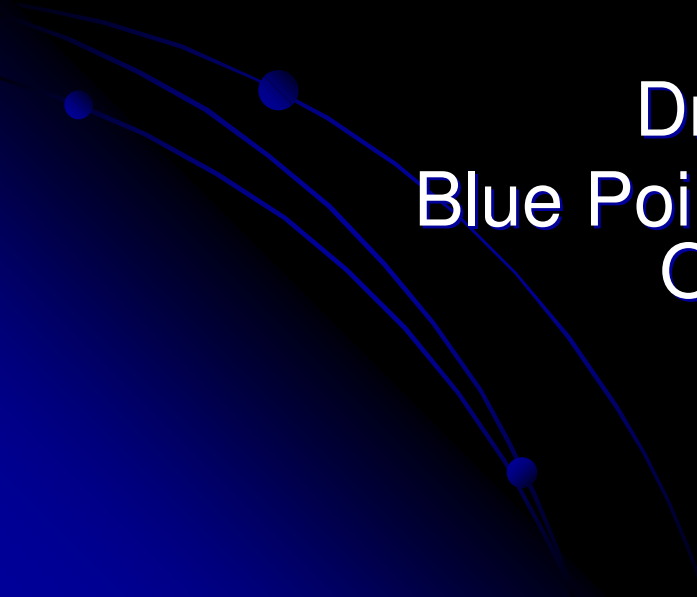


# The situation of familial alcoholism and violence in Hungary

Dr. Andrea Bodrogi  
Blue Point Drug Counselling and  
Outpatient Centre



# Violence in family

Domestic violence is not sufficiently recognised but still it is one of the greatest problems of public health all over the world

(Marwick, 1998)



# Risk factors of violence in the family

- Alcoholism
- Aggressive behaviour in the family of the parents
- The way of thinking about aggression
- Unemployment of men
  - Bad social circumstances



# Problematic alcohol consumption

Risk factor for domestic  
violence according  
to several international surveys

(Hamilton & Collins, 1981, Jewkes, 2002,  
Kantos & Straus, 1987, etc.)



# Survey containing the data of 3 generations

-Aggressiveness of grandparents is a predictor for the parent's antisocial behaviour

-The parents' antisocial behaviour is a predictor for parents' alcoholism and aggressiveness in the marriage

(Chermack, 2003)



# Violence in family

Violence in families is a neglected problem in Hungary

Why does it mean a problem?



As we know from the international data victims of physical, mental or sexual abuse in childhood have a vulnerability to

later alcoholism or other physical, mental or addictive disorders

# Violence in Hungary

The question was first examined by  
paediatricians in the 1980s  
A new symptomatology developed:  
child abuse

Few surveys measuring the problem

The first survey was conducted in  
1998

Until that year we hadn't had any data  
about the severity of the problem  
and neither had we known  
the number of the affected persons

Difficulties in measurement



# The problem in Hungary

The number of violent crimes is continuously growing in Hungary

- About 50 % of cleared-up crimes aims at family members

- In about half of murders the victim is a family member

- The victim of every other sexual crime is a family member or an acquaintance

UNICEF has ranked Hungary a dangerous country for children



# Survey (from 1998) carried out in a representative sample of 1010 women above 18

Dealing with:

- beating of wives
- sexual violence towards wives
- beating of children
- sexual violence towards children

The survey wasn't dealing with mental violence; negligence, ect



# Aim of the survey to measure

- The way of thinking of adult women population about aggression towards women and children

(how acceptable it is in thinking)

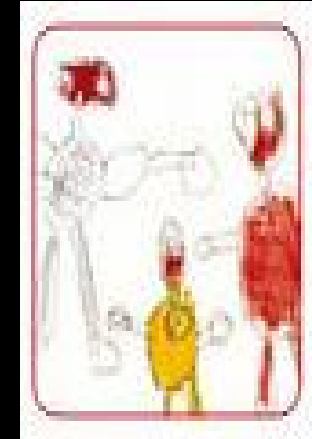
- The frequency of violence in original families of women

