

**Milwaukee County Human Services'
Funding Highlights
1999**

Community Aids

Total State BCA	\$20,247,268
Required County Match	\$ 8,831,291
Total Human Services Property Tax Levy	\$48,417,202
Tax Levy in Excess of County Match	\$39,585,911

Property Tax Levy

The levy accounts for 23¢ of every dollar spent on human services in Milwaukee County.

With the exceptions of AODA services, state juvenile institution charges and categorical assistance for developmentally and physically disabled individuals, the County property tax support for all other human services exceeds contributions *from any other revenue source* - state, federal or private.

The County levy for mental health services outstrips state community aids for those same services by more than 2 to 1.

Youth Aids

Ninety-seven cents of every Youth Aids dollar the county receives go right back to the state in the form of payments for county juveniles placed in state correctional institutions.

The formula for the distribution of Youth Aids is so outdated and in need of reform that *the County is denied \$13 million dollars a year in additional funding* that could be used on far less costly and more effective programs than institutional placement.

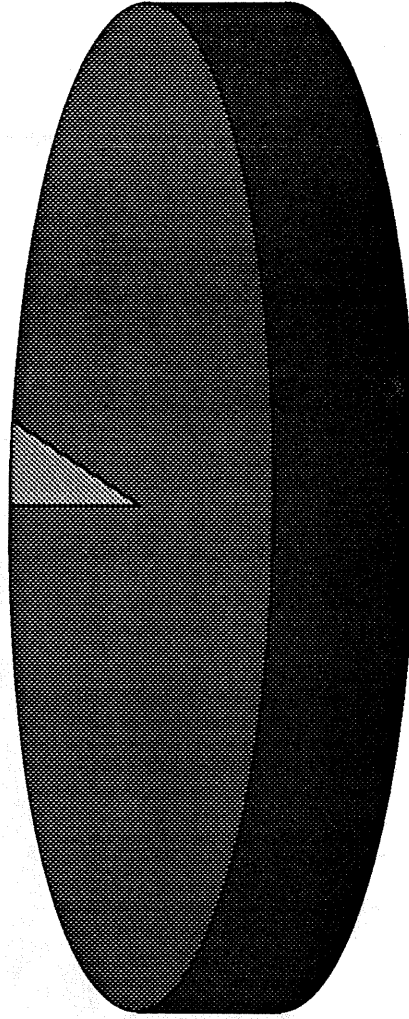
NOTE:

All dollar amounts in this and the attached documents are 1999 budgeted. Child Welfare and Financial Assistance revenues and expenditures are not included in these totals.

Youth Aids Revenue by Expenditure Category

Total State Funding: \$32,173,265

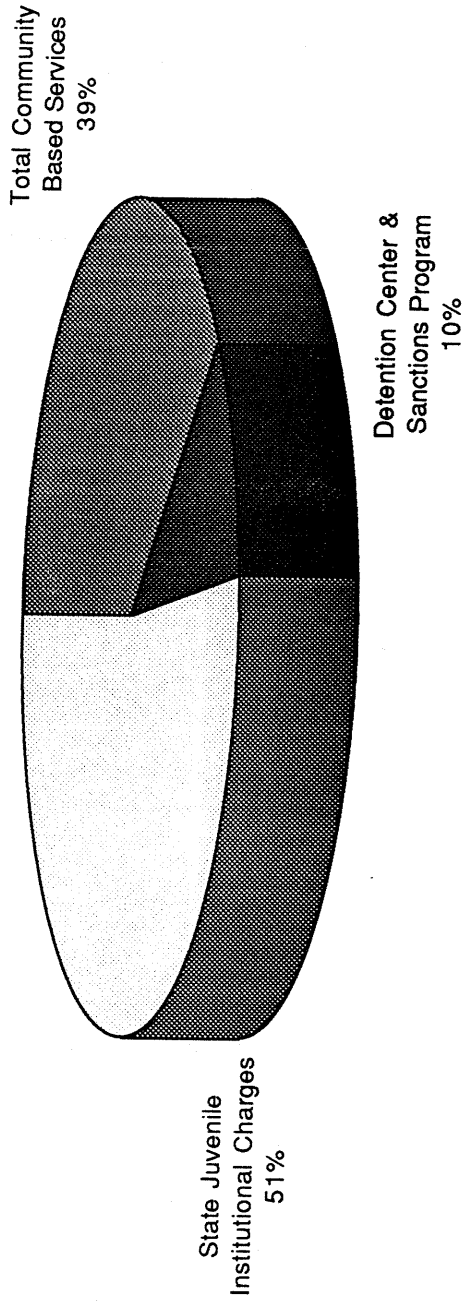
Total Community Based
Services
3%



State Juvenile Institutional
Charges
97%

Youth Aids Expenditures by Category

Total Expenditures: \$60,646,333



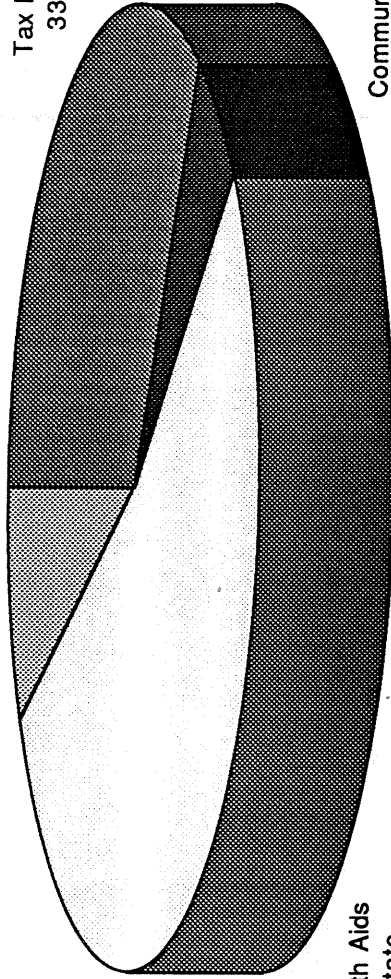
Total Delinquency/Youth Aids Funding By Source

Total Expenditures: \$60,646,333

Other Revenue 8%
4.8 million

Tax Levy 33%

\$20 million



Youth Aids State 53%

\$32 million

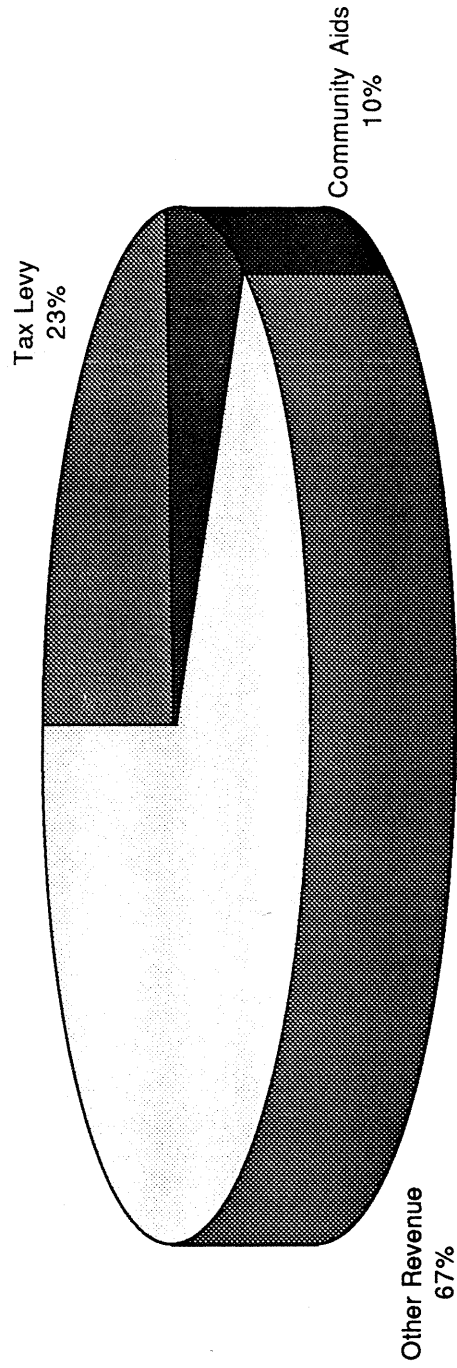
Community Aids State 6%

\$36 million

35 million

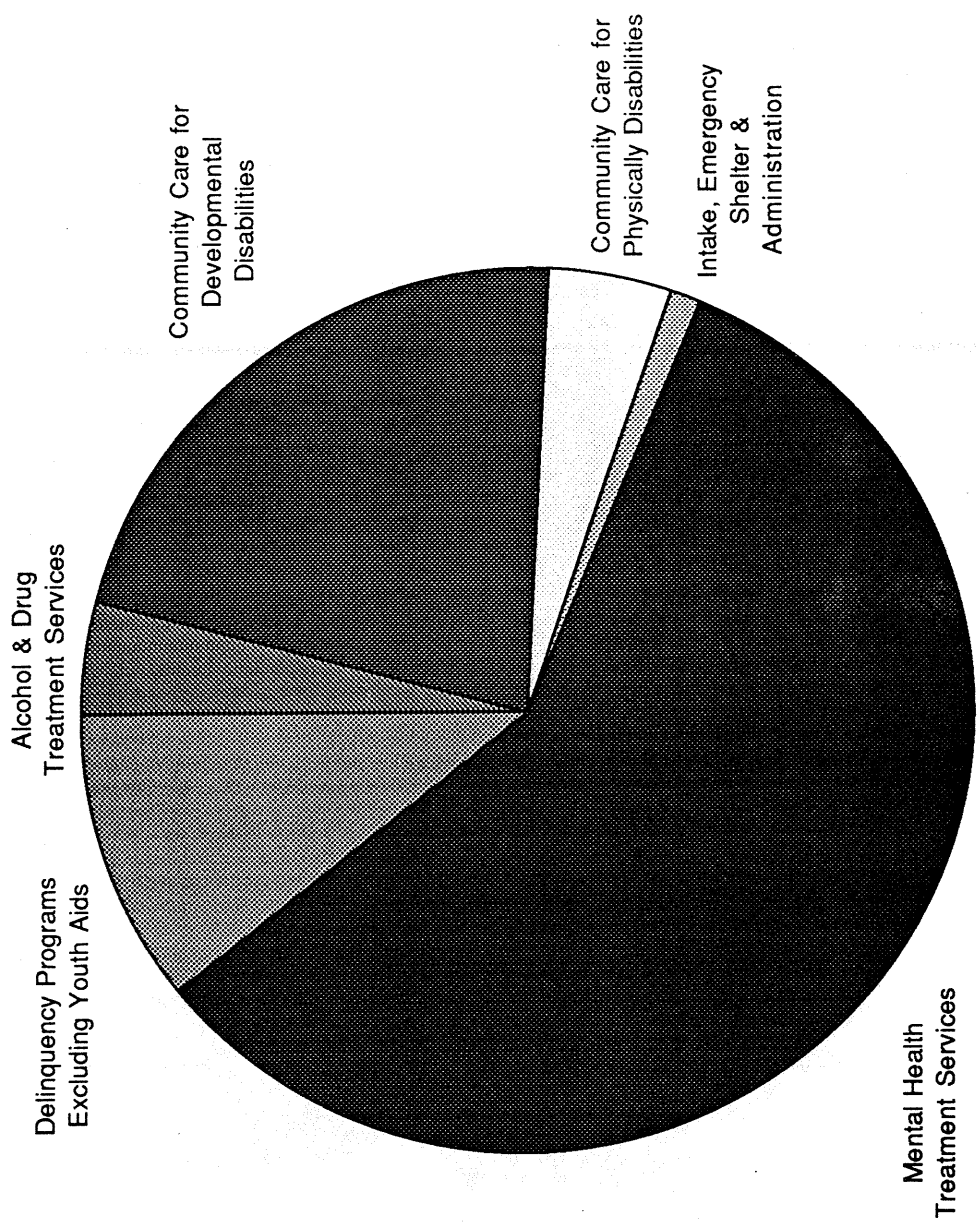
Total Human Services Expenditures by Funding Source

Total 1999 Expenditures: \$207,341,597
Other Revenues: \$138,676,831
Property Tax Levy: \$48,417,202
Basic Community Aids: \$20,247,268



Total 1997 Human Services Funding By Program

Total Expenditures: \$207,341,597



CUSTODY AND PHYSICAL PLACEMENT

The current system for custody and physical placement is outdated and in need of change. Today's system was built on the premise that mothers were the best suited to stay at home and raise their children as fathers were traditionally viewed as the bread winners who would assume the primary responsibility in earning a living for the family. Times have changed and so have the roles that mothers and fathers play in their children's lives. We need to take this issue of child custody and placement into the 20th century and beyond.

