



# Children & Exposure to Domestic Violence

## HOW ARE CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Children seeing, hearing, or perceiving the effects of physical aggression between their parenting figures. Psychological abuse and verbal hostility often accompany this.

Domestic Violence and child abuse are commonly linked. In fact, 40% of child abuse cases also reported domestic violence in the home.

Children can be exposed to domestic violence all around the world. For example, in India there are about 27.1 to 69 million children exposed every year.

In 1992 it was estimated that 10 million children were exposed to violence between their parents each year.

A child is more at risk of becoming a perpetrator or victim of domestic violence later in life if they were exposed to domestic violence as children.

Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

Preschoolers and toddlers are more impressionable to domestic violence due to their lack of cognitive and emotional functions at a younger age.

## EXTERNALIZED BEHAVIOR EFFECTS DUE TO EXPOSURE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Aggression (ex. Bullying & fighting)
- Misbehavior (Ex. Lying & cheating)
- Impulsivity
- Disobedient
- Spending more time alone
- Drug or alcohol use
- Declining grades
- Loss of interest

**CHILD HELP-  
NATIONAL CHILD  
ABUSE HOTLINE:  
(800) 422-4453**

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE HOTLINE:  
(800) 799-7233**

## INTERNALIZED BEHAVIOR EFFECTS DUE TO EXPOSURE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Somatic complaints
- PTSD
- Sleep problems (Ex. Bedwetting & nightmares)

## References

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