

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 Dating Abuse Helpline

Call or visit website for hours of operation.
1.866.331.9474
1.866.331.8453 (TTY)
www.loveisrespect.org

Hotlines provide crisis intervention,
information, referrals and safety planning.

All hotlines are toll-free, confidential and
anonymous and most operate 24 hours a day
365 days a year.

Se habla Español



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necessarily reflect the views of the
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Violence Against Women.

**The Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence (NNADV)...**

...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.

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



**Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence**

250 South Rock Blvd. Suite 116
Reno Nevada 89502

Phone: 775.828.1115
Fax: 775.828.9911
Website: www.nnadv.org

A program in your area:



NNADV
Advocating change.
Educating our community.
Supporting services.

**Intimate
Partner
Violence &
Its Impact on
Children**



"A safe, stable and nurturing
relationship with a caring adult
can help a child overcome the
stress associated with intimate
partner violence."

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence
wishes to acknowledge the publication,
"Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence" from the
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
March 2002.

Intimate Partner Violence & Its 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, (e.g., trying to intervene or calling 9-1-1, or experiencing the aftermath, such as seeing bruises, and taking care of the injured parent). With effective intervention and a coordinated response; advocates, child protective workers, law enforcement officers, judges and community members can help keep families safer.

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. Some may be motivated to stop violence if they understand the devastating effects on their children.

In homes where intimate partner violence is present, 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, or being forced to watch the assaults, or even 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 resulting in fear of injury or death of a family member;
- See violence as the only way to get needs met resulting in low impulse control and an inability to express emotions properly;
- Cry incessantly depending on their age, develop eating disorders, experience sleep disturbances and nightmares, mood swings, depression, anxiety, low self esteem and may develop speech, motor skills and cognitive delays;
- Blame themselves for events they cannot control;
- Want to overcome family dysfunction by excelling in school, seeking approval by becoming perfect students while continuing to live with frightening and unpredictable events;
- Experience academic frustration resulting in dropping out of school, running away, delinquency, acting out sexually, substance abuse, or even suicide; and
- Be at risk for recreating the abusive relationships they have observed without appropriate intervention.

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. Many children show remarkable resiliency, developing coping mechanisms that allow them to endure and survive exposure to IPV.

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 that will hold abusers accountable for their behavior while realizing that no one deserves abuse. It is not your or your children's fault;
- Giving children permission to tell their stories to trusted adults helps children heal;
- Using every opportunity to remind children that they are lovable, competent, and important; and
- Obtaining resources for services which are appropriate for the child's age, ability, culture, and environment.

All services provided by community-based advocacy programs are premised on support, empowerment, options and safety for you and your children. Services offered by these programs are free and confidential. For a list of programs in Nevada, visit the NNADV website (www.nnadv.org)

