

Children may experience multiple types of exposure to domestic violence, with nearly all exposed children being direct eyewitnesses to at least some violence in the home.

As per the DOJ, eyewitness accounts for 65 to 86 percent of all exposure. Nine out of ten children who are exposed to physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes are eyewitnesses.

In the same DOJ report, approximately half of children yell at their parents during a violent episode between the parents or try to get away; nearly a quarter call for help at least once.

We also know that victim parents protect their children and plan for their safety by:

Children react to exposure to domestic violence in different ways, and many children show remarkable resilience. However, children exposed are often physically, mentally, and emotionally impacted.

In a comprehensive national survey of children's exposure to violence, the DOJ notes the following:

- They may suffer from difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety and depression, and aggression and conduct problems.
- They may be more prone to dating violence, delinquency, further victimization, and involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Being exposed to violence may impair a child's capacity for partnering and parenting later in life, continuing the cycle of violence into the next generation.

Examples of children's resilience that we've seen in our program are:

How are children impacted by domestic violence?

As recognition of the impact of domestic violence on children increases, it becomes more important for domestic violence advocates and other practitioners to create interventions that decrease or prevent the harms associated with exposure to violence.

- Well over half of 1,500 survivors in a recent study conducted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence sought at least one type of service for children, with counseling being the most requested child-related service.
- Prevention efforts should start early by promoting healthy, respectful relationships in families by fostering healthy parent-child relationships and developing positive family dynamics and emotionally supportive environments.

Our program provides the following services for children:

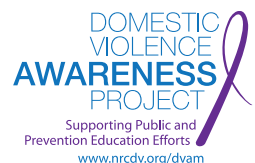
Survivor story or anecdote to illustrate your point:

Program Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



How are children impacted by domestic violence?

References and Citations

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- Eyewitness accounts for 65 to 86 percent of all exposure. Nine out of ten children who are exposed to physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes are eyewitnesses.
Source: Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2011, October). *Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Family Violence*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232272.pdf>.
- Approximately half of children yell at their parents during a violent episode between the parents or try to get away; nearly a quarter call for help at least once.
Source: Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2011, October). *Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Family Violence*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232272.pdf>.

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Source: Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Ormrod, R., Hamby, S., & Kracke, K. (October 2009). *Children's exposure to violence: A comprehensive national survey*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved October 25, 2010, from <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227744.pdf>.

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Source: Lyon, E., Bradshaw, J., & Menard, A. (2011). *Meeting Survivors' Needs through Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services & Supports: Results of a Multi-State Study*. Harrisburg, PA: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Available at http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/DVServicesStudy-FINALReport2011.pdf.
- Prevention efforts should start early by promoting healthy, respectful relationships in families by fostering healthy parent-child relationships and developing positive family dynamics and emotionally supportive environments.
Source: Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Available at http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf.

Additional statistic -

Millions of children are exposed to violence in their homes, as both victims and witnesses, each year in the United States.

- According to the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), 1 in 4 youth reports exposure to at least one form of family violence during their lifetimes –approximately 18.8 million children when extrapolated to the entire U.S. youth population.
Source: Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2011, October). *Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Family Violence*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232272.pdf>.
- In a study of 3,400 shelter residents, more than three in four survivors (78%) reported that they had children under the age of 18, and 68% had minor children with them at the shelter.
Source: Lyon, E., Lane, S., & Menard, A. (2008). *Meeting Survivors' needs: A multi-state study of domestic violence shelter experiences*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. Available at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/intimate/ipv.cfm>.