I am the mother of two grown children and for the past twenty years I have acted as the Director of the Family Training Program which contracts with Departments of Social Services in eleven counties throughout the State of Wisconsin to provide in-home parent training to parents and teens who are at risk of abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency. Prior to this experience, I was a foster parent for nine years and cared for a total of 43 foster children during this time. I've also done workshops and presentations at the County, State, and national levels. From these experiences, I have learned that the worse thing that can happen to children is rejection and abandonment from their parental figures. The current system for custody and physical placement often times, and unwittingly, serves to alienate biological fathers who could be invaluable to the physical and emotional well-being of their children's lives. As it currently exists, mothers most often receive placement rights as there appears to be a general sentiment among judges that mothers are automatically presumed to be superior to the fathers when it come to raising healthy children. This presumption is counterproductive for many children and does not allow for the multitude of factors which must be considered when discussing the merits of each parent. In many instances the discarded father may be equal to or superior to the mother in the stability of such things as their family background, their employment, housing and mental health histories and yet they are still overlooked as primary caretakers for the children.

The breakdown of the family unit has been cited in contributing to the increasing levels of juvenile delinquency. We continue to spend more and more money on parenting programs, teen mentoring programs, and out-of-home placements while ignoring a significant factor and a valuable resource in creating long-term benefits for our children, families, county and state. We need to start with the premise that children are not property owned by either one parent or the other. Children are brought into this world by two biological parents and both parents share equally in the responsibility of raising them. Children have a birthright to the availability of both parents. As a society, we need both mothers and fathers parenting their children.

In the not too distant past, the courtrooms were filled with couples who were divorcing, arguing and trying to figure out who was at fault. The courts concluded that this served no constructive purpose and we soon had no fault divorces. Then came the courtroom battles between divorced couples who were fighting over the division of personal assets. Laws were soon established to divide marital property in an equal manner and one more issue was resolved. Additional laws were implemented to make fathers responsible for paying child support and the term "dead beat dads" decreased in usage as a result.

Today, we continue unnecessary disputes in the court rooms. Now we fill up the courtrooms with divorced couples fighting over "who gets the kids." It is my hope that we can take this fight out of the courtroom by implementing laws which will presume and assert that children are, as a

matter of birthright, the responsibility of both parents. It is also my hope that we would change or correct any ambivalent wording in the current laws which would allow this birthright to be overlooked or ignored by judges who might be biased in their perceptions.

Finally, as we recognize the vital role that both parents play in raising emotionally healthy children, it is evident that not all parents will be able to achieve an agreeable arrangement. While mediation and Guardian ad litem recommendations have been used in many situations, each of these options have potential drawbacks. Parents may not be capable of mediation due to cognitive disabilities, mental illness, or chronic alcohol/drug issues. Mediation agreements are also difficult to enforce. Guardian ad litem are trained as attorneys who practice in the field of law but who are not necessarily trained in conducting or interpreting family dynamics. Guardian ad litem generally have limited client contacts, may not visit the home and sometimes rotate shifts from month to month resulting in a child ending up with several guardian ad litem and little or no consistency.

For these reasons, I would further propose that parents unable to achieve an agreeable, shared, child care arrangement should become involved (at their expense) with an intensive-in-home study by a qualified agency. An assessment of each home would be conducted to provide objective information and recommendations; pertinent co-parent training could also be provided at this time. Agencies now exist that conduct these assessments and co-parent training. It is my opinion that this type of service would far exceed the present system in its ability to meet the needs of divorced couples and their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I hope my comments will help in some way to better meet the needs of the children who don't want to have to choose between two parents that they love.

Presented by: Karen Marsden
Collaboration with: Tom Maves

WCSEA

Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association

320 S. Main Street • Room 219

Jefferson, WI 53549

920-674-7377

April 20, 1999

TO: Judiciary and Consumer Affairs
Senators Gary George, Ch., Fred Risser, Alice Clausing,
Joanne Huelsman, Alberta Darling.

RE: SB107

**The Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association (WCSEA)
opposes SB107.**

This bill proposes significant changes to the very heart and soul of family law in Wisconsin, namely, what will the law do to protect the family ties that can be preserved after the loss of an intimate relationship between partners who share children.

Several of the proposed changes regarding best interest of the child, appointment of guardians ad litem for children, and the ordering of custody and placement impact Child Support Enforcement operations only indirectly. Others such as repeal of the requirement that the court must first determine that a paternity action in a marital case is in the best interest of a child when someone other than the husband alleges paternity of the child very directly affects agency operations. This change, and the proposed repeal of the law which allows the Judge or Family Court Commissioner to refuse to order genetic tests if they find that determination of paternity is not in the child's best interest provoke powerful obstacles to maintaining an intact family unit where one partner's affections temporarily strayed but the husband and wife stay together and wish to keep their family together afterward. It appears that such obstacles to maintaining stability in a family unit are in direct conflict with a public policy of promoting family unity and building stronger families wherever we can.

SB107 proposes that an adjudicated father can only be held liable for support for the period after the date of filing a voluntary acknowledgment or the date of adjudication. This may unfairly shift all of the responsibility for the earliest and most demanding childcare to the mother. It can also provide a significant incentive for the alleged father to delay the legal process or acknowledgment of his paternity.

The bill also shifts all of the cost of birth expenses paid through Medical Assistance to the taxpayer. By stating that the father may only be ordered to "make an equal contribution", he is effectively relieved of any responsibility for reimbursement because federal law precludes states from collecting from the recipient of the benefits, the mother.

Finally, the bill would make public the names of men alleged to be the father of a nonmarital child, regardless of whether they have been excluded by genetic testing. Permitting public access to records of paternity proceedings which are now kept confidential has the potential for embarrassment at best or causing distrust and destruction of subsequent relationships at worst.

The Association urges this committee to consider carefully the potential untoward effects of this bill on Wisconsin's children and their families. **SB107 should not become law.**



Elaine E. Richmond
President, WCSEA

IN
SUPPORT OF
S.B. 107
AND
WHY YOU
SHOULD
TOO!!!

414-886-4196

200-5-1-1

WHY SENATE BILL 107?

Senate Bill 107 was written to give:

1. Children the input of both a mother and a father
2. Parents their right and responsibility to raise their children.
3. Wisconsin fewer children involved in juvenile delinquency, teenage pregnancy, and poor grades. Children lacking the input of both parents are often fall into these categories.
4. Wisconsin a reduction in taxes by reducing these social ills.

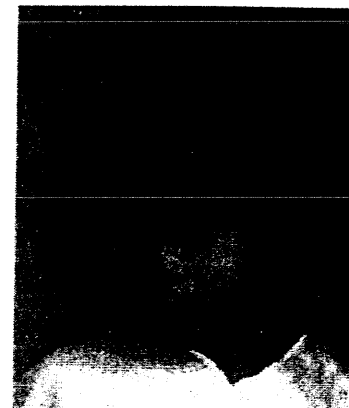
This bill was written because:

1. A group of concerned parents came together to stop the nonsense involved during divorce and child custody.
2. We know that the current law is adversarial; needlessly pitting one parent against the other.
3. Children need regular input from both parents. It spares the child from the trauma of losing a parent.
4. We want parents who are fit and able to parent, to be given equal opportunity to be their parent.
5. We want the parents to be encouraged to decide upon the future of their family, not the court system. Perhaps this will save some marriages.
6. Children are learning that lies and deceit is a normal part of life.
7. Children are losing a college education to huge lawyer and court fees.

Divorce as a cash crop

Who wins in divorce? The people who make the most money! Divorce is a cash crop! The winners are the ones earning a living from divorce ... such as lawyers (three minimum per custody- his, hers, and the kids - the guardian et litum), judges, and psychologists. The losers are the parents who spend a child's education on custody proceedings. The losers are the children. These are the children, which statistics prove, are ones more likely to end up pregnant, on welfare, on drugs, in jail, etc. Who pays for these services? You do. You are another loser. You are the one who pays the taxes to build the jails, furnish the courtrooms, and counsel the troubled teens.

Divorcing people are charged on average \$15,000 each to be represented. Current law has some lawyers turning custody into a "win-lose" game for their client. One parent "wins" by becoming the custodial parent and making all the decisions. The other parent "looses". The other parent is reduced to an occasional weekend visitor, with no say as to how the child is raised. No wonder parents are not getting along and false accusations of abuse are on the rise. The current justice system and lawyers promote fighting. Before Wisconsin was a 50/50 property state, 80% of divorcing couples hired lawyers and went to court over property/asset issues. Now, less than 2% of cases go to court. This is the same principal of Equal Shared Parenting/Kids Need both Parents. Starting out on equal footing, takes the incentive to fight away.



18,000 Wisconsinites divorce every year with 10,000 lawyers "willing to do the battle". Add to this the psychologists, private detectives, retirement plan and property appraisers, Guardians ad Litem, and the court filing fees they pay. This is a \$200 million dollars per year industry. What would happen if a cap of \$3,000 were put on divorce fees?

Wisconsin taxpayers spend \$117,000 annually in salary and benefits each circuit court judge. \$49 million financing the family courts, commissioners, counseling services, and the child support enforcement agency.

According to research by Legislation for Kids and Dads, the cost of divorce to Wisconsin taxpayers and the divorcing couple is a shocking quarter of a billion dollars annually. No one has calculated the long-term costs to individuals and society because of the social ills related to custody.

What you can do to promote Equal Shared Parenting

In order to get this bill to pass, the legislators need to hear your input. The public needs to hear and be educated about the bill so they can also write to their legislators. Please write a letter to your Senator, Representative, and a letter to the editor of your local paper. Listed are some items to include in your letters as you see fit.

- Equal Shared Parenting / Kids Need Both Parents
- SB107 for the Senators
- LRB 2587 for the Representatives - currently getting sponsors.
- Children from single parent homes have a greater chance of being involved in drugs, teenage pregnancy, and juvenile delinquency.
- The bill protects children from the adversarial system that is now in effect.
- The adversarial system pits one parent against the other, makes one parent the bad parent, promotes false accusations. The only ones who win are the ones who make money - lawyers, psychologists, etc.
- The adversarial system also increases our taxes... prisons need to be built, dysfunctional children need to be reared.
- The bill gives each parent the right and responsibility to raise their children.
- Parents start out on equal footing with this bill.
- With the incentive to fight taken away, the parents are encouraged to work out the future of their children together.

Children need both moms and dads !

