000). Burnout and work and family violence among police: Gender comparisons. In D.C. Sheehan (Ed.), *Domestic Violence by Police Officers* (107 – 121). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Catalano, S. (2007). *Intimate partner violence in the United States*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipvus.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). *Understanding intimate partner violence*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/IPV_factsheet-a.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Intimate partner violence: Prevention strategies. Retrieved from

<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/prevention.html>

Dasgupta, S. D. (2001). Towards an understanding of women's use of non-lethal violence in intimate heterosexual relationships. Retrieved from

http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_womviol.pdf

Dowden, C. and Tellier, C. (2004). Predicting work-related stress in correctional officers: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 32, 31–47.

Eastman, B. J. and Bunch, S. G. (2007). Providing services to survivors of domestic violence: A comparison of rural and urban service provider perceptions. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 22, 465–473.

Edleson, J. (1999). Children's witnessing of adult domestic violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14(8), 839–870.

Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., Pena, R., Agurto, S., and Winkvist, A. (2001). Researching domestic violence against women: Methodological and ethical considerations. *Studies in Family Planning*, 32(1), 1–6.

Feder, L. (1997). Domestic violence and police response in a pro-arrest jurisdiction. *Women and Criminal Justice*, 8(4), 79–98.

Finn, P. (2000). Addressing correctional officer stress: Programs and strategies. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

Florida Department of Corrections. (2010). Quick facts about the Florida Department of Corrections. Retrieved from <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/oth/Quickfacts.html>

Florida Department of Law Enforcement. (2009a). Criminal justice agency profile report

2009:Police Department Index Page 2009. Retrieved from

[http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/c4eaf021-d322-4127-82c8-](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/c4eaf021-d322-4127-82c8-a1ddc950ecad/2009-CJAP-Police-Department-Index-Page.aspx)

[a1ddc950ecad/2009-CJAP-Police-Department-Index-Page.aspx](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/c4eaf021-d322-4127-82c8-a1ddc950ecad/2009-CJAP-Police-Department-Index-Page.aspx)

Florida Department of Law Enforcement. (2009b). Criminal justice agency profile report

2009:Correctional Agencies Index Page 2009. Retrieved from

[http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/9ac83ac9-6cbf-4818-9609-](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/9ac83ac9-6cbf-4818-9609-9d6f742ee84a/2009-CJAP-Police-Department-Index-Page-%284%29.aspx)

[9d6f742ee84a/2009-CJAP-Police-Department-Index-Page-%284%29.aspx](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/9ac83ac9-6cbf-4818-9609-9d6f742ee84a/2009-CJAP-Police-Department-Index-Page-%284%29.aspx)

Florida Department of Law Enforcement. (2010). Crime in Florida: January – December

2009. Uniform Crime Reports. Retrieved from

[http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/563b1fa3-3c7b-4787-ac6d-](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/563b1fa3-3c7b-4787-ac6d-96c8fea73dcd/CIF_Annual09.aspx)

[96c8fea73dcd/CIF_Annual09.aspx](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/563b1fa3-3c7b-4787-ac6d-96c8fea73dcd/CIF_Annual09.aspx)

Gershon, R. (2000). National institute of justice final report “Project Shields”. Report submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Gershon, R. R. M., Barocas, B., Cnaton, A. N., Li, X., and Vlahov, D. (2009). Mental, physical, and behavioral outcomes associated with perceived work stress in police officers. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 36(3), 275–289.

Gershon, R. M., Tiburzi, M., Lin, S., and Erwin, M. J. (2005). Reports of intimate partner violence made against police officers. *Journal of Family Violence*, 20(1), 13–19.

Graves, A. (2004). Law enforcement involved domestic abuse. *Law and Order*, 52(11), 108–111.

Greenfeld, L. A., Rand, M. R., Craven, D., Klaus, P. A., Perkins, C. A., Ringel, C.,

Warchol, G., Maston, C., and Fox, J. A. (1998). Violence by intimates: Analysis of data on crimes by current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Gondolf, E., and White, R. (2001). Batterer program participants who repeatedly

reassault: Psychopathic tendencies and other disorders. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 16, 361–380.

