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## Over-Representation of People of Color as Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators: The Case for Examining Multiple Points-of-Contact

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**ABSTRACT.** This article presents gender, age, and race comparisons of perpetrators of adult intimate partner violence (IPV) obtained from: (a) a mid-size metropolitan police department, (b) a victim advocacy

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agency located in the same city, and (c) a batterer intervention program also in the same city. Results showed found that: (a) the overwhelming majority of IPV perpetrators were male, (b) perpetrators were likely to be between the ages of 20-39, (c) racial demographics varied with the type of IPV intervention agency, and (d) People of Color were over-represented in police calls. This effort confirms the importance of obtaining information from varied community sources in order to provide a more complete picture of local IPV perpetrator demographics, especially racial characteristics. [Article copies available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service: 1-800-HAWORTH. E-mail address: <docdelivery@haworthpress.com> Website: <<http://www.HaworthPress.com>> © 2006 by The Haworth Press, Inc. All rights reserved.]

**KEYWORDS.** Intimate partner violence, domestic violence intervention, batterer characteristics, gender, age, and racial comparisons, multiple community points-of-contact

## INTRODUCTION

### *Gender, Age, and Race of Perpetrators<sup>1</sup>*

Gender, age, and race are significant issues in intimate partner violence (IPV). Hastings and Hamberger (1997) reviewed the literature and found that predictors of IPV, as well as violence overall, were: (a) *gender*; males were disproportionately prone to violence, (b) *young age*; between the ages of 12-45, and (c) *race*; People of Color have higher rates of violence per capita. Overall, the literature shows that gender and age results tend to be similar across samples, yet varies markedly by race (Table 1). The proportion of Caucasians compared to People of Color varies from 61% Caucasian versus 38% People of Color as reported by Gross et al. (2000), to 9% Caucasian versus 91% People of Color reported by Ho (2000). Tjaden and Thoennes (2000), reporting results from the non-forensic National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAWS), also found that People of Color (Mixed-Race, African-American, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/Alaskan Native respondents), report significantly more IPV than Caucasians. On the other hand, Lee, Thompson, and Mechanic (2002) found that, nationally, the cumulative rates for nonfatal intimate partner violence are similar between African-American and Caucasian women.