

## VIOLENCE BETWEEN MOTHERS AND FATHERS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND THEIR METHODS OF CORRECTING CHILDREN'S MISBEHAVIOR

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- Other publications on this and related issues can be downloaded from <http://www.pubpages.unh.edu/~mas2>
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## DATA FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PARENTING STUDY

- Target: Students in 40 Nations
- Researchers in over 20 nations participating so far
- This presentation:
  - First site: Univ. of New Hampshire, N = 478
- Questionnaire completed by university students
  - Dimensions Of Discipline Inventory –DDI
  - 12 other instrument
- Analyses control for
  - \* Gender of student and parent
  - \* Age of student
  - \* Score on social desirability response-set scale
  - \* Other variables, as needed

"Don't Make Me Count to Three!"



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## OBJECTIVES

To compare parents who are violent to each other with non-violent parents to test the hypotheses that violent parents:

1. Use violent methods of discipline more often
2. Use positive methods of discipline less often
3. Have more problematic methods of implementing discipline and problematic characteristics

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## INDEPENDENT VARIABLE – VIOLENCE BETWEEN PARENTS

Used the Revised Conflict Tactics Scales, Short form\*

Classified parents in "mutuality types"

	%of parents	
• Neither physically violent	85.8	} 14.3% violent (consistent with many US general population studies
• Only father physically violent	1.1	
• Only mother physically violent	4.2	
• Both physically violent	8.6	

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## DEPENDENT VARIABLES

**Discipline Indexes** - frequency of methods of correcting misbehavior

### Punitive

Corporal Punishment  
 Deprive Privileges  
 Psychological Aggression

### Non-Punitive

Monitor  
 Explain/Teach  
 Divert  
 Reward

### Context and Mode of Implementing Discipline

#### Positive

Cognitive framing  
 Confidence in discipline  
 Responsiveness to child  
 Consistency in discipline  
 Warmth to child  
 Warning to child

#### Negative

Conflict with partner  
 Perceived Ineffectiveness  
 Impulsiveness  
 Stress in parenting

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## RESULTS FOR HYPOTHESIS 1 (bold type indicates highest score in the row)

Table 1a. Relation of Violence Between Parents to Discipline Methods Used

	Parent	Violence Between Parents				p Main* p Inter	Violent parents
		None n=410	Father Only n=7	Mother Only n=20	Both n=41		
Disciplinary Effort	Father	253.8	523.7	282.5	<b>631.6</b>	NS	Not neglectful
	Mother	340.4	506.5	581.1	<b>632.5</b>	NS	
PUNITIVE METHODS							
Power-Assertive/Punitive	Father	76.3	<b>408.3</b>	105.3	350.7	NS	Use punitive methods of discipline more often
	Mother	133.1	265.9	258.5	<b>314.8</b>	NS	
Corporal Punishment	Father	7.4	0	2.1	<b>121.3</b>	NS	As hypothesized
	Mother	8.4	0	15.8	<b>39.6</b>	.00	
Deprive Privileges	Father	17.0	12.3	15.4	<b>39.4</b>	NS	
	Mother	24.7	3.7	23.0	<b>68.2</b>	NS	
Psychological Aggression	Father	45.3	357.9	46.8	<b>165.9</b>	NS	
	Mother	69.5	193.0	163.1	<b>177.9</b>	NS	

Important differences, but not significant because low n's and large standard deviations

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RESULTS FOR HYPOTHESIS 2 (bold type indicates highest score in the row)

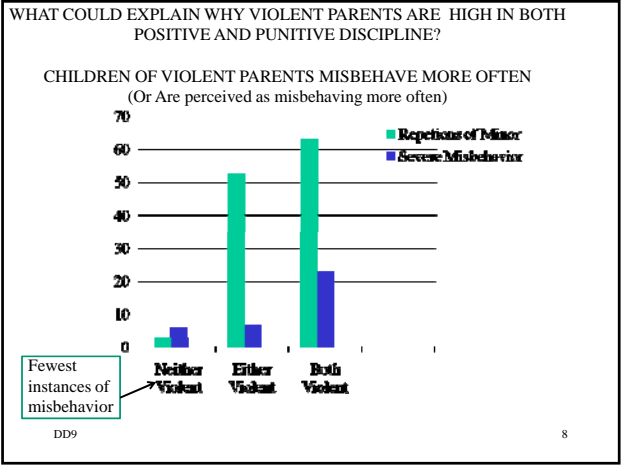
Table 1b. Relation of Violence Between Parents to Discipline Methods Used