Holtzworth-Munroe, A., Bates, L., Smutzler, N., and Sandin, E. (1997). A brief review of

the research on husband violence. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 2, 65–99.

Hotaling, G. T. and Sugarman, D. B. (1986). An analysis of risk markers in husband to

wife violence: The current state of knowledge. *Violence and Victims*, 1(2), 101–124.

Huang, C. J., and Gunn, T. (2001). An examination of domestic violence in an African

American community in North Carolina: Causes and consequences. *Journal of Black Studies*, 31, 790–811.

Institute for Family Violence Studies. (2009). Module 1: The dynamics of officer-

involved domestic violence. Retrieved from Law Enforcement Families

Partnership website: <http://training.familyvio.csw.fsu.edu/>

International Association of Chiefs of Police. (2003). Discussion paper on the IACP's

policy on domestic violence by police officers. Retrieved from

<http://www.markwynn.com/dv/IACP%20Officer%20Involved%20Position%20Pa>
per.pdf

Johnson, L. B. (1991). On the front lines: Police stress and family well-being. Hearing before the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families House of Representatives: 102 Congress First Session May 20 (p. 32-48). Washington DC: US Government Printing Office.

Johnson, L. B., Todd, M., and Subramanian, G. (2005). Violence in police families: Work-family spillover. *Journal of Family Violence*, 20(1), 3–12.

Kalmuss, D. (1984). The intergenerational transmission of marital aggression. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 46(1), 11–19.

Klein, R. and Klein, C. (2000). The extent of domestic violence within law enforcement: An empirical study. In D.C. Sheehan (Ed.), *Domestic Violence by Police Officers* (225 - 232). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Lambert, E. and Hogan, N. (2006). Possible antecedents of correctional staff work on family conflict. *Professional Issues in Criminal Justice*, 1(2), 17–34.

Lambert, E. G., Hogan, N. L., and Allen, R. I. (2006). Correlates of correctional officer job stress: The impact of organization structure. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 30(2), 227–246.

Lambert, E. G., Hogan, N. L., and Barton, S. M. (2004). The nature of work-family conflict among correctional staff: An exploratory examination. *Criminal Justice Review*, 29(1), 145–172.

Lambert, E.G., Hogan, N. L., and Tucker, K. A. (2009). Problems at work: Exploring the correlates of role stress among correctional staff. *The Prison Journal*, 89(4), 460–481.

- Lonsway, K. A. (2006). Policies on police officer domestic violence: Prevalence and specific provisions within large police agencies. *Police Quarterly*, 9(4), 397–422.
- Lott, L. D. (1995). Deadly secrets: Violence in the police family. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 64, 12–16.
- Matud, M. P. (2007). Dating violence and domestic violence. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 40, 295–297.
- Morgan, R. D., Van Haveren, R. A., and Pearson, C. A. (2002). Correctional officer burnout: Further analyses. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 29, 144–160.
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2003). Costs of intimate partner violence against women across the United States. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (1997). Domestic violence facts. Retrieved from [http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet\(National\).pdf](http://www.ncadv.org/files/DomesticViolenceFactSheet(National).pdf)
- Neidig, P. H., Russell, H. E., and Seng, A. F. (1992). Interspousal aggression in law enforcement families: A preliminary investigation. *Police Studies*, 15(1), 30–38.
- Pagelow, M. D. (1992). Adult victims of domestic violence: Battered women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 7(1), 87–120.
- Pence, E., Dasgupta, S. D. (2006). Re-examining ‘battering’: Are all acts of violence against intimate partners the same? Retrieved from <http://www.acadv.org/ReexaminingBattering%5B1%5D.pdf>

