



Children and Domestic Violence Information

On average, more than three women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States and women experience two million injuries from intimate partner violence each year. Many of these women are mothers who often go to great and courageous lengths to protect their children from abusive partners. In fact, research has shown that the non-abusing parent is often the strongest protective factor in the lives of children who are exposed to domestic violence.

Growing up in a violent home may be a terrifying and traumatic experience that can affect every aspect of a child's life, growth and development. In spite of this, we know that when properly identified and addressed, the effects of domestic violence on children can be mitigated.

- 15.5 million U.S. children 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.
- The majority of U.S. nonfatal intimate partner victimization of women (two-thirds) occurs at home. Children are residents of the households experiencing intimate partner violence in 43 percent of incidents involving female victims.
- In a single day in 2010, 20,406 children were living in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing facility. Another 6,592 sought services at a non-residential program.
- The UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children conservatively estimated that 275 million children worldwide are exposed to violence in the home.