



# Children and the Effects of Domestic Violence

Children exposed to family violence are more likely to develop social, emotional, psychological, and or behavioral problems than those who are not.

Some common effects of domestic violence on children include:

- Shame, guilt, and self blame
- Anger
- Confusion
- Anxiety
- Fears of abandonment, and physical grief
- Isolation
- Excessive absence from school
- Stress
- Eating disorders
- Violent behavior

## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is defined as the use or threat of use of physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse with the intent of instilling fear, intimidating, and controlling behavior. Domestic Violence occurs in an intimate relationship, and may continue after the relationship has ended.

Physical Abuse: Verbal threats of violence, pushing, shoving, hitting, slapping, punching, pinching, biting, kicking, holding down, pinning against the wall, choking, throwing objects, breaking objects, punching walls, driving recklessly to scare, blocking exits, and using weapons.

Emotional/ Verbal Abuse: Name calling, threats, criticizing, yelling, humiliating, isolation, economic abuse (controlling finances, preventing victim from working), threatening to hurt children or pets, stalking.

Sexual Abuse: Unwanted touching, sexual name calling, false accusations of sexual infidelity, forced sex, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV transmission.

## Where to go for Help:

If you or someone you know needs help, dial 911 or call the **24-hour crisis line at 209-223-2600**. Operation Care provides safe shelter for women, men, and children, as well as counseling, support services, crisis intervention and education.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Show your support by wearing a purple ribbon or tying a purple ribbon to your car antenna.



## Statistics: Children & Domestic Violence

Each year an estimated 3.3.MILLION children are exposed to violence against their mothers or female caretakers by family members. (*American Psychological Assoc., 1996*)

At least 70% of men who batter their wives sexually and/or physically abuse their children. (*End Domestic Violence.com*)

In over half of all domestic violence situations, the children are also physically abused. (*National Domestic Violence Media Campaign, 1995*)

Children exposed to partner violence exhibit symptoms similar to children who are physically and sexually abused, including the perpetuation of violence. (*Davidson, 1995*)

Girls whose fathers batter their mothers are 6.5 times more likely to be sexually abused by their fathers than girls from non-violent homes. (*the bridge to hope.com*)

Children experiencing domestic violence at home are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual crimes. (*Hope for healing.org*)

Research shows that 80-90% of children living in homes where there is domestic violence are aware of the violence. (*Pagelow, "Effects of Domestic Violence on Children", Mediation Quarterly, 1990*)

Male children who witness the abuse of mothers by fathers are more likely to become men who batter in adulthood than those male children from homes free of violence. (*American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 1981*)



Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Support Services  
Since 1980

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Phone: 209-223-2897  
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