- The frequency of violence in families towards women and children

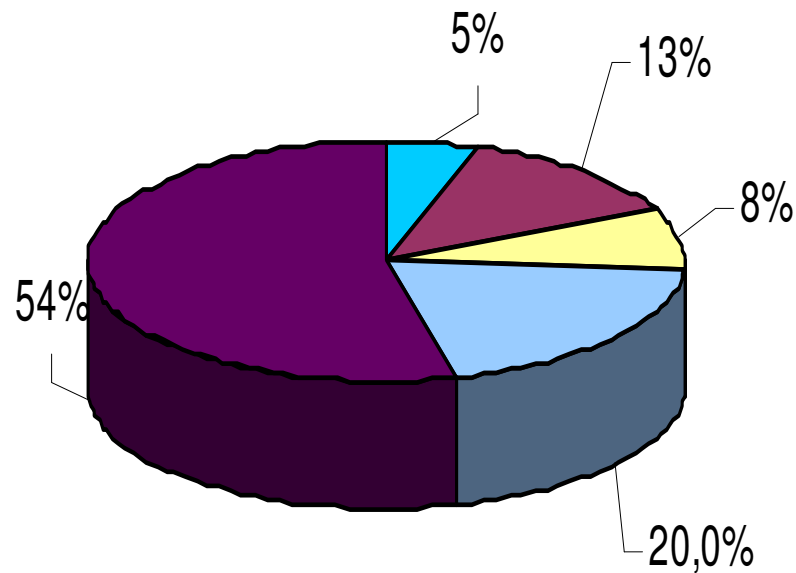


## ***Conclusions of the survey*** ***Thinking about aggressive behaviour***

- Beating is an accepted method of bringing up children
- Three-quarters of parents think that they have got the right to slap the child in the face
- One in seven parents beats the child regularly
- 18% of women have beaten their children very much at least ones

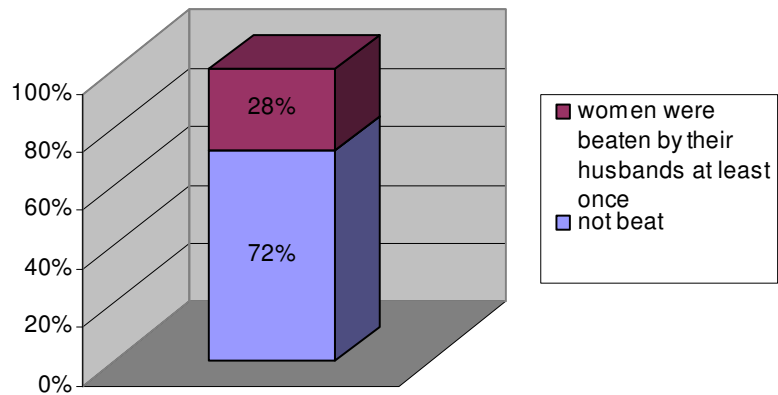
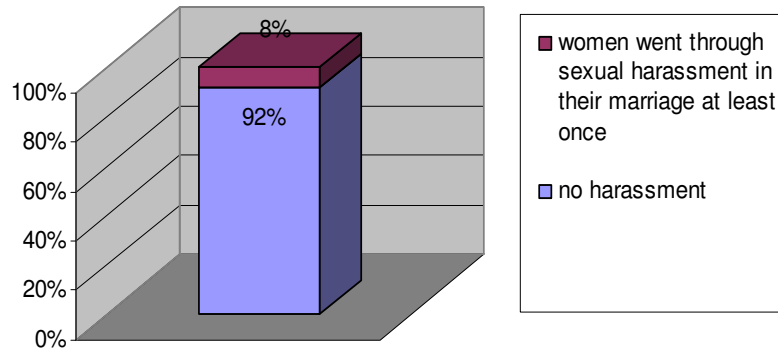


