

Domestic Violence: The Severity of the Issue

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Domestic violence dates back to the beginning of time, but has only really made an impact within the last one hundred years. Domestic violence can be defined as “any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, in an intimate relationship” and can include a single act, or a reoccurring act amongst the victim and offender (Edmonton Police Service). Although men are affected by domestic [violence](#), most people “assume the male batterer/female victim paradigm” (Hanna). This is understood through rates of victims of domestic violence.

In Canada, in 2007, the percentage of victims of spousal assault that were female was 8338 (Biggs, Gingell and Downe 224). This percentage points out that male victims do exist, but only at a small fraction of the female victims. This social issue is something that is still being researched and there are many programs to help victims, but it is not at the point it needs to be. It is important to understand the history of how domestic violence has surfaced in order to understand the depth of social issue.

The History of Domestic Violence

The history of domestic violence dates back to the early 1900’s when the feminist movements began. The emergence of feminist movements and the beginning of women’s rights is the reason that domestic violence was finally seen as an issue. Cheryl Hanna says that it was not until the 1920’s that wife beating became illegal in all states. Until

then, it was seen as legal and socially acceptable to beat your wife and there were no consequences for the man that was doing the beating. Unfortunately, it was not until the 1970's that the criminal justice system decided to look at domestic violence issues as a serious social problem (Hanna). Although this issue was fina...

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