Frequently Asked Questions about Equal Shared Parenting / Kids Need Both Parents

Q. What is Equal Shared Parenting / Kids Need Both Parents?

A: Equal Shared Parenting / Kids Need Both Parents is proposed legislation in Wisconsin, Senate Bill **107**. This bill ensures that children have the right to equal access to both parents in cases of custody and divorce. Wisconsin believes that parents have a right and responsibility to parent their child. Of course, parents who are convicted of child abuse in the Children's Code 48 would not be even considered for Equal Shared Parenting (ESP).

Q: What about high conflict situations?

A: Equal Shared Parenting is even more important in these types of situations. Under current law, Family Court is a tug of war, making one parent the winner and the other parent the loser. The children are the trophies. With ESP, parents start out on equal ground with each parent having a part in the child's life. Studies show that conflict goes down after parents realize that ESP is the way it is. In these emotional times, parents need counseling in mediation and dispute resolution, not adversary resolution. The current system is wrong to pit one parent against the other

Q: How do you get parents to make equal shared parenting work?

A: Since divorce is such an emotional time, the emphasis must be put on what's right for the the children and not on the feelings towards the other parent. The easiest way to get parents to work together is to take the incentive to fight away. The incentive is the control and to prove that they are the "better" parent. By starting out on equal footing, parents will not be forced into the cruel war of "Divorce, Wisconsin Style". Before Wisconsin had 50/50 marital property law - 80% of divorced couples went to court to fight over property. Now, for all practical purposes, no cases go to court. Same way for children. If you know that you will be allowed your equal share of parenting time with the children, litigation will be cut way down. Once the parents each understand that they will work out a plan that will be presented to a judge, it will be done. They both love their children and want what is best for them. A questionnaire was written for parents to help work out parenting times. Fill out the questionnaire, talk to a mediator, work out your differences and go on with your life. The money that was saved from huge lawyer fees can be put towards the child's education. Parents working together for the children may actually bring the divorce rate down.

Q: How would Equal Shared Parenting change the children's daily life?

A: Children of divorce learn responsibility just like intact families. Children learn to take band instruments, orthodontic appliances, and homework back and fourth. Children prefer that both parents are involved in their lives. Children who see differences in parenting between the mother and the father, are getting a small preview of real life.

Q: Would this work with children under 2 years old?

A: Yes, young children need much contact with both parents to form a bond.

Q: What about people who are child abusers and beat their spouse?

A: While it is true that some people do abuse their children, no one wants children to go to abusive parents. Parents who are convicted of child abuse in the Wisconsin Children's Code 48 would not be even considered for Equal Shared Parenting. This bill will also discourage parents from falsely accusing the other parent of abuse. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services in their Child Abuse and Neglect Report to Governor Tommy Thompson and the Legislatures is concerned about the 'disturbing number of fabricated reports initiated by adults in conjunction with divorce custody disputes.' This is causing much extra work for our social workers. The DHSS states 'These (fabricated reports) are definitely a misuse of the CPS (Child Protection Services) system and an additional burden to CPS workers trying to manage large caseloads.' So, ESP will free up DHSS to do the job that they were hired to do. Statistics show that children who do not have contact with both biological parents are at greater risk of being abused.

Q: What about the parents who just cannot have equal time.

A: The best way to give both parents a chance and to give children a chance to continue their relationship with both parents is to have the law provide for the presumption of equal shared parenting to those who are willing and fit. If the parents choose to have unequal time, let it be their choice. Currently unequal time is decided by prejudice, discrimination, special interests, corruption, and power plays.

Q: Why isn't child support covered in ESP?

A: Parenting time is a separate issue from child support. Wisconsin has many laws covering child support, there are no laws covering emotional support, the lack of parenting time and for withholding children from the other parent.

Q: What about the term "best interest of the child".

A: The term "best interest of the child" is heard over and over again in custody cases. It is not defined anywhere in law. It is a subjective term that can be and is decided by the judge. This bill does not use the term because "the best interest of the child" is contact with both parents.

Q: What about parents who want to move?

A: Parents who wish to move must stay within a 150 mile radius. While this is an arbitrary number, the moving parent must relinquish **ESP** when moving out of state.

STATISTICS AND STUDIES THAT SUPPORT SHARED PARENTING AND JOINT CUSTODY

Our nation's children are suffering from misguided public policy and a terribly flawed Family Court system that consistently awards sole custody to one parent, and drives the other parent, most often the father, into exile and bankruptcy. This is done, despite the overwhelming scientific evidence that child well being depends on the involvement of both parents. This is true whether the parents are married, divorced, or have never been married. Following are quotations from numerous studies. These studies indicate unequivocally that shared parenting should be adopted nation wide as a means of increasing child well being.

"Children who grow up without a father present, even when adjustments are made for income, are 75% more likely to need professional assistance for emotional problems, twice as likely to repeat a grade of school, and more likely to suffer a wide variety of other disorders including anxiety, peer conflict, and hyperactivity. (National Center for Health Statistics, 1991: Study of 17,100 children in various family structures. The report also noted that children living with a mother and stepfather fared worse on most indicators.)

"One clear message from the accumulated divorce research is that children profit by continued exposure to both parents" (Koch & Lowery, Journal of Divorce, 1984). "Children who were able to maintain post-divorce relationships with both parents were better able to adjust to the divorce". "The continuing involvement of divorced fathers in families where mothers maintain physical custody has become recognized as an important mediating factor in the adjustment and well-being of children of divorce." (Ahrns & Miller, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 1993).

"Children recover more rapidly from the emotional trauma of parents' separation when they maintain close ties with their fathers." (Seltzer, Shaeffer & Charing, Journal of Marriage & the Family, 1989). "Adolescents who reported closer relationships with their non custodial fathers were assessed as displaying fewer internalizing problems" (Brody & Forehand, Journal of Applied Psychology, 1990). "Fathers' economic and social involvement with children diminishes some of the negative consequences of living with a single mother" (Seltzer, Shaeffer & Charing, Journal of Marriage & the Family, 1989). "When both parents share the social and economic responsibilities of child care, children appear to adapt better to their changed living arrangements than when mothers bear these responsibilities alone." (Seltzer, Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1991).

"Fathers have much to offer their adolescent children in many areas, including their career development, moral development, and sex role identification." (Dudley, Family Relations, 1991). "Fathers who spend time with their children teach them values." (Seltzer, Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1991). "Fathers and children who maintain close touch through visiting communicate regularly in other ways as well." (Seltzer, Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1991).

"Frequent contact with the father is associated with positive adjustment of the children." (Ahrns, and Miller, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 1993). "Fathers play a significant role in terms of adolescent functioning" (Thomas and Forehand, American Journal of Othopsychiatry, 1994). "Males who reported high levels of inter-parental conflict and a good relationship with their fathers were perceived (by their teachers) to have fewer internalizing problems. A similar set of results emerged for the female adolescents" (Brody and Forehand, Journal of Applied Psychology, 1990). "Significant correlations were found between the father's reports of positive relationships with their adolescent offspring and teacher reports of less anxiety/withdrawal on the part of the adolescents." (Thomas and Forehand, American Journal of Othopsychiatry, 1993).

The US Office of Technology Assessment (1987): "The increase in the number of mother-headed households and the corresponding decrease in father-headed households paralleled a 158% increase in child abuse and neglect in the 8 years from 1976 to 1984. 2.3% of sexual abuse of girls was by biological fathers, and 17% by stepfathers. 37% of child maltreatment occurred in mother-headed households, versus 23% in all US families. 44,700 children were sexually abused in 1979 which was .07% of all children below the age of 18 years of age."

In 1983, a study found that 60% of perpetrators of child abuse were women with sole custody. According to the Department of Justice, 55% of child murders are by their own mothers, and 6% are by their biological fathers, making mothers 9 times more likely to murder their children than biological fathers.

These are problems our children suffer from lack of two parent households:

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

1. GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

- A. single parent children 3 to 4 times more likely to have emotional or behavioral problems

(Zill and Schoenborn, National Center for Health Statistics, 1990)

- B. 84% of teens hospitalized for psychiatric care come from single parent homes (1989 study, cited by Hewlett, When the Bough Breaks)

2. HIGHER SUICIDE RATE

- A. teens who attempt suicide similar to non-suicidal teens in age, income, race or religion, are more likely to have little or minimal contact with their father (Study of 752 families by New York Psychiatric Institute, cited by Hewlett)

- B. 75% of teens who commit suicide are from single parent homes (Elshtain, The Christian Century, 1993)

3. MORE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

- A. 18% of children with strict and involved fathers used drugs

- B. 35% of children without fathers used drugs (1988 UCLA study, cited by Hewlett)

- C. Children in father-absent homes are 4.3 times more likely to smoke as children in father-present (Stanton, Oci, and Silva, 1994 survey of 1037 15-year-olds)

4. GREAT FREQUENCY OF SLEEP DISORDERS

- A. more trouble falling asleep, more nightmares, and night terrors (Psychiatrist Alfred Messer, cited by Hewlett)

5. PERSISTENT FEELINGS OF BETRAYAL, REJECTION, RAGE, GUILT, PAIN

- A. lasting for years with a renewed intensity at adolescence

- B. Two-thirds [of father-absent children] yearned for the absent parent, one-half of those with an intensity we found profoundly moving. (Wallerstein and Kelly, 1980, Surviving the Breakup)

6. LOWER SELF-ESTEEM

- A. especially true for girls (Dr. Robert Fay presentation at NCMC conference, 1992) (Davidson, Life Without Father: America's Greatest Social Catastrophe, Policy Review, 1990)

COGNITIVE/ACADEMIC ABILITY

1. **LOWER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**
 - A. 38% of elementary students from single parent homes were low achieving, while 23 % of both parent children were low achieving (Nat'l Assoc. of Elementary School Principals report, city by Hewlett)
 - B. 30% of children from father-present homes were high achieving, while only 17% of children from father-absent homes were high achieving.
 2. **LOWER MATH SCORES**
 - A. (Yale University study by Carlsmith, cited by Hewlett) (Cortes and Fleming, 1968)
 3. **GREATER FAILURE RATE**
 - A. elementary students from fatherless homes or homes with mother and a stepfather have to repeat
 - B. (National Center for Health Statistics study of 47,000 households by Deborah grades at a rate 2-3 times higher than children with both biological parents Dawson, 1991)
 4. **LOWER SAT SCORES**
 - A. "dramatic" lower scores for students from father-absent homes (Columbia University and Bowling Green State University study of 295 from father-absent homes and 760 from father-present homes, cited by Hewlett)
 5. **LOWER IQ AND ACHIEVEMENT**
 - A. children who lost fathers before age 5 scored lower on Otis Quick Test and Stanford Achievement Test as junior-high and high-school students (Santrock, 1972) (Hetherington, Cox, and Cox study, 1978) (Cortes and Fleming, 1968)
 6. **MORE LIKELY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL**
 - A. children from fatherless homes twice as likely to drop out of school (US Department of Health and Human Services, Survey on Child Health, 1993)
 7. **LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE**
 - A. (Wallerstein, Family Law Quarterly, 1986)
-