**Conclusion of the survey**  
**Aggressive behaviour in the original family of the women**  
**(n=1010 )**

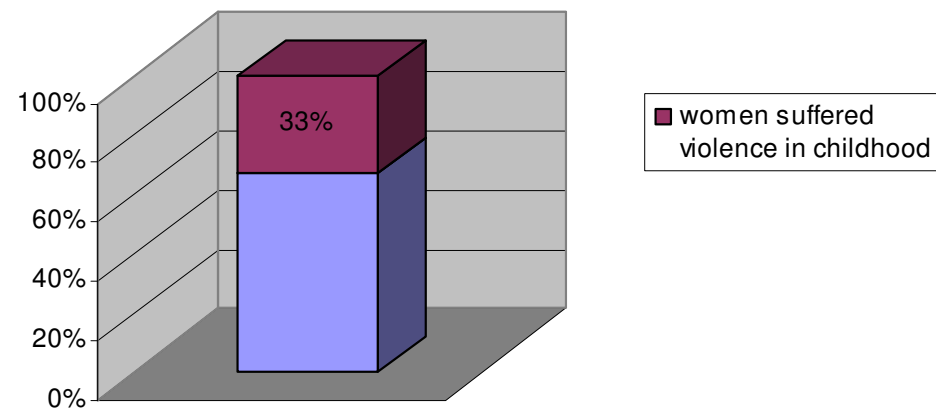
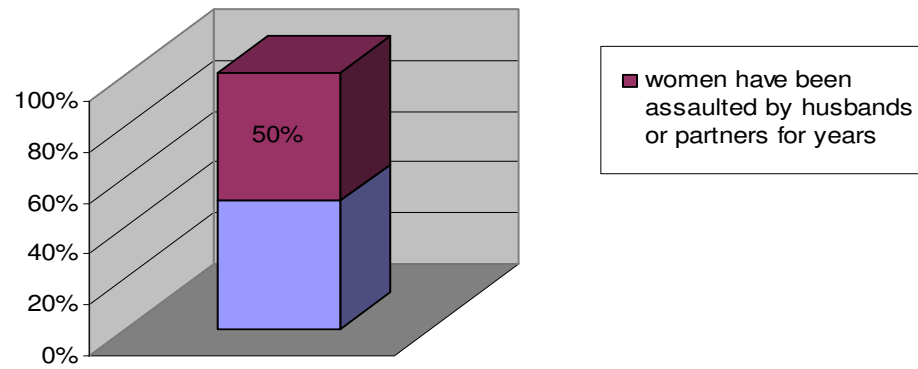


- Were regularly beaten in childhood
- Were beaten very much in childhood at least once
- Went through sexual harrassment in childhood
- Had fathers w ho beat their mothers
- No violence in childhood

### Conclusion of the survey Aggressive behaviour in the family (n=1010)

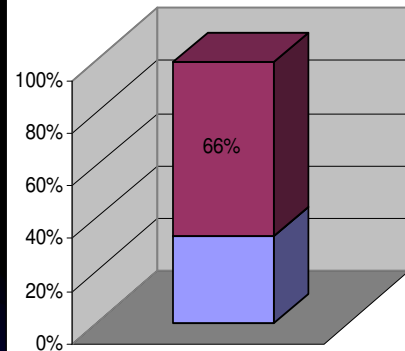


## Prison research conducted on arrested women for crimes against life

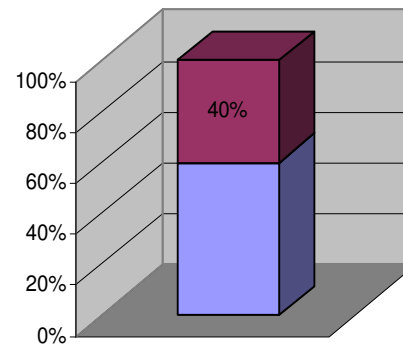


(L.Fehér., K. Parti: Women in prison, Criminological studies, 2002 National Institute of Criminology, Budapest)

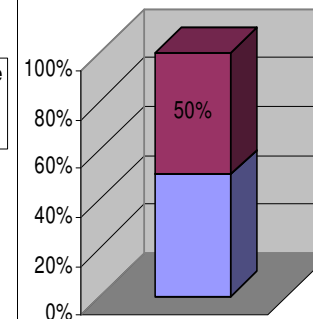
# Prison researches conducted on arrested men



■ were beaten regularly in childhood



■ in families violence towards women existed



■ in families alcohol problem existed

(Sz. Póczik Perpetrators in prison, 1999  
National Institute of Criminology Budapest)

**Survey (from 1994) carried out in a  
representative sample of children under 14  
in a county**

**5,7 % endangered in  
their families**

**14 % of assaulted  
children suffered from  
sexual harassment**



# Alcoholism and violence

No surveys exist examining the question of alcoholism and violence in Hungary

Although from international data we know that

porblematic alcohol consumption plays an important role in violence

In 25-50 % of domestic violence the perpetrator was drank while committing the crime

Alcoholism was diagnosed in 60-70 % of domestic violences

(Hamilton § Collins, 1981)

