



## DEWAR RESEARCH PRESS RELEASE

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A survey of 100 male victims of domestic violence has found general bias against them, with fathers particularly affected

A recently published report of research by Dewar Research summarises the main findings of the experiences reported by 100 male victims of domestic violence (49 from England and Wales, and 51 from Ireland) to a survey conducted in 2001.

The responses generally corroborate the experiences of male victims gleaned from the few other previous detailed surveys, such as the Home Office Research Study 191 (published in January 1999, but based on fieldwork in 1995), and the Dispatches programme survey in 1998 also specifically of male victims. The results of this latter survey being summarised in a broadcast by Channel 4 on 7th January 1999. They also reflect the findings of academic studies published both in this country and abroad. Each of the surveys reported complaints by many male victims of the general bias against them in the responses they had received from the police, prosecution service, the courts, and other agencies.

Responses to the Dewar Research 2001 Survey appear to support such complaints. For English and Welsh male victims, they found:

- **50% were threatened with a weapon;**
- **33% were kicked in the genitals;**
- **16% were burnt or scalded;**
- **40% received severe bruising to the body;**
- **75% were assaulted once a month or more frequently;**
- **over two thirds were assaulted more than 10 times;**
- **35% reported that the police had totally ignored what they had to say;**
- **47% reported that they had been threatened with arrest despite being the victim;**
- **21% said that they had been arrested despite being the victim;**

- **only 3% reported that the violent female partner had been arrested;**
- **female assailants called the police nearly as often as the male victim (53% of occasions compared to 59%);**
- **of the few female assailants arrested and subsequently charged, not one was convicted, despite the serious injuries some of the male victims had suffered.**

The results reinforce previous findings of a general underlying bias and prejudice against male victims in domestic violence practice and procedures by both police and the prosecution service. This replicates exactly similar findings both in North America and Australia.

Father victims appear to be particularly disadvantaged by the bias. The police, prosecution service, and the courts, appear reluctant to take any action against the violent or abusive mothers. The result is that many father victims have no choice but to remain silent since reporting the violence against them appears usually to result in them, rather than the violent mother, being removed from the home and subsequently losing meaningful contact with their children. It appears that problems over contact with their children are a particular feature of the experience of male victims once relationships break down.

*Reference: Male Domestic Violence Victims Survey 2001 Main Findings.  
Dewar Research, October 2004.*

Full details of the 2001 Survey results, and other information on domestic violence and male victimisation, can be found on the Dewar Research website at [www.dewar4research.org](http://www.dewar4research.org)

END OF PRESS RELEASE

### **Background Information:**

Despite the ever-increasing evidence of male victimisation in intimate relationships, as shown by now well over one hundred gender-neutral studies, little information exists in the public domain about the particular plight of male victims. This is in contrast to that of female victims, for which there is now a considerable amount of information.

The Dewar Research 2001 Survey of 100 male victims was designed to redress that imbalance in some small way.

Dewar Research is a small voluntary private initiative formed in 1996 to collate information available in the public domain in order to encourage more informed debate of social issues. As such, it calls on professional and academic expertise as required.

For the purpose of the 2001 Survey, Dewar Research collaborated with Dr Malcolm George FRSA, a neuroscientist, who has published widely in academic journals on the issue of domestic violence and related aspects, including the historical context of male victimisation. His latest paper "Invisible Touch" was published in 2003 in the journal "Aggression and Violent Behaviour".

The co-author and research coordinator for Dewar Research, David Yarwood, is a chartered civil engineer who has published several studies relating to the issue of domestic violence on behalf of Dewar Research.