

## **Causes, reasons and circumstances of family violence: victimological aspects**

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Family violence (particularly adult intimate partner violence) is undoubtedly a complex phenomenon, which eludes any objective, unambiguous and comprehensive (scientific) definition. It is not therefore surprising that neither in professional circles nor among the lay public, can a consensus about what this frequently used concept is assumed to encompass be reached. It certainly holds true that violence in the family is a topic, which rarely leaves a person emotionally indifferent (and ideologically impartial). Furthermore, there is a whole range of very varied myths accompanying these problems, such as the myth about the scope and extent of this kind of violence, the psychological nature of individual perpetrators, personality traits of victims, causal role of alcohol, incompatibility of love and violence etc. Such highly one-sided and extremely simplified images have a soothing effect on public opinion, because they reinforce the conviction that family violence is an evil, affecting only the most problematic families (burdened also with other social and individual problems) and pathological (or in some other way abnormal) individuals. Normal family units (at least statistically speaking) thus escape a critical and detailed assessment.

**Keywords:** family violence, intimate partner violence, definition, theories of family violence, victims

**UDC: 316.356.2: 316.647.3/.4**