- Robinson, A. L. and Chandek, M. S. (2000). The domestic violence arrest decision: Examining demographic, attitudinal, and situational variables. *Crime and Delinquency*, 46(1), 18–37.
- Ryan., A. H. (2000). The prevalence of domestic violence in police families. In D.C. Sheehan (Ed.), *Domestic Violence by Police Officers* (297 -307). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Schaufeli, W. B. and Peeters, M. C. W. (2000). Job stress and burnout among correctional officers: A literature review. *International Journal of Stress Management*, 7(1), 19–48.
- Shalala, D. (1994). Domestic abuse against women is epidemic in America, Shalala says. Health and Human Services Press Office. Retrieved from <http://archive.hhs.gov/news/press/1994pres/940311.txt>
- Silvern, L., Karyl, J., Waelde, L., Hodges, W. F., Starek, J., Heidt, E., and Min, K. (1995). Retrospective reports of parental partner abuse: Relationships to depression, trauma symptoms and self-esteem among college students. *Journal of Family Violence*, 10(2), 177–202.
- Straus, M. A. and Gelle, R. J. (1986). Societal changes and change in family violence from 1975 to 1985 as revealed by two national surveys. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 52, 465–479.
- Summerlin, Z., Oehme, K., Stern, N., and Valentine, C. (2010). Disparate levels of stress in police and correctional officers: Preliminary evidence from a pilot study on

domestic violence. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 20(6), 762–777.

Tewksbury, R. and Higgins, G. E. (2006). Prison staff and work stress: The role of organizational and emotional influences. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 30(2), 247–266.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice. (2010). Human resources home. Retrieved from <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/vacancy/hr-home/index.html>

Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. (1998). Prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. (2000). Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Triplett, R., Mullings, J. L., and Scarborough, K. E. (1999). Examining the effect of work-home conflict on work-related stress among correctional officers. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 27(4), 371–385.

United States Department of Agriculture. (2010). Domestic violence awareness handbook. Retrieved from <http://www.dm.usda.gov/shmd/aware.htm>

U.S. Department of Justice. (2000). *Intimate Partner Violence*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Wetendorf, D. (2000). The impact of police-perpetrated domestic violence. In D.C.

Sheehan (Ed.), *Domestic Violence by Police Officers* (375 - 382). Washington,

D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Wilt, S. and Olson, S. (1996). Prevalence of domestic violence in the United States.

Journal of American Women's Medical Association, 51(3), 77-82.

Table 1: Demographic Information

Gender	N	Percentage
Male	427	60.9
Female	271	38.7
Transgender	3	0.4
Total	701	
Race	N	Percentage
White	492	70.4
Black or African American	138	19.7
Asian	3	0.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	1.9
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	0.3
More than one race	13	1.9
Other	38	5.4
Total	699	100
Ethnicity	N	Percentage
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino	643	93.5
Hispanic of Latino	45	6.5
Total	688	100
Age	N	Percentage
Under 20	1	0.2
20-29	121	19.1
30-39	161	25.5
40-49	204	32.3
50-59	128	20.3
60 and older	17	2.7
Total	632	100
Community Type	N	Percentage
Rural	467	66.3
Suburban	127	18.0
Urban	110	15.6
Total	704	100
Living Arrangements	N	Percentage
Living with spouse/intimate partner	485	75.9
Living alone	127	19.9
Living with a friend	27	4.2
Other	69	10.8
Total	708	100
Length of Service	N	Percentage
Less than 10 years	326	48.5
10-19 years	208	31.0
20-29 years	123	18.3
More than 30 years	15	2.1
Total	672	100

Table 2: Respondents’ Attitudes about Domestic Violence (DV) among Correctional Officers

