

Fact Sheet 7 Impacts of family and domestic violence on children

Children of parents who experience family and domestic violence are at risk of experiencing a range of physical, psychological and social impacts. These impacts can be both direct and indirect, and can be both short-term and long-term. The impacts of family and domestic violence on children can be both immediate and long-term, and can be both physical and psychological. Children of parents who experience family and domestic violence are at risk of experiencing a range of physical, psychological and social impacts. These impacts can be both direct and indirect, and can be both short-term and long-term. The impacts of family and domestic violence on children can be both immediate and long-term, and can be both physical and psychological.

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As a result of the violence, children may experience a range of physical and psychological effects. These can include: physical injuries, such as bruising, cuts, and burns; emotional distress, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and behavioural problems, such as aggression, withdrawal, and self-harm. Children may also experience difficulties with school, such as poor concentration and absenteeism. In some cases, children may be directly involved in the violence, such as being witness to an assault or being the victim of an assault. This can have a particularly severe impact on their mental health and well-being.

Children who experience family and domestic violence may also be at risk of being recruited into criminal gangs or other violent groups. This is because these children may be seeking a sense of belonging and protection from the violence in their home. They may also be vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. It is important to identify and support these children as early as possible to prevent them from becoming involved in criminal activity. This can be done through a range of services, including counselling, support groups, and legal advice. It is also important to ensure that children are safe and protected from further violence. This may involve changing their living arrangements or providing them with a safe place to stay.

Table 1: Impacts of family and domestic violence on children

Age of child	Impacts of family and domestic violence
Babies and toddlers	Children under the age of three are particularly vulnerable to the effects of family and domestic violence. They may experience physical injuries, such as bruising, cuts, and burns, and emotional distress, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They may also experience behavioural problems, such as aggression, withdrawal, and self-harm. In some cases, children may be directly involved in the violence, such as being witness to an assault or being the victim of an assault. This can have a particularly severe impact on their mental health and well-being.
Preschoolers	Children aged three to five years old may experience similar effects to babies and toddlers. They may also experience difficulties with school, such as poor concentration and absenteeism. In some cases, children may be directly involved in the violence, such as being witness to an assault or being the victim of an assault. This can have a particularly severe impact on their mental health and well-being.
School age/pre-adolescent	Children aged six to twelve years old may experience similar effects to preschoolers. They may also experience difficulties with school, such as poor concentration and absenteeism. In some cases, children may be directly involved in the violence, such as being witness to an assault or being the victim of an assault. This can have a particularly severe impact on their mental health and well-being.
Adolescents	Children aged thirteen to eighteen years old may experience similar effects to school age/pre-adolescent children. They may also experience difficulties with school, such as poor concentration and absenteeism. In some cases, children may be directly involved in the violence, such as being witness to an assault or being the victim of an assault. This can have a particularly severe impact on their mental health and well-being.

Factors contributing to children’s ability to cope with the violence

Violence in the home is a traumatic experience for children. Children who experience violence in the home are at risk of developing mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing behavioural problems, including aggression, conduct disorder, and substance use. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing physical health problems, including asthma, headaches, and stomach aches. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing social problems, including isolation, difficulty forming relationships, and difficulty trusting others. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing academic problems, including poor school attendance, poor academic performance, and school dropout. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing long-term health and social problems, including chronic mental health problems, chronic physical health problems, and chronic social problems. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of violence, where they become violent themselves as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of trauma, where they experience violence in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of poverty, where they experience poverty as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of homelessness, where they experience homelessness as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of incarceration, where they experience incarceration as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of substance use, where they experience substance use as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of self-harm, where they experience self-harm as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of suicide, where they experience suicide as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of death, where they experience death as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of violence, where they experience violence in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of trauma, where they experience trauma in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of poverty, where they experience poverty in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of homelessness, where they experience homelessness in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of incarceration, where they experience incarceration in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of substance use, where they experience substance use in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of self-harm, where they experience self-harm in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of suicide, where they experience suicide in the home as adults. Children who experience violence in the home are also at risk of developing a cycle of death, where they experience death in the home as adults.