



**A Refuge.  
An Advocate.  
A Strong Voice  
Against Domestic  
Violence.**

## CHILDREN -- The Other Victims of Domestic Violence

**Children from homes in which domestic violence occurs are often forgotten victims. In the majority of cases, children hear and/or see their mothers being insulted, threatened, and even brutally beaten. Every act of battering witnessed by a child plants a seed for another generation of violence. In order to break the cycle of family violence, we must begin with the children.**

- For 15.5 million children in the US, domestic violence occurred in their families at least once during the past year. Seven million children live in families that experienced severe domestic violence. (*Whitfield, Anda, Dube, & Felittle, 2003*)
- Children who witness domestic violence exhibit similar emotional health and clinical symptoms as children who have themselves been physically abused. (*Kitzmann et al., 2003*)
- Preschool children who witness violence in their homes suffer more often from bedwetting, nightmares, symptoms of post-traumatic stress, asthma, allergies, gastrointestinal problems, headaches, and flu. (*Graham-Bermann & Seng, 2005*)
- Many children who are exposed to domestic violence demonstrate more antisocial, aggressive, inhibited, and fearful behaviors, as well as lower social competence and academic performance (*Kitzmann, Gaylord, Hold, & Kenny, 2003*)
- Domestic violence is a primary cause of family homelessness in 28% of 25 cities surveyed. ([www.opdv.state.ny.us](http://www.opdv.state.ny.us))
- Children living in homes where domestic violence occurs are seriously abused or neglected at a rate 1500% higher than the national average in the general population. (*Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2003*)
- One in three teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been physically hurt by a dating partner. (*Liz Claiborne Inc., 2005*)
- Men who were exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, or adult domestic violence when they were children are 3.8 times more likely than other men to batter in adult relationships. (*Whitfield, Anda, Dube, & Felitti, 2003*)
- In the US, domestic violence is the most common precursor to child death. (*Mills et al., 2000*)
- Among children who witness domestic violence, those who have more social support networks and family members in protective roles demonstrate greater resiliency. (*Masten & Reed, 2002*).

**La Casa de las Madres  
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