	ALL	RACE			Sig?	GENDER		Sig?
Variables		White	Black	Other		Male	Female	
Belief that DV is common among CJ families								
YES	346 (49.4%)	237 (48.7%)	70 (51.9%)	39 (50%)	Not Significant*	199 (47.0%)	143 (53.6%)	Not Significant*
NO	354 (50.6%)	250 (51.3%)	65 (48.1%)	39 (50%)		224 (53%)	124 (46.4%)	
Total	700 (100%)	487 (100%)	135 (100%)	78 (100%)		423 (100%)	267 (100%)	
Knowledge of unreported officer committed DV								
None	473 (67.3%)	342 (70.2%)	82 (59.4%)	49 (62.8%)	Significant*	297 (70%)	169 (63.1%)	Significant*
1	80 (11.4%)	57 (11.7%)	17 (12.3%)	6 (7.7%)		42 (9.9%)	35 (13.1%)	
2 or 3	109 (15.5%)	67 (13.8%)	27 (19.6%)	15 (19.2%)		67 (15.8%)	42 (15.7%)	
4 or 5	18 (2.6%)	9 (1.8%)	5 (3.6%)	4 (5.1%)		6 (1.4%)	12 (4.5%)	
6 or more	23 (3.3%)	12 (2.5%)	7 (5.1%)	4 (5.1%)		12 (2.8%)	10 (3.7%)	
Total	703 (100%)	487 (100%)	138 (100%)	78 (100%)		424 (100%)	268 (100%)	
Knowledge of unreported victims of DV								
None	511 (72.8%)	358 (73.7%)	93 (67.4%)	60 (77%)	Not Significant*	325 (76.9%)	177 (66.0%)	Significant*
1	65 (9.3%)	49 (10.1%)	13 (9.4%)	3 (3.8%)		34 (8.0%)	29 (10.9%)	
2 or 3	98 (14.0%)	64 (13.2%)	23 (16.7%)	11 (14.1%)		53 (12.5%)	45 (16.8%)	
4 or 5	14 (2.0%)	6 (1.2%)	5 (3.6%)	3 (3.8%)		6 (1.4%)	8 (3.0%)	
6 or more	14 (2.0%)	9 (1.9%)	4 (2.9%)	1 (1.3%)		5 (1.2%)	9 (3.4%)	
Total	702 (100%)	486 (100%)	138 (100%)	78 (100%)		423 (100%)	268 (100%)	
See Table 3 for summary chi-square results								

Table 3: Chi-Square Results for Respondents' Attitudes about Domestic Violence (DV) among Correctional Officers

Variables	RACE				GENDER			
	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.
Belief that DV is common among CJ families	.446	2	.800	No	2.778	1	.096	No
Knowledge about unreported officer committed DV	6.097	2	.047	Yes	3.866	1	.049	Yes
Knowledge of unreported victims of DV	1.981	2	.371	No	9.573	1	.002	Yes
<i>Note:</i> Chi-Square value at $p \leq .05$.								

Table 4: Respondents' Childhood Experiences with Domestic Violence (DV)

	ALL	RACE			Sig?	GENDER		Sig?
Variables		White	Black	Other		Male	Female	
Witnessed DV as a child								
Very Frequently	32 (4.6%)	18 (3.7%)	8 (5.8%)	6 (8.0%)	Significant*	14 (3.3%)	18 (6.8%)	Not Significant*
Frequently	39 (5.6%)	24 (4.9%)	8 (5.8%)	7 (9.3%)		22 (5.2%)	16 (6.0%)	
Occasionally	85 (12.2%)	63 (13.0%)	15 (10.9%)	7 (9.3%)		56 (13.2%)	27 (10.2%)	
Rarely	108 (15.5%)	60 (12.3%)	31 (22.5%)	17 (22.7%)		65 (15.3%)	41 (15.4%)	
Never	435 (62.2%)	321 (66.0%)	76 (55.1%)	38 (50.7%)		267 (63.0%)	164 (61.7%)	
Total	699 (100%)	486 (100%)	138 (100%)	75 (100%)		424 (100%)	266 (100%)	
Directly experiencing DV as a child								
Very Frequently	30 (4.3%)	18 (3.7%)	5 (3.6%)	7 (9.3%)	Not Significant*	13 (3.1%)	17 (6.4%)	Significant*
Frequently	32 (4.6%)	21 (4.3%)	8 (5.8%)	3 (4.0%)		16 (3.8%)	16 (6.0%)	
Occasionally	67 (9.6%)	48 (9.9%)	11 (8.0%)	8 (10.7%)		45 (10.7%)	20 (7.5%)	
Rarely	79 (11.4%)	50 (10.4%)	17 (12.3%)	12 (16.0%)		55 (13.1%)	21 (7.9%)	
Never	488 (70.1%)	346 (71.6%)	97 (70.3%)	45 (60.0%)		292 (69.4%)	192 (72.2%)	
Total	696 (100%)	483 (100%)	138 (100%)	75 (100%)		421 (100%)	266 (100%)	
See Table 5 for summary chi-square results.								

