Johnson’s Typology of Domestic Violence

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**Intimate Terrorism**

Coercive controlling violence, occurs when one partner in a relationship uses coercive control and power over the other partner. Such as threats, intimidation, and isolation.

In such cases, "one partner, usually a man, controls virtually every aspect of the victim's, usually a woman's, life." Johnson reported in 2001 that 97% of the perpetrators of intimate terrorism were men.

**Violent Resistance**

This could be considered a form of self-defence. It is violence perpetrated by victims against their partners who have exerted intimate terrorism against them. Within relationships of intimate terrorism and violent resistance, 96% of the violent resisters are women.

Note that violent resistance is a use of unreasonable force, whereas self-defence is the use of reasonable force.

**Situational Couple Violence**

Often called common couple violence, is not connected to general control behaviour, but arises in a single argument where one or both partners physically lash out at the other.

This is the most common form of intimate partner violence, particularly in the western world and among young couples. It involves both sexes nearly equally. Among college students, Johnson found it to be perpetrated about 44% of the time by women and 56% of the time by men. It is still concerning, carries risk and causes harm but often masks deeper issues such as the previous classifications.

**Separation instigated violence**

This often has no violence taking place during the relationship, but one or two violent incidents at the point of separation. Perpetrators are often embarrassed, ashamed and bewildered by their actions and is commonly initiated by both men and women. Those who have used violence here are generally very compliant. However, as a practitioner you must explore whether coercive control was being used throughout the relationship.