	Parent	Violence Between Parents				p Main p Inter*
		None (n=410)	Father Only (n=7)	Mother Only (n=20)	Both (n=41)	
NON-PUNITIVE METHODS						
Non-Punitive Total	Father	168.0	125.2	169.1	<b>248.9</b>	NS
	Mother	213.4	247.3	<b>309.4</b>	278.0	NS
Monitor Behavior	Father	17.5	10.0	54.5	<b>41.3</b>	NS
	Mother	27.5	3.8	<b>67.4</b>	47.5	NS
Explain/Teach	Father	<b>73.1</b>	49.4	24.1	60.2	NS
	Mother	82.9	69.8	<b>101.2</b>	81.5	.008
Diversion	Father	12.9	1.6	6.9	<b>32.3</b>	NS
	Mother	19.6	2.3	12.5	<b>42.2</b>	NS
Reward	Father	45.2	11.2	49.1	<b>96.4</b>	.002
	Mother	54.4	118.4	78.8	<b>93.7</b>	.000

Violent parents also use non-punitive methods more often

Contrary to hypothesis

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BUT: MORE MISBEHAVIOR IS ONLY PART OF THE EXPLANATION (bold type indicates highest score in the row)

Table 2a. Relation of Violence Between Parents to Mean Scores On Mode Of Administering Discipline and Context Of Discipline (0-4 scales\*)

	Parent	Mean For Parental Violence Types				p Main** p Inter
		Neither Violent	Only Father	Only Mother	Both Violent	
PROBLEMATIC PARENTING CONDITIONS						
Conflict With Partner	Father	2.2	<b>3.8</b>	2.3	2.8	NS .003
	Mother	2.3	3.2	<b>3.4</b>	3.0	NS
Impulsive	Father	2.5	3.0	3.0	<b>3.2</b>	NS .006
	Mother	2.5	2.9	<b>3.8</b>	3.0	NS
Stress as parent	Father	2.6	3.5	3.0	3.3	NS .003
	Mother	2.7	3.2	3.7	3.3	NS
Perceived Ineffectiveness	Father	1.8	<b>3.0</b>	2.2	2.5	NS .048
	Mother	2.0	<b>2.6</b>	2.5	<b>2.6</b>	NS
Perceived Ineffectiveness	Father	1.8	<b>3.0</b>	2.2	<b>2.5</b>	NS .048
	Mother	2.0	<b>2.6</b>	2.5	<b>2.6</b>	NS

Violent parents (right hand columns): highest on all problematic implementation and context conditions

\* Response categories: 0=Never, 1=Almost Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Usually, 4=Always  
 \*\* p Main = Main effect for Couple Violence Type significance level  
 p Inter = Interaction of Couple Violence Type with gender of parent significance level

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Table 2b. Relation of Violence Between Parents to Mean Scores On Mode Of Administering Discipline and Context Of Discipline (0-4 scales\*)

	Parent	Mean For Parental Violence Types				p Main** p Inter
		Neither Violent	Only Father	Only Mother	Both Violent	
POSITIVE PARENTING CONDITIONS						
Cognitive Framing	Father	<b>3.9</b>	2.9	3.8	3.5	NS
	Mother	<b>4.0</b>	3.7	3.4	3.5	.000
Confidence	Father	<b>3.3</b>	2.2	2.7	2.9	NS
	Mother	<b>3.4</b>	3.6	2.5	3.1	.000
Responsiveness	Father	<b>3.4</b>	2.7	3.4	3.3	NS
	Mother	<b>3.6</b>	3.5	3.1	3.4	.000
Consistency	Father	<b>3.7</b>	3.3	3.5	3.5	NS
	Mother	<b>3.8</b>	3.5	3.5	3.5	NS
Warmth	Father	<b>4.0</b>	3.2	3.9	3.4	NS
	Mother	<b>4.0</b>	3.9	3.7	3.7	.011
Warning	Father	3.2	3.0	3.2	<b>3.3</b>	NS
	Mother	3.5	3.5	<b>3.6</b>	3.4	NS

Violent parents lowest on positive conditions except Warning

\* Response categories: 0=Never, 1=Almost Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Usually, 4=Always  
 \*\* p Main = Main effect for Couple Violence Type significance level  
 p Inter = Interaction of couple violence type with gender of parent significance level

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CONCLUSIONS

Violent parents are high in both punitive and non-punitive discipline: Is it because they are more devoted to bringing up well-behaved children? No, it is probably because:

- Their children have more behavior problems
- They have more problematic modes of implementing discipline and problematic contextual conditions
- Therefore more corrective actions, both punitive and non-punitive are necessary

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SOME REFERENCES

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