Table 5: Summary Table of Chi-Square Results for Respondents' Childhood Experiences with Domestic Violence (DV)

Variables	RACE				GENDER			
	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.
Witnessed DV as a child	20.221	8	.010	Yes	5.751	4	.219	No
Directly experiencing DV as a child	9.225	8	.324	No	11.642	4	.020	Yes
<i>Note: Chi-Square value at $p \leq .05$.</i>								

Table 6: Respondents’ Adult Experiences with Domestic Violence (DV)

Variables	ALL	RACE			Sig?	GENDER		Sig?
		White	Black	Other		Male	Female	
Episodes of DV in home as an adult								
Very Frequently	16 (2.3%)	9 (1.9%)	3 (2.2%)	4 (5.3%)	Not Significant*	6 (1.4%)	10 (3.8%)	Significant*
Frequently	14 (2.0%)	9 (1.9%)	4 (2.9%)	1 (1.3%)		4 (0.9%)	10 (3.8%)	
Occasionally	61 (8.7%)	42 (8.6%)	12 (8.7%)	7 (9.3%)		28 (6.6%)	32 (12.0%)	
Rarely	91 (13.0%)	55 (11.3%)	24 (17.4%)	12 (16.0%)		42 (9.9%)	45 (16.9%)	
Never	517 (74.0%)	371 (76.3%)	95 (68.8%)	51 (68.0%)		344 (81.1%)	169 (63.5%)	
Total	699 (100%)	486 (100%)	138 (100%)	75 (100%)		424 (100%)	266 (100%)	
Accused of DV as an adult								
Very Frequently	6 (0.9%)	1 (0.2%)	3 (2.2%)	2 (2.6%)	Not Significant*	4 (0.9%)	2 (0.7%)	Significant*
Frequently	5 (0.7%)	3 (0.6%)	2 (1.4%)	0 (0%)		4 (0.9%)	0 (0%)	
Occasionally	24 (3.4%)	16 (3.3%)	4 (2.9%)	4 (5.3%)		19 (4.5%)	3 (1.1%)	
Rarely	45 (6.4%)	30 (6.2%)	10 (7.2%)	5 (6.6%)		30 (7.1%)	14 (5.2%)	
Never	621 (88.6%)	437 (89.7%)	119 (86.2%)	65 (85.5%)		368 (86.6%)	248 (92.9%)	
Total	701 (100%)	487 (100%)	138 (100%)	76 (100%)		425 (100%)	267 (100%)	
Reported use of verbal abuse								
Very Frequently	9 (1.3%)	3 (0.6%)	4 (2.9%)	2 (2.7%)	Not Significant*	4 (0.9%)	4 (1.5%)	Not Significant*
Frequently	14 (2.0%)	8 (1.6%)	4 (2.9%)	2 (2.7%)		10 (2.4%)	3 (1.1%)	
Occasionally	49 (7.0%)	33 (6.8%)	12 (8.8%)	4 (5.4%)		29 (6.9%)	20 (7.5%)	
Rarely	153 (21.9%)	110 (22.6%)	26 (19.0%)	17 (23.0%)		92 (21.7%)	57 (21.4%)	
Never	473 (67.8%)	333 (68.4%)	91 (66.4%)	49 (66.2%)		288 (68.1%)	182 (68.4%)	
Total	698 (100%)	487 (100%)	137 (100%)	74 (100%)		423 (100%)	266 (100%)	
Reported use of physical abuse								
Very Frequently	6 (0.9%)	3 (0.6%)	1 (0.7%)	2 (2.6%)	Significant*	4 (0.9%)	2 (0.8%)	Not Significant*
Frequently	7 (1.0%)	4 (0.8%)	3 (2.2%)	0 (0%)		3 (0.7%)	2 (0.8%)	
Occasionally	14 (2.0%)	9 (1.9%)	3 (2.2%)	2 (2.6%)		8 (1.9%)	6 (2.3%)	
Rarely	52 (7.4%)	31 (6.4%)	17 (12.3%)	4 (5.3%)		32 (7.5%)	20 (7.5%)	
Never	621 (88.7%)	439 (90.3%)	114 (82.6%)	68 (89.5%)		378 (88.9%)	236 (88.7%)	
Total	700 (100%)	486 (100%)	138 (100%)	76 (100%)		425 (100%)	266 (100%)	

*See Table 7 for summary chi-square results.