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

1. **HIGHER RATES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR**
 - A. fatherless children are twice as likely to become criminally involved (Margaret Wynn, 1964) -72% of adolescent murderers, 60% of rapists, and 70% of long-term prisoners grew up in father-absent homes (US Department of Justice data, 1991)
2. **GREATER DELINQUENCY FOR BOYS**
 - A. 87% of Wisconsin juvenile delinquents are a product of father-absent homes (Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, 1994)
 - B. 70% of juveniles in state reform institutions grew up in father-absent homes (US Department of Justice data, 1988)
 - C. young black men raised without a father are twice as likely to engage in criminal activities (Hill and O'Neill, 1993) (Matlock in Adolescence) (Siegman, 1966; Anderson, 1968; Kelly and Baer, 1969)
3. **GREATER DELINQUENCY FOR GIRLS**
 - A. (Monahan, 1957; Toby, 1957)
4. **MORE VIOLENT MISBEHAVIOR IN SCHOOL**
 - A. Children who exhibited violent misbehavior in school were 11 times as likely to live without their father than children who did not violently misbehave (Sheline, Skipper, Broadhead, American Journal of Public Health, 1994)

CHILD ABUSE

1. **GREATER CHANCE OF BEING PHYSICALLY ABUSED**
 - A. preschoolers living without their biological father were 40 times more likely to be a victim of child abuse as compared to like-aged children living with their father (Wilson and Daly in Child Abuse and Neglect: Biosocial Dimensions, 1987)
 - B. premarital pregnancy, out-of-wedlock childbearing, and absent fathers are the most common predictors of child abuse (Smith, Hanson, and Noble, Child Abuse: Commission and Omission, 1980)
 2. **GREATER CHANCE OF BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED**
 - A. 69% of victims of child sexual abuse came from homes where the biological father was absent (Gomes-Schwartz, Horowitz, and Cardarelli, Child Sexual Abuse Victims and their Treatment, 1988)
-

HETEROSEXUAL ADJUSTMENT FOR DAUGHTERS

1. **MORE DIFFICULTY IN INTERACTING WITH MEN AND MALE PEERS**
 - A. daughters of divorcees aggressive, forward with boys and men
 - B. daughters of widows shy and timid with boys and men (Hetherington, 1972)
 2. **YOUNGER MARRIAGES**
 - A. daughter of divorcees marry at younger age (Hetherington, 1972)
 3. **MORE UNWED PREGNANCY**
 - A. girls from fatherless homes 111% (over 2X) more likely to have unwed pregnancy (Warren Farrell presentation at NCMC conference, 1992; Hetherington, 1972)
 4. **HIGHER DIVORCE RATES**
 - A. girls from fatherless home 92% (nearly 2X) more likely to divorce (Warren Farrell presentation at NCMC conference, 1992; Hetherington, 1972)
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HETEROSEXUAL ADJUSTMENT FOR SONS

1. **LESS MASCULINE, MORE DEPENDENT BEHAVIOR**
 - A. (Santrock's study of 4- and 5-year old, father-absent boys) (Rogers and Long's study of 6- to 15-year-old boys where father employed away from home community, 1968) (Hetherington's study of 9- to 12-year-old, father-absent boys, 1966)
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GENERAL HEALTH

1. **MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES**
 - A. fatherless children 20-30% more likely to experience accidents, injuries, and poisonings that did father-present children (Remez, Family Planning Perspectives, 1992)
 - B. compared to children living with father, fatherless children experience more accidental injury, asthma, frequent headaches, and speech defects (Dawson, Journal of Marriage and Family, 1991)

Some statistics concerning fathers, mothers, and child support

79.6% of custodial mothers receive a support award

29.9% of custodial fathers receive a support award

46.9% of non-custodial mothers totally default on support

26.9% of non-custodial fathers totally default on support

20.0% of non-custodial mothers pay support at some level

61.0% of non-custodial fathers pay support at some level

66.2% of single custodial mothers work less than full-time

10.2% of single custodial fathers work less than full-time

7.0% of single custodial mothers work more than 44 hours weekly

24.5% of single custodial fathers work more than 44 hours weekly

46.2% of single custodial mothers receive public assistance

20.8% of single custodial fathers receive public assistance

—Technical Analysis Paper No. 42 - U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services - Office of Income Security Policy

90.2% of fathers with joint custody pay the support due

79.1% of fathers with visitation privileges pay the support due

44.5% of fathers with no visitation pay the support due

37.9% of fathers are denied any visitation

66.0% of all support not paid by non-custodial fathers is due to inability to pay

—1988 Census "Child Support and Alimony: 1989 Series P-60, No. 173 p. 6-7. and U.S. General Accounting Office Report" GAO/HRD-92-39FS January, 1992

50% of mothers see no value in the father's continued contact with his children.

—See Surviving the Breakup by Joan Berlin Kelly

40% of mothers reported that they had interfered with the father's visitation to punish their ex-husband.

—See "Frequency of Visitation...." by Stanford Braver, American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes

-U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census

90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes

85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes

-Center for Disease Control

80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes

-Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol. 14, p. 403-26

71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes

-National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools

70% of juveniles in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes

-U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept., 1988

85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home

-Fulton County Georgia jail populations & Texas Dept. of Corrections, 1992

Translated, this means that children from a fatherless home are:

5 times more likely to commit suicide

32 times more likely to run away

20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders

14 times more likely to commit rape

9 times more likely to drop out of school

10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances

9 times more likely to end up in a state operated institution

20 times more likely to end up in prison

11,268,000 total U.S. custodial mothers

2,907,000 total U.S. custodial fathers

-Current Population Reports, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-20, No. 458, 1991

\$14,800,000,000 total child support owed

\$11,100,000,000 total child support paid

-Current Population Reports, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-123, No. 173, 1988

Percentage of children in single parent families, by year:

—1950—7.1

—1992—24.0

-U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Household and Family Characteristics, various years; and Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March, 1988-1990, Nos 433, 445, and 450

Dad's Involvement: Better Grades for Kids

Children are more likely to get mostly A's and less likely to repeat a grade or be expelled if fathers are highly involved in their schools, according to a recent study by the U.S. Department of Education, "Fathers Involved in Their Children's School."

The findings hold whether the fathers live with their children or whether mothers also are active.

Involvement is defined as participation in school meetings, a teacher conference, a class meeting or volunteering. High involvement is participation in three or four activities.

The study, based on interviews with parents and guardians of almost 17,000 students in early 1996, found that in two-parent households where both were highly involved:

51 percent of the children got mostly A's;

48 percent did so when only the father was highly involved;

44 percent did when just the mother was highly involved;

27 percent got mostly A's if neither parent was very involved.

31 percent of children with highly involved fathers got mostly A's even when the father was a noncustodial parent.

It is the position of ANCPR that Family Law should facilitate the ongoing, active involvement of both parents in the lives of their children. It is in the best interest of children to have this relationship. This relationship is much more important than how much money in the form of child support is paid in the name of the child to some impersonal state agency. The current system systematically excludes one of the parents whenever there is a child support order established. This is wrong, and must be changed.

For a free copy of the study, call the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800 USA LEARN.

Joint Custody Bibliography

What follows are papers published on joint custody, primarily these because that's usually the best source. I have started with 1980 as a starting date arbitrarily because that limits to about 30 titles.

Please note in considering research in this area that it is important to place more trust on comparative studies than descriptive studies. There are a lot of subjective conclusions made and comparison studies, i.e. comparing same-age, same-sex children from different environments is less subjective than just looking at children from one environment and trying to come to conclusions from interviews.

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The main research papers discussing custody issues:

D.A. Luepnitz. Maternal, paternal and joint custody: A study of families after divorce. Doctoral thesis 1980. State University of New York at Buffalo. UMI No. 80-27618. Luepnitz studied single parent custody and joint custody. Most single parent children were dissatisfied with the amount of visitation they had, whereas the children of joint custody arrangements seemed reasonably happy with their exposure to both their parents. The quality of the parent-child relationship was determined to be better for joint custody. (The ncp-child relationship is described as more like an aunt or uncle - child relationship.)

S.A. Nunan. Joint custody versus single custody effects on child development. Doctoral thesis 1980. California School of Professional Psychology, Berkeley, UMI No. 81-10142 Nunan compared 20 joint custody children (ages 7-11) with 20 age-matched children in sole maternal custody. All families were at least two years after separation or divorce. Joint custody children were found to have higher ego strengths, superego strengths and self-esteem than the single custody children. The joint custody children were also found to be less excitable and less impatient than their sole custody counterparts. For children under four at the time of separation the differences were very small.

B. Welsh-Osga. The effects of custody arrangements on children of divorce. Doctoral thesis 1981. University of South Dakota. UMI No. 82-6914. Welsh-Osga compared children in intact families with joint custody and single custody families. Age range 4 1/2 to 10 years old. Children from joint custody were found to be more satisfied with the time spent with both parents. Parents in joint custody were found to be more involved with their children. (Joint custody parents found to be less overburdened by parenting responsibilities than sole custody parents.) Children from all four groups (intact families, sole maternal, sole paternal, joint custody) were found to be equally well adjusted by their various standardized measures.

D.B. Cowan. Mother Custody versus Joint Custody: Children's parental Relationship and Adjustment. Doctoral Thesis 1982. University of Washington. UMI No. 82-18213. Cowan compared 20 joint custody and 20 sole (maternal) custody families. Children in joint physical custody were rated as better adjusted by their mothers compared with children of sole custody mothers. The children's perceptions in sole custody situations correlated with the amount of time spent with their father! The more time children from sole maternal custody spent with their fathers, the more accepting BOTH parents were perceived to be, and the more well-adjusted were the children.

E.G. Pojman. Emotional Adjustment of Boys in Sole and Joint Custody compared with Adjustment of Boys in Happy and Unhappy Marriages. Doctoral thesis 1982. California Graduate Institute. UMI No. ? Pojman compared children in the age range 5 to 13 years old. Boys in joint custody were significantly better adjusted than boys in sole maternal custody. Comparing boys in all groups, boys in joint custody compared very similarly to boys from happy families.

E.B. Karp. Children's adjustment in joint and single custody: An Empirical Study. Doctoral thesis 1982. California school of professional psychology, Berkeley. UMI No. 83-6977. Age range of children 5 to 12 years, studying early period of separation or divorce. Boys and girls in sole custody situation had more negative involvement with their parents than in joint custody situation. There was an increase reported in sibling rivalry reported for sole custody children when visiting their father (ncp). Girls in joint custody reported to have significantly higher self-esteem than girls in sole custody.

D.A. Luepnitz. Child Custody: A Study of Families after Divorce. Lexington Books 1982.
A summary of the thesis in book form.

J.A. Livingston. Children after Divorce: A Psychosocial analysis of the effects of custody on self esteem. Doctoral thesis 1983. University of Vermont. UMI No. 83-26981. Comparative study of children in mother sole custody, father sole custody, joint custody with mother primary, joint custody with father primary. Children in joint custody situations were found to be better adjusted than children in sole custody situations.

L.P. Noonan. Effects of long-term conflict on personality functioning of children of divorce. Doctoral thesis 1984. The Wright Institute Graduate School of Psychology, Berkeley. UMI No. 84-17931. Long-term effects were studied in joint custody, sole maternal custody and intact families. Children in joint custody families were found to be more active than in sole custody families or intact families. In low conflict situations children did better (demonstrated less withdrawal) than in either sole custody or intact families.

V. Shiller. Joint and Maternal Custody: The outcome for boys aged 6-11 and their parents. Doctoral thesis 1984. University of Delaware. UMI No. 85-11219.
The thesis compares 20 boys in joint custody with 20 matched boys in sole maternal custody. A number of tests were used. Boys from a joint custody environment were found to be better adjusted than boys from a sole custody environment.

Joint Custody and Shared Parenting. (Collection of Papers) Published by Bureau of National Affairs, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. Ed. Jay Folberg. 1984

M.R. Patrician. The effects of legal child-custody status on persuasion strategy choices and communication goals of fathers. Doctoral Thesis 1984. University of San Francisco. UMI No. 85-14995.

