

ABOUT IPV & THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Growing up in a violent home may be a distressing experience that can affect every aspect of a child's life, growth and development. Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) can include watching or hearing the violent events; direct involvement (trying to intervene or calling 9-1-1); or experiencing the aftermath (seeing bruises or taking care of the injured parent). Advocates, child protective workers, law enforcement officers, judges and community members can help keep families safer with effective intervention and a coordinated response to IPV.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) EXPOSURE ON CHILDREN?

- An estimated 15.5 million children in the U.S. live in families in which partner violence occurred at least once in the past year, and seven million children live in families in which severe partner violence occurred.
- Children of mothers who experience prenatal partner violence are at an increased risk of exhibiting aggressive, anxious, depressed or hyperactive behavior.
- Counseling designed for the non-abusive parent and children together can increase the quality of parenting and increase positive outcomes for children.
- Many abusive partners are concerned about the effect of violence on their children.

Source: "The Facts on Children and Domestic Violence."
Futures Without Violence www.futureswithoutviolence.org.

IN HOMES WITH IPV, CHILDREN MAY:

- Become injured while being held by the adult victim, or while trying to stop the abuser's attack on the victim.
- Be used for the purpose of coercing the adult victim to return to the home, be forced to watch the assaults, or forced to actively participate in the assault.
- Be used as a spy through interrogation about the parent's activities.
- Experience a chronic, elevated level of tension and stress from fearing a family member's injury or death.
- See violence as the only way to get needs met, resulting in low impulse control and an inability to express emotions in a healthy way.
- Depending on their age, they could cry more than usual, develop eating disorders, experience sleep disturbances and nightmares, mood swings, depression, anxiety, or low self-esteem or may develop speech, motor skills and cognitive delays.
- Blame themselves for events they cannot control.
- Want to overcome family dysfunction by excelling in school and seeking approval by attempting academic perfection.
- Experience academic frustration resulting in dropping out of school, running away, delinquency, acting out sexually, risky use of substances, or suicide.
- Be at risk for recreating the abusive relationships they have observed unless they are able to access intervention or prevention information.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD...

If you recognize any of the behaviors in your child, realize that early intervention, support, and safety can often reverse the negative impact of IPV on children.

YOUR FIRST STEPS MAY INCLUDE:

- Calling the National Domestic Violence Hotline to locate a community-based advocacy program in your area. Ask to speak with an advocate to assist you in creating a stable and safe environment.
- Working with an advocate to develop strategies to support you and your children and learning that no one deserves abuse. It is not your or your child's fault.
- Giving children permission to tell their stories to trusted adults, as this helps children heal.
- Using every opportunity to remind children that they are lovable, competent and important.
- Obtaining resources for services which are appropriate for the child's age, ability, culture and environment.



IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CALL:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1.800.799.SAFE or 1.800.799.7233
1.800.787.3224 (TTY)
www.thehotline.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1.800.656.4673
www.rainn.org

Prevent Child Abuse America

www.preventchildabuse.org

Hotlines provide crisis intervention, information, referrals and safety planning. Both hotlines are toll-free, confidential, anonymous and operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Se habla español

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Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) is a statewide organization that was formed in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons and the empowerment of women and children.

NCEDSV helps Nevada's communities respond creatively and effectively to the needs of violence victims by providing information to service providers in the fields of domestic and sexual violence. In addition, NCEDSV provides education and advocacy to the general public and actively educates legislators on issues of concern to Nevada families.

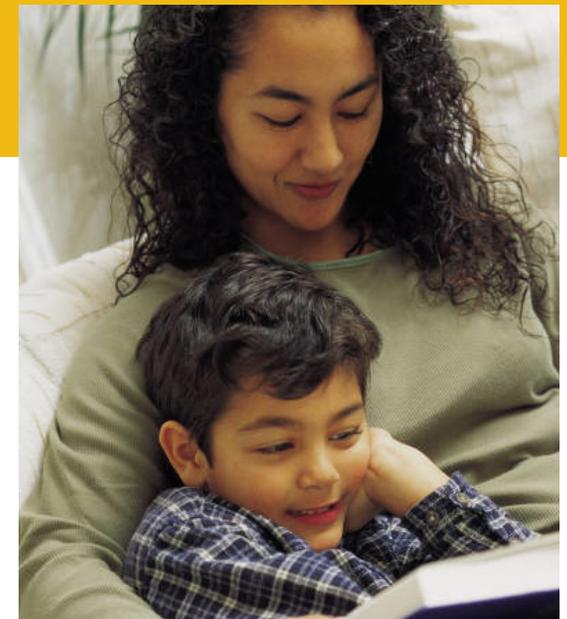


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**“A SAFE, STABLE AND NURTURING
RELATIONSHIP WITH A CARING ADULT CAN
HELP A CHILD OVERCOME THE STRESS ASSOCI-
ATED WITH INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.”**

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