Table 7: Summary Table of Chi-Square Results for Respondents' Adult Experiences with Domestic Violence (DV)

Variables	RACE				GENDER			
	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.
Episodes of DV in home as an adult	5.664	2	.059	No	26.543	1	.000	Yes
Accused of DV as an adult	3.001	2	.223	No	6.648	1	.010	Yes
Reported use of verbal abusive	.693	2	.707	No	.009	1	.927	No
Reported use of physical abuse	6.346	2	.042	Yes	.008	1	.929	No

Note: Chi-Square value at $p \leq .05$.

Table 8: Relationship Between Officers' Childhood and Adult Experiences with Domestic Violence (DV)

Variables	Reported use of physical abuse as an adult		
	No	Yes	Total
Witnessed DV as a child			
No	414 (95.4%)	20 (4.6%)	434 (100%)
Yes	205 (77.7%)	59 (22.3%)	264 (100%)
Directly experiencing DV as a child			
No	459 (94.3%)	28 (5.7%)	487 (100%)
Yes	157 (75.5%)	51 (24.5%)	208 (100%)
<i>Note: See Table 9 for summary chi-square results.</i>			

Table 9: Chi-Square Results for the Relationship Between Officers' Childhood and Adult Experiences with Domestic Violence (DV)

Variables	Reported use of physical abuse as an adult			
	Chi-Square	DF	P-value	Sig.
Witnessed DV as a child	51.469	1	.000	Yes
Directly experiencing DV as a child	50.967	1	.000	Yes
<i>Note: Chi-Square value at $p \leq .05$.</i>				

Table 10: Summary of Bonferroni Adjustment Results

	Reported use of physical abuse as an adult		
Variables	Chi-Square	P-value	Sig.
Witnessed DV as a child	51.469	.000	Yes
Directly experiencing DV as a child	50.967	.000	Yes
GENDER			
	Chi-Square	P-value	Sig.
Knowledge of unreported victims of DV	9.573	.002	Yes
Episodes of DV in home as an adult	26.543	.000	Yes

Note: Chi-Square value at $p \leq .0025$.

Table 11: Logistic Regression Models Predicting Several Types of Office-Involved Domestic Violence (OIDV)

	OIDV					
	Model 1: Adult Episodes (N=622)		Model 2: Physical (N=621)		Model 3: Verbal (N=621)	
	b	Odds Ratio	b	Odds Ratio	b	Odds Ratio
Intercept	-2.26 (0.45)***		-1.96(0.58)**		-1.93(0.40)***	
Age	0.03 (0.01)	1.03**	-0.03 (0.01)	0.97*	0.01 (0.01)	1.01
Other	0.14 (0.36)	1.15	-0.48 (0.57)	0.62	0.03 (0.35)	1.03
Black	0.14 (0.26)	1.15	0.58 (0.32)	1.79 [†]	0.02 (0.24)	1.02
Male	-1.19 (0.21)	0.31***	0.13 (0.29)	1.14	0.09 (0.19)	1.09
Childhood Witness	0.69 (0.33)	2.00*	0.97 (0.46)	2.64*	0.97 (0.30)	2.63***
Childhood Direct	1.18 (0.34)	3.24***	0.77 (0.45)	2.15 [†]	0.68 (0.30)	1.97*
Nagelkerke R ²	.24		.15		.16	

NOTE: White is omitted as reference category.

[†] p ≤ .10 * p ≤ .05 ** p ≤ .01 *** p ≤ .001