90 fathers were questioned regarding how unequal recognition of parental rights might encourage conflict. Joint legal custody was found to encourage parental cooperation and discourage self-interest. Sole custody in both custodial AND non-custodial status encouraged punishment-oriented persuasion strategies. Unequal custody power was perceived as inhibiting parental cooperation by BOTH parents.

G.M. Bredefeld. Joint Custody and Remarriage: its effects on marital adjustment and children. Doctoral Thesis. California School of Professional Psychology, Fresno. UMI No. 85-10926 Both sole and joint custody children adjusted well to the remarriage of their parent; no significant difference found between the groups. The parents of joint custody situations, however, expressed more satisfaction with their children and indicated that they appreciated the time alone with their new spouse. Sole custody children also reported seeing their father less often after remarriage of the mother; this did not happen in joint custody situations.

B.H. Granite. An investigation of the relationships among selfconcept, parental behaviors, and the adjustment of children in different living arrangements following a marital separation and/or divorce. Doctoral thesis 1985. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. UMI No. 85-23424. Parents in sole custodial homes (both maternal and paternal) were perceived as using psychological pressure techniques to control children. e.g. inducing guilt. However, in joint custody homes, the perception of the children was that such techniques were seldom used. No difference in self-concept was detectable among the different homes. Children's ages 9-12 years. 15 joint, 15 maternal sole, 15 paternal sole.

**S. Handley. The experience of the child in sole and joint custody. Doctoral thesis 1985. California Graduate School of Marriage and Family Therapy.
Joint custody children more satisfied than sole custody children.**

**S.M.H.Hanson. Healthy single parent families. Family Relations v.35, p.125-132, 1985.
21 joint custody and 21 sole custody families compared. Mothers in joint custody found in better mental health. Mothers with sole custody sons had the least amount of social support and mothers with joint custody of sons had the most. Joint custody mothers reported best child-parent problem solving of all.**

S. A. Wolchik, S. L. Braver and I.N. Sandler. J. of Clinical Child Psych. Vol. 14, p.5-10, 1985. Self-esteem found higher in children of joint custody. Children in joint custody report significantly more positive experiences than children of sole maternal custody.

P. M. Raines. (Misplaced reference)

Paper describes a survey of 1,200+ children whose parents are in process of divorcing. Children wishing to live with both parents given as a function of age: under age 8, 90%; age 8 - 10, 76%, age 10 - 12, 44%. 1985 paper.

J. Pearson and N. Thoennes. The Judges Journal, Winter, 1986. Will this Divorced Woman Receive Support? Your Custody Decision may determine the Answer. Child support compared among sole custody and joint custody. Joint custody shown to produce much better compliance in child support payments to the mother.

J.S. Wallerstein and R. McKinnon. Joint Custody and the Preschool Child. Behavioral Sciences and the Law, v.4, p.169-183, 1986. This paper presents joint custody for young children in a negative light, however, it is based on descriptive research not comparative research, having no control or comparison group.

**E.E. Maccoby, R.H. Mnookin and C.E. Depner. Post-divorce families: Custodial arrangements compared. American Association of Science, Philadelphia. May 1986.
Mothers with joint custody were found to be more satisfied, when compared with mothers in sole custody situation.**

P. M. Raines. Joint custody and the right to travel: legal and psychological implications. J. of Family Law, v. 24, 625-656, 1986

P. Neubauer. Reciprocal effects of fathering on parent and child. Men Growing Up. (1986)

J. Schaub. Joint Custody After Divorce: Views and Attitudes of Mental Health Professionals and Writers. Rutgers University, Doctoral Thesis. 1986. No. 86-14559

V. Shiller. Joint versus maternal families with latency age boys: Parent characteristics and child adjustment. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, v. 56, p. 486-9, 1986. Interviews with boys as well as with both parents. Age group 6- 11. Found boys from joint custody families better adjusted than comparison group of boys from sole maternal custody families.

M.B. Isaacs, G.H. Leon and M. Kline. When is a parent out of the picture? Different custody, different perceptions. *Family Process*, v.26, p.101-110, 1987.

This study compares children from five groups: joint physical custody, joint-legal maternal-physical, joint-legal paternal-physical, sole maternal and sole paternal custody. On their measurement of how children perceive the importance of family members, sole custody children were three times more likely to omit one parent than joint custody situations.

F.S. Williams. Child Custody and Parental Cooperation. *American Bar Assn, Family Law*, August 1987. Williams studied high-conflict, high-risk situations. He found that children in sole custody (typically but not exclusively maternal) much more likely to be subject to parental kidnapping and/or physical harm. He found that high-conflict families do better and are more likely to learn cooperative behavior when given highly detailed orders from the judge.

CRC Report: R-103A. Synopses of Sole and Joint Custody Studies. Shows that the preponderance of research supports the presumption that joint custody is in the best interests of children. 1987.

A GOOD REVIEW PAPER:

J.B. Kelly. Longer term adjustment in children of divorce: Converging Findings and Implications for Practice. *Journal of Family Psychology*, v.2, p.112-140, 1988.

M. Zaslow. Sex Differences in children's response to parental divorce. Paper 1. Research methodology and postdivorce family forms. *American J. of Orthopsychiatry*. v.58, 355, 1988. Paper 2. Samples, Variables, Ages and Sources. *Am. J. Orthopsychiatry*, v.59, p118, 1989.

J.S. Wallerstein and S. Blakeslee. *Second chances: Men, women and children after divorce*. New York, Ticknor and Fields. 1989

M. Kline, J.M. Tschann, J.R. Johnson and J.S. Wallerstein. Children's adjustment in joint and sole custody families. *Developmental Psychology*, v. 25, p. 430-435, 1989. This work finds that in non-conflicted joint and sole custody families there is little measurable difference between a child's behavior in sole or joint custody. (Strangely, this paper states "Some quantitative studies have found no differences in symptomatology between joint and sole custody children", citing work by Luepnitz and also Wolchik, Braver and Sandler. However, Luepnitz pointed out that joint custody children retain a more normal parent-child relationship than sole custody children, Wolchik et al found that joint custody children have significantly more positive experiences and higher self-esteem than sole custody counterparts!)

Lehrman paper

Study of 90 children, equally divided between joint physical, joint-legal maternal, and sole maternal custody. Sole custody children shown to have greater self-hate and perceived more rejection from their fathers. Joint physical and joint legal custody children suffered fewer emotional problems than sole custody children. 1990 paper, have misplaced reference.

L.M.C. Bisnaire, P. Firestone and D. Rynard. Factors associated with academic achievement in children following parent separation. *American J. of Orthopsychiatry*. v.60(1), p.67-76, 1990 Visitation found to be a most significant factor in enabling children to maintain pre-divorce academic standards.

J. Pearson and N. Thoennes. Custody after divorce: Demographic and attitudinal patterns. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, v.60(2), p. 233-249, 1990.

Regular visitation shown to be significant in a number of factors explaining positive adjustment patterns.

R.A. Warshak. The Custody Revolution. 1992.

D. Popenoe, Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences of Rutgers University, co-chairman of the Council on Families in America. "The Controversial Truth: Two-parent Families are Better." Published in Speak out for Children, v.8 Winter 1992-3.

The Best Parent is Both Parents, D.L. Levy, Hampton Roads Publishing Co., Norfolk, Virginia. 1 (800) 677-8707. 1993.

Address for obtaining theses:

University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. 1 (800) 521-3042.

Advantages of Joint Custody

- *Child snatching Virtually eliminated through joint custody.*
- *Child support: Only 6% - 7% delinquency in joint custody, compared to 50% - 72% in sole.*
- *Children's emotional-psychological adjustment Tested demonstrably better in joint custody.*
- *Cooperative support agreements 78% of amount due is paid, less than 50% when litigated.*
- *Relitigation rate Almost half (for joint custody) that of sole custody.*
- *Fewer contempts Sole custody produces twice as much punitive legal action.*
- *Three times greater payment, voluntarily, of extras Camps, music, allowances, payments, etc.*
- *Working mothers Joint custody facilitates remunerative working for mothers.*
- *Abuse Reduction Joint custody reduces frustration that foments abuse.*
- *Professionals support 77% custody elicits parenting plans, sole custody does not.*
- *Increasing Joint custody more widely implemented: In Calif. 5% 1st year, over 65% by 5th year.*
- *Voluntary agreements. With preference in the law, more parents voluntarily decide joint custody.*
- *Preserves family 76% of parents seeking joint custody did not initiate divorce.*
- *Satisfied parents 89% to 90% of joint custody parents report highly satisfactory.*
- *Income & status Facilitated as mothers gain remunerative employment, both retain custody status.*
- *Assists adaptation to later years. Women under 40 at divorce & in joint custody adapt more easily.*

STOP THE SELF- FULLING PROPHECY

In psychology, there's a theory known as the "self-fulfilling" prophesy. It says that if you tell people, from earliest childhood, that they are worthless or weak, they may come to believe such things - even when there's ample evidence to the contrary.

At the end of the 20th century, it's difficult to read the news without encountering yet another "violence against women" statistic. The human pain behind these numbers is real. But what will be the cumulative effect of focussing so much of our attention on this aspect of women's lives?

What view of femaleness will be held by a 12-year-old girl who has grown up hearing incessant talk about large numbers of women being harassed, beaten and raped? Will she consider women capable, strong-willed people who confront and overcome obstacles? Or will she think of them as besieged, downtrodden victims?

What view of maleness will be held by a 12-year-old boy who has frequently been told that men are violent and abusive? Will he develop the self-respect every well-adjusted adult needs?

The real-life Feisty Femmes and Great Guys stories collected here encourage us to see beyond stereotypes to the heroism that lives within each of us.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I 87% of the cases, sole custody is awarded to one parent.

The questions need to be asked:

1. In 87% of two parent families is one parent so totally lacking in contribution that their participation should be forcibly reduced to a virtual cipher?
2. What gives the State the authority to decide that a law-abiding PARENT not tried or convicted of any crime, should lose their children?
3. Who is responsible for the damage to children if, as seems increasingly clear, the actions of the state and the courts remove a major need of the child, the need for the other parent?
4. If the deficit of governments will be paid by future generations, is the government deficit not an ex parte form of child support, a maintenance order attached to future earnings of children without their consent, consultation, or even knowledge. Should children not be asked whether they prefer a self-sufficient, shared parenting life with both mother and father to a life of one dependent, deficit-funded parent, and the other denied access and hounded by huge and expensive deficit-funded state bureaucracies?
5. Should not judges, politicians and state bureaucracies claiming to act "in the best interests of the child" be required to prove that the results of their policies and decisions do actually benefit children, who cannot vote or lobby, rather than enrich special interests, who not only vote but get huge amounts of state funds to lobby government?

Alternatives to Adversarial System:

Most cultures have a village or community mediation approach to family problems which involves grand-parents and extended family. Courts need a family equivalent of "healing circles".

- We suggest a government commitment to keeping families together and public awareness of the costs and dangers of divorce to children.
- Financial Support and Access and Custody issues should be linked, at least in the eyes of the children, so that children learn that financial involvement is linked to personal commitment rather than to breaking commitments, relationship denial, or government enforcement.
- Mandatory education of divorcing parents to minimize the danger of parental alienation.
- Removing government subsidies to organizations which encourage separation, and divorce, or organizations which have a vested interest in separation.
- Change tax structure so that intact families and shared parenting arrangements are financially encouraged.
- Treat access denial as a hate crime: Violations of a court order is a crime, so if it is done because of hatred of the father (typically) because of his gender, the perpetrator should be punished harsher than for violations of court orders for other reasons.
- Treat access denial as child abuse: Children are hurt and disadvantaged by loss of a parent. When this is done deliberately, out of spite or revenge, children are being abused. Access denial is child abuse.
- Government must accept responsibility for its actions: When courts and police fail or neglect to enforce court ordered access, this is child abuse and neglect. When this abuse bears the stamp of state sanction by inaction, the state bears the same responsibility as an employer does for condoning workplace harassment and abuse.

