



Portrait of a child in a violent home...

- 15.5 million Children in the United States 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.ⁱ
- Teen victims of physical dating violence are more likely than their non-abused peers to smoke, use drugs, engage in unhealthy diet behaviors (taking diet pills or laxatives and vomiting to lose weight), engage in risky sexual behaviors, and attempt or consider suicide.ⁱⁱ
- In a national survey of American families, 50% of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children.ⁱⁱⁱ
- On average between 1993 and 2004, children under age 12 were residents of households experiencing intimate partner violence in 43% of incidents involving female victims and 25% of incidents involving male victims.^{iv}
- A child's exposure to the father abusing the mother is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.^v
- Many children in homes where domestic violence occurs have difficulties in school, including problems with concentration, poor academic performance, difficulty with peer interactions, and more absences from school. Adolescents are at risk of academic failure, school dropout, delinquency, substance abuse, and difficulties in their own relationships.^{vi}
- Infants and toddlers who witness violence show excessive irritability, immature behavior, sleep disturbances, emotional distress, fears of being alone, and regression in toileting and language. Preschool children may develop enuresis and speech dis-fluencies, such as stuttering.^{vii}



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http://www.endabuse.org/content/action_center/detail/754

ⁱ Silverman, J, Raj A, et al. 2001. Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality. JAMA. 286:572-579.

Available at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/286/5/572>.

ⁱⁱ Whitfield, CL, Anda RF, Dube SR, Felittle VJ. 2003. *Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Adults: Assessment in a Large Health Maintenance Organization*. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 18(2): 166-185.

<http://www.dvrc-or.org/domestic/violence/resources/C61/#chi>

ⁱⁱⁱ Strauss, Murray A, Gelles, Richard J., and Smith, Christine. 1990. *Physical Violence in American Families; Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers

^{iv} Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S. 1993-2004, 2006

<http://www.acadv.org/children.html#statistics>

^v American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family: Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family, 1996

^{vi} <http://www.letswrap.com/dvinfo/kids.htm>

^{vii} <http://www.findcounseling.com/journal/domestic-violence/domestic-violence-children.html>