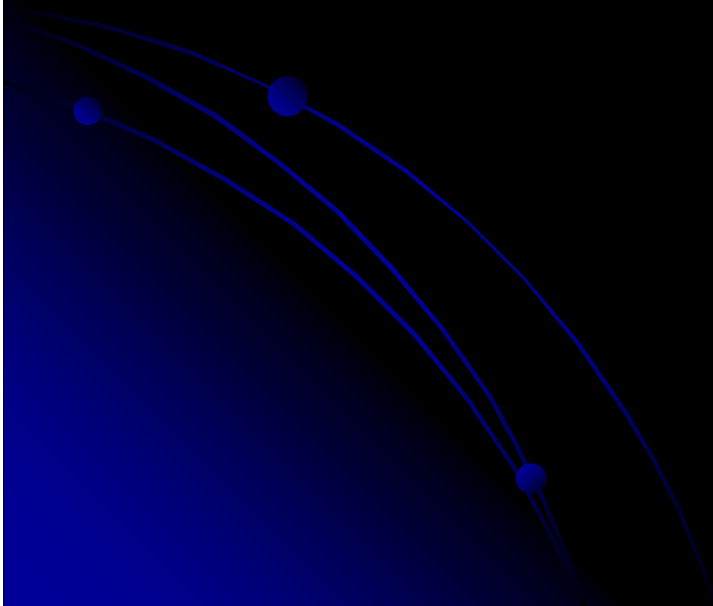


# Alcoholproblem in Hungary

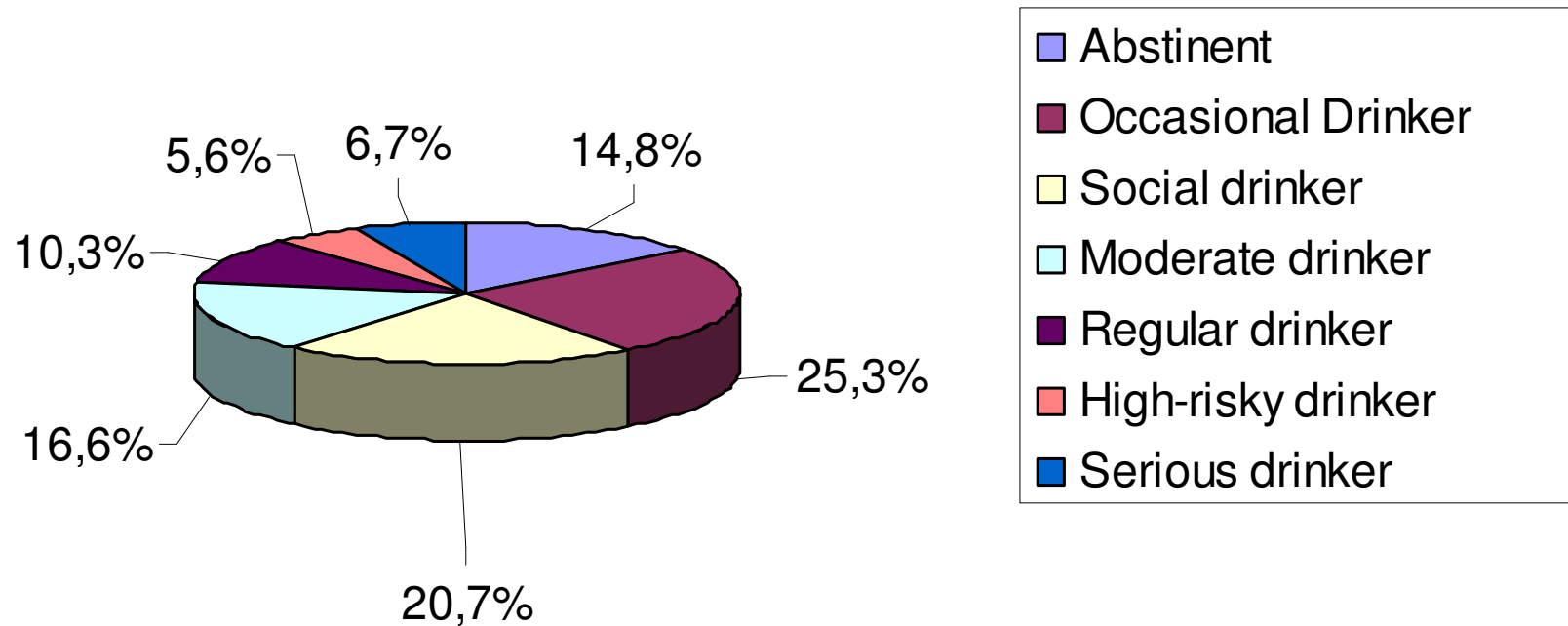


Number of registered alcoholics:

700 000

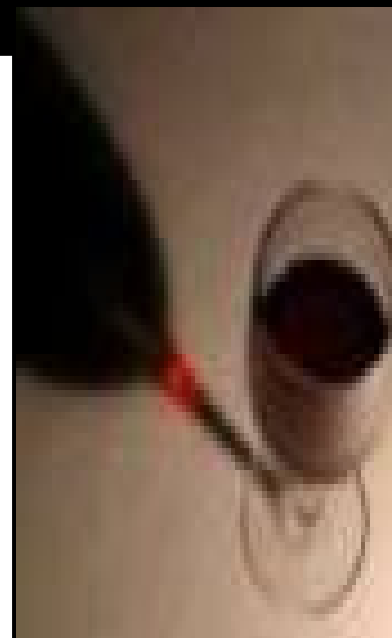
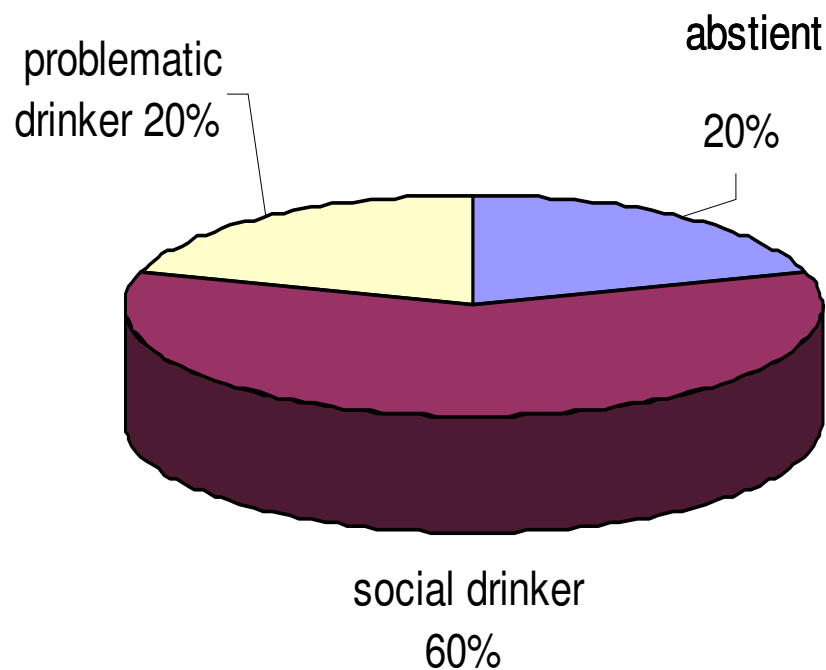


**Representative survey from 1986 of 6000  
persons above 18  
(Elekes, Liptay)**



## Representative survey from 1995 of 1500 persons above 18

(Dr. Á. Péter WHO Research)



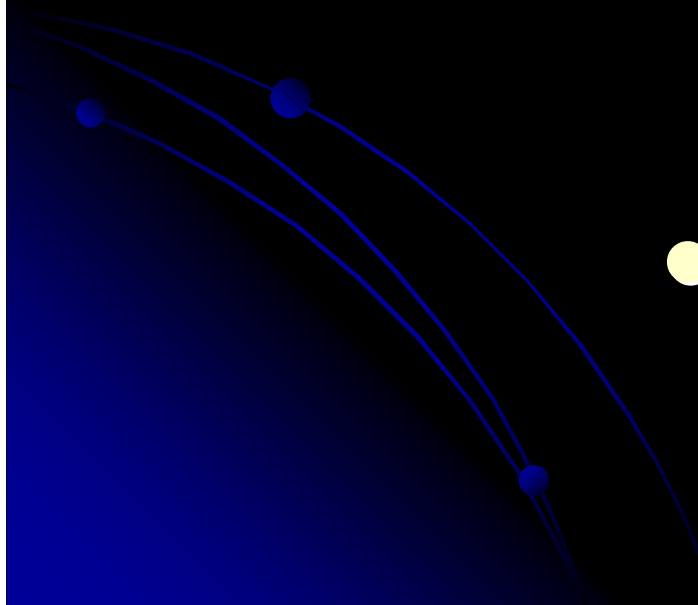
# Alcoholism and violence

According to the data of the Ministry of Justice those people who are kept in prison due to murdering a family member were alcoholics in nearly 100 % of cases