APPENDIXES

1 - CHILD ABUSE ARTICLES

2 - DOMESTIC ABUSE ARTICLES

3 - GENDER BIAS OR BALANCE

4 - DR GUIDUBALDI'S RPT TO
CONGRESS

APPENDIX

1

Recent Escalation in Child Abuse Charges Tied to Divorce

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 21:34:04 -0500
Reply-To: Don Lewis [donlewis%TMN.COM@KSUVM.KSU.EDU]

Courts and the State are destroying children. It's routine circumstance that this is a fact, and not a conjecture.

In the past ten years, state government has come to discover that a vast degree of profit can be made protecting America's children, and not just in terms of dollars.

During the 1970s (According to the organization CASA), child abuse issues began to get noticed by the psychological community. At that time, the first comprehensive and control longitudinal studies of this were begun. In the late eighties, we began to see the results of these studies emerge, and make their way into the hands of government, and equally to the courts and people.

For a little history: The first case of intervention because of abuse was back in the 1920s. A nurse came across a young girl whose father kept her bound to her bed. She was starved and made to lay in her own filth. The nurse was appalled by this, and approached the court for a solution. She was told that there was no law which covered this, and the state (New York) had no cause to intervene in family matters. The nurse wasn't stopped by this, and after almost two years of trying, succeeded in bringing a suit which allowed her to remove the child from the circumstances. How? There was a statute which allowed the state to remove a horse from the care of its owner if it wasn't properly cared for. The nurse's enterprising lawyer went into court, and showed that human beings were, after all, animals. He proved that humans had a higher degree of thought, and so if the law allowed intervention for a horse, it should also allow it for a person.

The nurse won her case, but only by having the young girl turned over to a state sponsored stable -- where abused horses were sent. The stable then allowed the nurse to adopt the girl, using the very same forms used for equine adoptions. The case laid the precedent for what today has become a feeding frenzy on the part of the system *against* children, yet perpetrated in their name.

During the late eighties, the states began to react to the pressures of society generated by the emergence of the longitudinal studies. As is usual, the members of government discovered that there are votes where there is societal interest, and so the machine started to grind into action. In essence, the seas were chummed by federal dollars thrown at the problem, and the states began to eat

While it used to be that the state had to take a pretty strange tact in order to break through family bonds, today that breach is so routine that mention of the possibility of abuse will cause the immediate removal of a child to shelter care --the first stop on the paved way to termination or suspension of parental rights, and a plunge of the child into foster care.

Starting in the late eighties, and during a period of three years, the incidence of abuse suddenly rose by nearly 300 percent. (That's not to say that three times as many kids were being abused, but that the state was **acknowledging** the abuses that the studies said were occurring, and moved to respond to this new recognition by intervening.) In the midst of these efforts of good intention, suits began to come in against the states and the federal government --because bureaucracy is prone to error, and parents took a dim view of these errors. And they should. When a state acts on behalf of a child, it has powers which supersede the foundations of protection from the law. Without a conviction (beyond an alleged's own personal bent), a child may summarily and without warning be pulled out of a home. Additionally, the state only has to report their actions within 24 hours. Anyone with

children knows that an hour of a child being missing can be excruciating, so imagine the feelings after a child has been gone

for a full day! Even when a parent knows that the state has their child in shelter care, they're still routinely denied the ability to see or even communicate with their child.

That's a lot of trauma in anybody's book.

Two things came of these suits from wronged families: The first was to grant immunity to persons and agencies acting on behalf of children they believed were being abused. The second was to require that a third party investigator be appointed whenever an abuse allegation was made. The most common of titles we find for this appointment is Guardian ad Litem. It was the job of the GAL to ensure that the allegations were, in fact, true --or to at least substantiate the *possibility* of truth to the allegations.

For each of these two approaches, there were two things wrong.

Without indicting the legal profession, let's just say that attorney's are noted for responding to the attitudes of any family-law court. This takes a great deal away from the objectivity of the appointee. To view the situation from a perspective of what they think a court will or won't go for means their report is going to be slanted against a stereotype instead of a compilation of the actual circumstances. Since we're talking about people, it's a very dangerous thing to try to 'average' a case.

Hoping not to disparage all of those volunteers or paid-position GALs, it is a truth that many involved in these programs joined to advance a personal perspective. I hesitate to say agenda, because my experiences have shown me that these folks don't know or cannot acknowledge they have a prejudice. Sadly, we see organizations and agencies populated by a greater than average representation of persons whose attitudes negatively impact the ombudsman process.

Also, the law makes no mention as to the qualifications that a GAL has to possess --save for an understanding of the system. In response to this, the states took two diverging approaches. On one hand, they were insistent that an attorney act as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. On the other, some felt that members of society were best able to judge what was within the limits of current societal mores. However, remember that a GAL only needs the **possibility** that abuse or neglect has occurred to put it in the case report they turn into the court. Because anything mentioned in a report is grounds for serious consideration, an *inability* to disprove allegation is commonly considered to be finding evidence of an abuse. The deck is stacked.

Someone once said that the states were guilty of more and worse abuses than the people who were alleged to be perpetrators. That could be right. Studies have demonstrated aptly that children fare much worse both in childhood and adult life after they've been subjected to the system.

In 1991 we started to see a greater correlation between divorce and the allegations of child abuse. As a matter of fact, in that year we saw an increase of almost 1000 percent says the Association for Family Law Judges. In 1992, that soared to twice that level. The figures for this year, 1993, have dropped slightly, and this has been attributed to the fact that society is now becoming a bit dubious about allegations associated with divorce. In fact, some states are contemplating the filing of charges against those who allege falsely. However, since this is a criminal situation, one has to be able to PROVE the charge of false allegation, unlike the allegation of abuse itself. Successful prosecution of a case like this is difficult at best, and so it's unlikely that prosecutors will want to show any real interest. But also remember that false allegation is building a bad reputation.

Don't get the impression that all is well because the figures are getting a little lower. It isn't. The feeding frenzy continues and will likely continue over time -until the abuses by the states causes the degree of hue and cry that the initial reports from the studies-over-time did.

Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen quickly.

People have become used to state intervention. That figures. Society is making - demands that the government be parents in issues ranging from what television shows should be aired, to whether or not pregnancy should continue. So in this climate of demand, it's difficult to see the situation getting better before it gets worse --if it gets better at all. None of this attests to an end to state abuses of children who've been abused. In fact, they're testimony to the continuation of the problem. As the TV ads are apt to say: But Wait! There's More!

Add to this the fact that most states make a profit whenever they take a child as their ward. The federal government coughs up just under 20 thousand dollars per year for each child a state has in foster care. On the whole, a state invests about fifty-five hundred dollars in each child, and pays about seven thousand to those who administer the case. That leaves about seventy-five hundred dollars. That means that the state is in a fairly profitable business. Not only is their public assistance to the child paid for, but they make a small profit besides.

In doing this, families get divided, parents are driven into financial ruin trying to prove their innocence, and all of those involved -the children too- are subjected to such emotional trauma that their lives are permanently and negatively altered. In 1992, the Department of Health and Human Services released information which clearly showed that children raised in single-parent homes, or had been taken into the foster care system fared much worse than any other group of children. These kids had a greater number of problems with and in school, a higher propensity for crime, and a much greater incidence

As we can see, none of this bodes well for the children. It doesn't hold much promise for parents either. In fact, the only ones who profit from the system as it is are the states and the accusers. Each, in their own way, have the ability to achieve desired results. But not for those they seek to protect.

Bob Kirkpatrick -- Dog Ear'd Systems of Spokane, WA

Discussion of the work of Wakefield and Underwager

Posted by Aaron L. Hoffmeyer.

According to Wakefield and Underwager (1991), 80% of the allegations of child sexual abuse made during divorce custody and visitation disputes are blatantly false - there is no physical evidence, usually the strongest evidence is the testimony of a 3- or 4-year-old child saying something that seems very unnatural, that seems coached.

Many of the investigators of child sexual abuse allegations made during divorce custody and visitation disputes are women, and to me, it is enlightening that so many of them are concurring that mothers are fabricating these allegations and coaching the children to say they were molested in so many cases.

Anyway, back to the stats. There have been numerous studies done on the phenomenon of false allegations. Where they came from - who knows? 10 years ago they were very rare and only occurred in (according to this source) 7% of the disputed custody cases, which are less than 1/4th of the total number of divorce cases. Yet, so far in the last two months, I have seen, both the above article, and an article in USA Today, that 30% and 25% of all custody dispute cases now involve allegations of sexual misconduct by the father of the children.

Yet, Drs. Hollida Wakefield and Ralph Underwager, Karol Ross and Dr. Gordon Blush, Dr. Timothy Campbell, and many other professionals who have investigated at least 2500 cases each, have determined that the vast majority of these allegations are false, manufactured and malicious. Also, extensive psychological tests of the women making these allegations reveal that 75% of them are borderline psychotic personalities - meaning they have major problems, but can still get by in society.

Yet, the courts choose, in the best interests of the children, to assume that these women are telling the truth, because merely fabricating such an allegation and stigmatizing a child for life for something that never happened, subjecting a child to intense examinations with proctoscopes and other scopes (the names of which I can't recall) that take pictures, "play" interviews with life-sized dolls with anatomically over-sized genitalia, forcing a child to live with a lie that puts that child in high risk categories for drug-use, delinquency, academic failure, psychological problems, and suicide - all that is better than presuming that an accused person is innocent - as the Constitution guarantees. You see, all men are rapists, and that's all they are, so when one gets discovered, well, that's just fine and dandy. It should be up to him to prove that he did NOT do it and damn the Constitution. The founding fathers didn't have children. They couldn't understand these things. This kind of empathy is solely the realm of ovarian nurturers. These women feel they "deserve" sole custody of children, no matter what underhanded tricks they have to pull to get it. And our laws, which are applied fairly in all other cases, simply do not apply when the alleged victims are children. We have to have a new set of laws for those cases.

So, women apparently are using this "revelation of truth" in 25-30% of custody dispute cases in the US today. Yet, even Children's Services statistics assert that over 60% of such allegations - even when not part of a divorce - are false. Couple that with statistics that I have from Pennsylvania for last year. Apparently there were about 21,000 child abuse cases reported in the entire state - approximately 33% were substantiated. Yet 8000 children were removed from their homes - many to be returned when it was determined that no abuse took place. Of all these substantiated abuse cases, less than 50% were sexual molestation allegations. Many of the substantiated abusers were women. Women disproportionately sell their children for sex. The majority of people convicted of child abuse, in general, are women. Of the total number of children residing in Pennsylvania, less than

.13% were substantiated as being physically abused or sexually abused in a given year. The "child abuse" craze is more hype than fact. And the "hype" inspires the courts to take allegations that are completely without merit, contrived and malicious - seriously - "in the best interests of the children."

The jury is still out on this issue - but hopefully a reasonable verdict will be returned soon. The judicial system has to start recognizing the truth about what is happening here - fathers who battle for custody, who are very close to their children and want to maintain that relationship with their children, are being lumped together with a bunch of sick perverts who abuse their children. It is the fathers that are closest to their children, that care the most about them, that are being victimized by these false allegations. Why? Because making these allegations works. If it didn't, it wouldn't be happening.

