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Facts and Stats Children in Domestic Violence Households

At least 70% of men who batter their wives, sexually or physically abuse their children. All children suffer from witnessing their father assault their mother. *(End Domestic Violence.Com)*

In over half of all domestic violence situations, the children are also physically abused. *(National Domestic Violence Media Campaign, 1995).*

Children exposed to partner violence exhibit symptoms similar to children who are physically and sexually abused, including the perpetuation of violence. *(Davidson, 1995)*

Girls whose fathers batter their mothers are 6.5 times more likely to be sexually abused by their fathers than are girls from non-violent homes. *(The Bridge: <http://www.thebridgetohope.com>)*

Almost ten percent of high school age girls said "yes" when asked if "a boyfriend or date has ever forced sex against your will." *(The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, November 1997)*

The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country. *(U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, A Nation's Shame: Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States: Fifth Report, 1995)*

Children experiencing domestic violence at home are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes. *(Wolfe, D.A., Wekerle, C., Reitzel, D. and Gough, R., "Strategies to Address Violence in the Lives of High Risk Youth." In Peled, E., Jaffe, P.G. and Edleson, J.L. (eds.), Ending the Cycle of Violence: Community Responses to Children of Battered Women. New York: Sage Publications. 1995.)*

Some common effects of domestic violence on children include:

- feeling responsible for the abuse given to their mother
- constant anxiety and grief
- fears of abandonment and physical harm
- isolation
- excessive absence from school
- stress
- eating disorders
- violent behavior

Source: Sanctuary for Families Staff

For more information:
Hope for Healing.Org
153 E Broadway Blvd. #113
Jefferson City, TN 37760
Email: hello@hopeforhealing.org
Phone: 865.471.8366