- Both the perpetrator and the victim were under the influence of alcohol during the crime

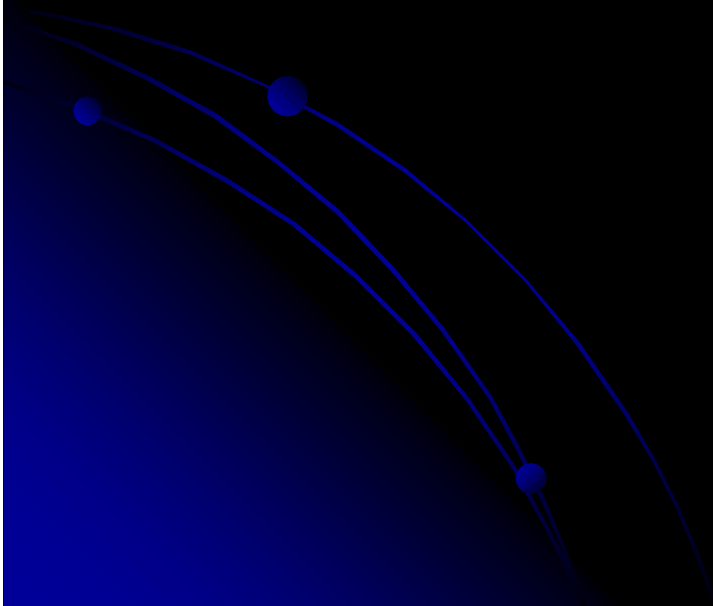
# Ways of help

- legal help
  - social help
  - medical help
- 

# Asking for help

81 % of women asked for help

Mostly from the police, but only 1/3 got some



# Legal regulation of violence and its problems

-Sexual harassment of women and children  
beating of women and children are penal offences

-Public opinion differs very much  
in the question of sexual harassment in marriage

-Everyday practice don't follow the law

-In most cases police is not capable of tackling the  
problem

-In Hungary there is a mistrust towards the  
institutions of the order

# Social help

Institutions: where help  
can be asked

Family counselling centre

Child welfare centre

Foundations (named –  
Esther and Women for  
Women)

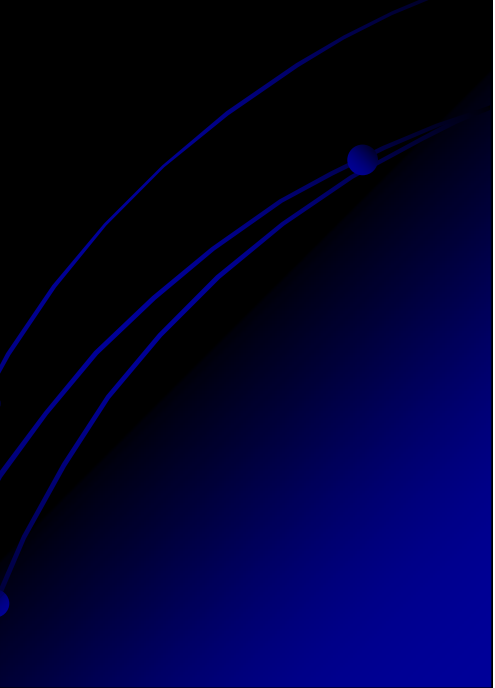
Crisis homes

Mother's homes

Crisis lines

(Crisis intervention can be  
reached by phone)





# Medical help

Both victims and perpetrators of violence should get psychiatric / psychotherapeutic help  
(insufficient in Hungary)

Crisis interventions should be widely available  
eg.: mobile crisis teams

- Treatment of alcoholism and early interventions for problematic drinkers should be taken a lot more seriously

# The situation in everyday practice

- There are less crisis homes than needed
- Women don't have enough information about crisis homes
- Ask for help is problematic: Women don't often ask for help because violence is a shame
- Most people don't know that domestic violence is punishable
- Victims or perpetrators of domestic violence can hardly get psychiatric / psychotherapeutic treatment
- Families with aggressive behaviour can hardly get any family therapy or community treatment