I do recognize that the system is starting to take notice of what is going on and is trying with some degree of earnest to make amends - figure out better ways to get to the truth. When this tactic starts back-firing on those who use it and back-firing in a big way, then the false allegations will decrease. As it is, the false allegations are in no way a reflection of real abuse that does take place out there.

I can believe that when a divorce starts with such allegations, it is more likely to indicate that real abuse did take place. However, when allegations come up months into a divorce, with no physical evidence, and after it looks like the father is going to succeed in obtaining a reasonable settlement - well, give me a fucking break.

Aaron L. Hoffmeyer
TR@CBNEA.ATT.COM

P.S. If you are really interested in obtaining as much information about false allegations of child sexual as is possible, I recommend contacting Reid Kimbrough - a litigation consultant on false allegations of child sexual abuse. He has one of the most comprehensive databases of studies, reports, documents, books etc. available in the world.

Reid Kimbrough
427 Ascot Court,
Sanford, FL, 32773;
home phone is (407) 328-7685.
shartlin@bellsouth.net

Be sure and see the 'What to do' page.

HTML by David R Throop.

False Reports of Child Abuse

Stuart Miller opposes the Child Safety Act, 1994

From smiller@cap.gwu.edu Fri Aug 26 17:25:36 CDT 1994 Date: Mon, 22 Aug 1994 20:32:13 - 0400 Subject: Crime Bill - Help!

Following is a letter I had published in the Washington Post that will shed a little more light on the "Child Safety Act." You may use any or all of it in your calls and/or faxes.

WASHINGTON POST: OP-ED [Letters]
Mailed: March 29, 1994
PUBLISHED: April 6, 1994

(This is the Post's Edited Version, as it appeared [sans footnotes])

Parents Who Abuse Children

Senator Paul D. Wellstone's "Breaking the Cycle of Violence" [letters, March 29] illustrates the fallacies in his misnamed "Child Safety Act." This act will deny funds to almost all centers now offering supervised "visitation" services, including those in his own state of Minnesota.

While Senator Wellstone writes eloquently of his concern about the violence committed against women, the language in his bill seems oblivious to the violence that women commit against their children. Statistics compiled by almost every state child protective service agency indicate that mothers abuse their children at a rate approaching or exceeding twice that of fathers: Texas 68 percent of parental child abuse is committed by mothers; Alaska percent; New Jersey, more than 70 percent; and in Virginia, 67 percent. Even in Minnesota, 61.6% of the parental child abuse is committed by mothers.¹ A study of inner-city child abuse in Michigan found that 49% of the state's total confirmed child abuse was committed by single parent mothers.² It is the children in these very homes that Senator Wellstone's bill would claim to protect. Protect from whom?

A recent Wall Street Journal perhaps explains why men's and women's violence against children, receive so little Congressional attention.³ During hearings on legislation purported to address domestic violence issues, persons concerned about violence against women were invited to testify, while persons concerned about the violence perpetrated by women against men and children were denied that right.

When Congress is allowed to hear only one side of the story, distorted legislation can follow. Senator Wellstone's "Child Safety Act" is an example of what can go wrong when only one side of an issue is heard.

We are quick to support any legislation that will protect our children. Senator Wellstone's bill fails to do so.

Stuart A. Miller
Senior Legislative Analyst
AMERICAN FATHERS COALITION

- Information provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, March 29, 1994.
- Ditson and Shay. Child Abuse and Neglect. Volume 8, 1984. Noncustodial fathers accounted for 5%.
- Wall Street Journal. March 23, 1994. Section A, page 15. "The sexist Violence Against Women Act", Cathy Young.

From: robert@informix.com (Robert Coleman)
Subject: Re: Men 'n' babies (was: Re: Political Correctness)
Date: 14 Oct 94 18:03:29 GMT

A previous exchange

Gerry Harbison [harbison@unlinfio.unl.edu] writes:

Liz may have pointed it out, but it's wrong. (Probably this should be "so it's wrong"). The numbers I've seen have been that women commit close to 2/3 of child non-sexual abuse. Her analysis showing that men have a greater propensity for it would have been a hilarious parody of the abuse of statistics had it not been meant seriously.

lizkates@delphi.com writes:

Why are you pushing figures between 45 and 60% to "two-thirds?" And also ignoring who commits the abuse resulting in more severe injuries and who commits most of the sexual abuse? Children are in the care and custody of women 90% of the time. If women commit 60% of the total abuse, then men, in committing 40% of the abuse in only 10% of the time, have a propensity to abuse, as a group, roughly 600% that of women.

Oh, I thought by now you'd realized how poor this estimate is. I hadn't seen you assert this in a while.

All right, let's talk about why this is such a poor use of mathematics.

You're trying to apply a linear model to child abuse. Linear models are great for some things, and not so good for others, which is why we have other models. A linear model might be good (I'm guessing) for, to a point, deciding how much sunburn one might get depending on the length of time one is exposed. It's terrible for predicting the speed of a falling object (until terminal velocity is reached, where it becomes a constant).

So, what folks do is study the phenomena, then determine a model that fits. In the example you gave, accident analyses by auto companies, that's what they do, and very carefully, too. They examine the incidents, pick a model that helps them predict incidences, then base their rates on those predictive factors. They've determined a linear model for some circumstances.

Those insurance analysts would be *appalled* at what you did, which was pick a random model and apply it. That's called "guessing", and doesn't have any mathematical backing for accuracy. You can do the same thing in Las Vegas...you will probably lose money.

Let's think about this model, and sexual abuse. Do you believe that an average woman is more likely to sexually abuse her child the longer that child is in her care? That's what your linear model would predict. OTOH, would you consider that the risk of leaving your child in the care of a known child molester is low if you left your child with him/her for only an hour? If you pick an average man, does *his* chances of molesting a child increase with caretaking time?

Propensity to engage in abusive behavior has more to do with attitudes than with opportunity, because it takes very little opportunity to set up the situation that will enable the crime for those with a propensity to do the crime. You yourself gave an example that lots of child abuse happens when the boyfriend of a single mom babysits for a mere hour. I've seen video of a female babysitter beating a baby, even dropping the baby intentionally, in her short caretaking time.

If an hour of time is all the opportunity necessary to bring out the abuse, then a mere 10% caretaking figure is more than adequate to give every abusive man the opportunity to abuse...and to give every non-abusive man the opportunity to avoid abusing. We could just as easily assume that all abusers have all the opportunity they need to become abusers in either their 90% or 10% caretaking

allotments; which would make these figures constant even if the 90% and 10% roles were reversed.

However, I doubt anyone would take such an argument seriously, any more than I *hope* people are taking this 600% figure seriously. There is some aspect of child abuse that is determined by length of exposure...a parent who is not ordinarily an abuser might become one when under great stress, or "snap" after an extended period of time. There *will* be some degree of "transfer" of abuse stats should caretaking time even out. We just don't know what that would be, and we can't just randomly pick a model to guess.

In fact, in a part of this email I deleted, even you said that you think child abuse would actually drop if child-care was shared equally, because you think a lot of child-abuse is based on listening to the kids squall for an hour. Yet, based on your linear model, men would be abusing children six times as much as the amount that women *stopped* abusing. Bang goes your faith in the linear model of caretaking time vs. abuse ratio; even you recognize that it's more complicated than that. Human behavior is pretty hard to model with linear models.

The stats on child abuse are useful for demonstrating that women do abuse children (when we're told that they do not). They're useful for telling us that if we *must* concentrate on one gender with our "don't abuse" messages, we should concentrate on women, because under the current environment, they are the most likely abusers. They're useful for getting past our societal prejudices that "mothers don't abuse", so that we can help the children.

They're *not* useful for determining which gender has the greatest propensity to abuse, either for those who use these stats to say that women have the greatest propensity because look, the stats say they're doing the most (though, truthfully, I've yet to see this stated) or for those who manufacture 600% male propensity figures from guesswork (not to mention, as far as I can tell, the 90% figure in the first place.)

Robert C.

From: garrod@dynamo.ecn.purdue.edu (David Garrod)
Date: 12 Oct 1994 20:14:57 GMT

Matthew Rosenblatt wrote:

Statistics show that the safest place for a child, in terms of freedom from physical or sexual abuse, is in a home with his natural father. Today, most divorces take the child away from her natural father and leave her with her natural mother where either a subsequent stepfather or one of the mother's boy friends is statistically much more likely to beat or molest her than her natural father or a stepfather or a father's girl friend is.

throop@vix.com (David R. Throop) then asked:

I expect that this is true and I've seen it claimed repeatedly. But I haven't ever seen a good citation for it. Can anybody supply a reference?

States are required to keep abuse statistics by federal law.

Although they are not required to distinguish between a step-father and a paramour of the mother, they sometimes do. Depending on your states the statistics are available from the Department of Child and Family Services, Child Protective Services or Dept of Human Services.

National Statistics are available from the Heritage Foundation, or in "The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators" by W. Bennett of Empower America.

Based on average of Stats provided by New Jersey, Indiana and Alaska the sexual abuse ratio: abuse by step-father/paramour to father is about 8:1

(You are warned to look at confirmed abuse stats, not alleged abuse stats. There are a lot of alleged abuses that are never confirmed!)

From: cddugan@ouray.Denver.Colorado.EDU (chris dugan)
Subject: Re: Wife Beating
Date: 11 Oct 1994 06:51:15 GMT
Organization: University of Colorado at Denver

[edited for clarity]

Kate Orman (korman@laurel.ocs.mq.edu.au) wrote:

Now you're saying that abuse by mothers "far outnumbers" that by fathers - could you provide some evidence of this?

Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families ed. Murray Straus & Richard Gelles. Transaction Pub., New Brunswick, NJ, 1990. This study includes the following quote:

"I have never seen any data which broke down child abuse perpetrators by gender which did not show a significantly higher incidence of abuse by female caregivers. The only exceptions are when only sexual abuse is examined and not physical abuse. I do not believe that this is because women are evil or more violent than men. Women still do more than 50% of the childcare, which I think has a lot to do with the gender disparity. However, people who wish to argue that women are inherently non-violent have their work cut out for them..."

-cd

Additional Citations on Child Abuse Rates by Gender

From: pinkosnal2@aol.com (PinkoSnal2)

Date: Tue Sep 12 10:23:40 CDT 1995

- Statistical Abstract of the United States 1987 table 277 contains the statistic that in reported child maltreatment cases in the U.S. between 1980 and 1984 the mother was the perpetrator in 57.0% - 61.4% of the cases.
- Daly, M. & Wilson, M. "Parent-Offspring Homicides in Canada, 1974-1983" Science v. 242, pp. 519-524, 1988 reports that the mother committed 54% of parent-child murders in Canada in the nine years between 1974 and 1983.

Message-ID: <9511281559.AA20710@mickey.empros.com>
Date: Tue, 28 Nov 1995 09:59:49 -0600
From: Michael Stemper

The Justice Department examined 8,000 homicides in 75 large urban counties. Some of you may not like the statistics, but here they are:

Mothers accounted for 55% of defendants in slayings of offspring and were more likely to murder a son than a daughter. (64% killed sons while 36% killed daughters) But when a father killed his child, he was more likely to kill a daughter than a son.

The report is NCJ-143498, Murder in Families.

APPENDIX

2

Comparison of the Sociology and Psychology Literature on Domestic Violence: A Meta-Analysis.

Roderic H. Fabian, M.D.

I compared the sociology literature in professional journals with the psychology literature on the subject of domestic violence between adults. Representative samples of the sociology psychology literature for a similar period of time were obtained in the following way: The Sociological Abstracts for the past 5 years were searched for articles that included the key words "domestic violence." Retrieval of the citations was done through the Knowledge Index feature of the CompuServe Information Service. The PsycINFO database (DIALOG) was accessed for citations that contained the key words "domestic/family violence." The records retrieved were from the time period of Dec. 1991 to April 1994. Only those records dealing with the United States were examined, and only those that could be classified into the categories described below were included; e.g., records concerned with violence against children were excluded. Only those articles dealing with studies in or about the United States were included, but no articles fitting this description were excluded. A total of 114 articles were retrieved from the sociology database and 113 papers were retrieved from the psychology database and included in this study.

Of the sociology literature, 64 articles (56%) presented new data or research. Of these, 32 (50%) were concerned only with one domestic violence paradigm; i.e., violence of men against women (men=evil/criminal/perpetrator, women=blameless/victim). Other possible forms of domestic violence were not addressed or mentioned in any way by these articles. Six percent dealt with violence of both men against women and women against men. Three percent dealt with violence of women against women, and 2% (one article) dealt with gay male on male violence in domestic situations. Nineteen percent dealt with domestic violence as a dyadic phenomenon (in which both parties could be both victim and perpetrator.) Of the total, a surprisingly large number, 50 (44%) were review or opinion articles that cited the work of others but did not present new data or research. Often, a single new study presenting empirical data, such as the most recent National Family Violence Survey, would generate several review articles, none of which offered any new data. Many would be offered in defense of a particular ideological viewpoint that had been wounded by the empirical data; i.e., yes, woman against man violence is more common than we had supposed, but this all must be due to retaliation for earlier victimization of the women, etc.

Of papers in the psychology literature, 92 (81%) presented new research or data. Forty three (47%) of these were concerned only with the man as perpetrator and woman as victim paradigm and did not in any way mention or consider other types of domestic violence among adults. Two studies (2%) were concerned with woman as perpetrator and man as victim paradigm. Twenty five (27%) were concerned with both man on woman and woman on man violence. Man on man violence in gay domestic relationships were mentioned in only one study (1%). Woman on woman violence also merited one study. Twenty studies (22%) examined domestic violence as a dyadic phenomenon in which both the man and the woman could simultaneously be both victim and perpetrator. When combined with studies that examined both man on woman and woman on man violence, those studies that examined both sides of the coin in domestic violence outnumbered those that examined only the woman-as-victim/man-as-perpetrator paradigm in this sample of the psychological literature. Twenty one papers (19% of the total) were reviews or opinion papers that did not present new data. Of these, 9 (43%) examined the man on woman paradigm exclusive of all other forms of domestic violence among adults. One review examined woman on man violence. Four reviews examined both woman on man and man on woman violence (19%). No reviews considered either female or male gay domestic violence. Four reviews examined domestic violence as a dyadic phenomenon (19%). Of the total of 114 papers, only 3 (2%) professed to be from a feminist perspective. All of the feminist papers were reviews. None of the papers reviewed could be said to be of a political advocacy nature, although political advocacy and its possible detrimental effects on the study of domestic violence was discussed in some reviews.

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In summary, the further one gets away from the sociology/women's studies axis, the more accurate and scientific the picture of domestic violence becomes. Psychologists were more likely than sociologists to recognize and study the fact that both men and women can be violent in domestic relations among adults. This approach to the subject is appropriate, since ample evidence supports the assertion that between 25 and 45% of victims of domestic violence between adults are men. Psychologists do not enter into political advocacy, and, unlike sociologists, psychologists do not generate large numbers of ideologically driven reviews and opinion papers.

From Intimate Violence

From: bhv@areapl2.corp.mot.com (Bronis Vidugiris)
Subject: Re: How to spot a batterer...
Date: Mon Feb 06 18:06:24 CST 1995

I can give some useful information on how men have felt about police intervention from "Intimate Violence" by Straus & Gelles. This data appears to be vintage about 1985 (things may have changed). Sample size is pretty low (due to low number of sample who called the police in the first place).

Police intervention when called by men is similar to intervention when the caller is female. Mediation is still the most common intervention. Police were most likely to try to calm everyone down, take time to listen to the story, take information, and file a report. Two of the men who called the police were themselves arrested, while the police never arrested the wife or female partner of the man who called. The range of actions and interventions used by the police was much narrower when they were called by men; neither the man or his partner was ordered out of the house, no threats of arrest were made, and there was no hitting or pushing of the parties involved in the marital violence. Two men said the police did nothing.

Men were a bit less pleased with how the police handled their calls. Less than half said that in general what the police did was all right. Although more than half of the men who called the police reported they were satisfied with the manner in which the situation was handled.

There are some percentage figures in the appendix, the numerical data for satisfaction isn't given though.

The sample size here is very low (N=17 for male callers, N=24 for female callers).

Broke up fight: male callers 9.2% female callers 41.5%
Hit or pushed: male callers 0% female callers 4.6%
Tried to calm everyone: male callers 35.7% female callers 70.5%
Took time to listen to story: male callers 32.5% female callers 52.4%
Warned: male callers 7.4% female callers 50.3%
Took information/filed report: male callers 20.5% female callers 43.5%
Ordered caller out of home: male callers 0% female callers 4.9%
Ordered callers spouse out of home: male callers 0% female callers 41.4%
Threatened arrest now: male callers 0% female callers 10.7%
Threatened arrest next time: male callers 0% female callers 28.2%
Arrested caller: male callers 12.1% female callers 4.2%
Arrested callers spouse: male callers 0% female callers 15.2%
Did nothing: male callers 10.5% female callers 6.4%

Rates of Severe Spousal Violence by Gender

From: bhv@areapl2.corp.mot.com (Bronis Vidugiris)
 Subject: Re: Domestic Violence
 Date: Tue, 31 Jan 1995 23:18:17 GMT

In response to the plaint

What about men, who are ridiculed by society when they are victims of abuse?

StrangeSon (strangeson@aol.com) wrote:

How often do really think this occurs...compared to the situations women have to deal with on a day to day basis...???

Why, I'm glad you asked that question! Rates per yer per 1000 couples of various forms of violence.

	CTS Survey #1 1975 (N=2143)		CTS Survey #2 1985 (N=3520)		Kentucky 1979
	wife victim	huband vicitm	wife victim	husband victim	wife victim
1) Threw something	28	52	28	43	29
2) Pushed, grabbed, or shoved	107	83	93	89	85
3) Slapped	51	46	29	41	48
4) kicked, bit, or hit with fist	24	31	15	24	14
5) Hit or tried to hit with something	22	30	17	30	22
6) Beat up	11	6	8	4	18
7) Threat with gun or knife	4	6	4	6	14
8) Used gun or knife	3	2	2	2	4
Overall violence (1-8)	121	116	113	121	
severe violence (5-8)	38	46	30	44	

To give a little background on how the rates of violence were determined, by Strauss & Gelles I include the following question from the published survey for the CTS methodology:

Question 35:

No matter how well a couple gets along, there are times when they disagree, get annoyed with the other person, or just have spats or fights because they're in a bad mood or tired or for some other reason. They also use many different ways of trying to settle their differences. I'm going to read some things that you and your spouse might do when you have an argument. I would like you to tell me how many times in the last 12 months you:

- a) Discussed an issue calmly
- b) Got information to back up your/his/her side of things
- c) Brought in or tried to bring in someone to settle things
- d) Insulted or swore at him/her

...

- m) Slapped him or her
- ... (rest of items covered by 1-8 go here)

The data below from "Behind Closed Doors" have husband reports and wife reports of violence. As you can see, there is no evidence of differential reporting, at least not with the methods/methodology used by Straus and Gelles (it remains possible that there is some sort of similar effect that could influence a less well-designed methodology).

Source of data	% violent husbands	% violent wives
Spouses (1)	9.1	17.9
Students (1)	16.7	9.5
Students (2)	11.3	11.4

Husbands (3)	12.8	11.3
Wives (3)	11.2	11.7

Source: 1 Bulcroft and Straus, 1975 (N=57)
 2 Straus, 1974a (N=385)
 3 The national sample described in "Behind Closed Doors"

Sample (1) asked all members of the family to fill out the survey. Sample (3) interviewed only one member of any family. It's not entirely clear to me what sample (2) did. The data from sample (1) appears to be anomolous compared to the other two samples. Straus and Gelles comment that it might be the small sample size or other characteristics of the sample.

A lot of people try to make a big deal out of the anomalies in the very-low-sample size data from Bulcroft and Straus,

References:

Straus, M.A., Gelles, R.J., and Steinmetz, S.K. *Behind closed doors: Violence in American families* Doubleday, New York, 1980

Gelles, Richard J. and Straus, Murray A. *Intimate Violence: The causes and consequences of abuse in the American Family*, Simon & Schuster Inc, New York, 1988

"The Survey of Spousal Violence Against Women in Kentucky" (WDC,1979)

"Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptions to Violence in 8145 Families" Richard Gelles and Murray Straus.

Note

CTS stands for "Conflict Tactic Scales". This describes the question where they start with getting people to admit that they discussed an issue calmly :-) and gradually work their way up to asking about violence.

Domestic Violence

From: gwood@tibalt.supernet.ab.ca (Garth Wood)
Date: 6 Aug 1994 02:02:32 -0600

The latest study to be produced on domestic violence was a Manitoba, Canada study by Reena Sommer, a research associate at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation. Entitled "Male and Female Partner Abuse: Testing a Diathesis-Stress Model," the study, an integral component of Ms. Sommer's Ph.D. thesis (which she successfully defended last month, thus earning her the title of Doctor), was conducted in two waves over a four-year period. The first wave, during 1989-90, collected data from a random sample of 452 married or cohabiting women and 447 married or cohabiting men, who completed self-administered questionnaires as well as a 90-minute formal interview with a researcher. The second wave, during 1991-92, gathered follow-up interviews from 369 of the same women and 368 of the same men.

In both waves of data collection, and both by self-report and report by their partners, women were found to be more abusive than men. The study defined abuse as "an act (or acts) carried out with intention, or perceived intention, of causing physical pain or injury to another person." (Note: this definition removes from consideration such incredibly dubious types of "abuse" as simple yelling, while including abuse such as threatening violence without actually doing violence). Acts of abuse also included throwing an object, pushing, grabbing, shoving or hitting. The study also examined "who started it," i.e., the initial perpetrators of the violent act. Some statistics follow:

WHO STARTED IT: Breakdown of Female- and Male-Perpetrated
Violence as a Percentage of all Survey Respondents
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	Hers	His
Minor Violence:		
- Threw or smashed an object (not at partner)	23.6	15.8
- Threatened to throw an object	14.9	7.3
- Threw an object at partner	16.2	4.6
- Pushed, shoved or grabbed a partner	19.8	17.2
Severe Violence:		
- Slapped, punched or kicked	15.8	7.3
- Struck partner with a weapon	3.1	0.9
- Violence Perpetrated in Self-Defense:	9.9	14.8
- Consumption of Alcohol during Violent Incident:	8.0	16.0
- My Partner needed Medical Attention:	14.3	21.4
OVERALL VIOLENCE:	39.1	26.3

- Source: Dr. Reena Sommer, "Male and Female Partner Abuse: Testing a Diathesis-Stress Model," unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Dept. of Sociology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 1994. The above is from Wave One data.
- I have been sent an updated source:
Alcohol consumption, alcohol abuse, personality and female perpetrated spouse abuse.
Sommer-Reena; Barnes-Gordon-E; Murray-Robert-P Journal: Personality and Individual Differences; 1992 Dec Vol 13(12) 1315-1323.

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