

● ● ● | What is Domestic Violence ?

Some educators believe domestic violence is relatively new to Native American culture and may be traced to the introduction of alcohol.

Domestic violence is intimidating or threatening behavior used as power and control over another person or child such as:

- Physical violence
- Emotional violence
- Sexual violence
- Verbal violence
- Economic violence

Perpetrators

Frequently the perpetrator is a young adult in his or her mid-20s without a high school diploma and is most often a victim of domestic violence as a child.

“Safe and Bright Futures for Children”

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson stated in a press release of October 2003, that a new initiative would be developed to help children who witness domestic violence, develop into healthy, well-adjusted adults and prevent the cycle of violence from continuing from one generation to the next.

The new program will use practices such as treatment for child and adolescent trauma, mentoring and mental health services while also addressing the risk and protective factors that will stop the effects of violence.

Each year nearly 700,000 cases of documented incidents of domestic violence threaten the well being of children and families across the nation. They will use preventative services and support to help children.

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STOP | ● ● ●

Domestic Violence



Against Children



National Child Abuse
Hotline
1-800-422-4453



Reports on Injury and Death

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, injuries account for 75% of all deaths among American Indian and Alaska Native children and youth. They have an overall injury-related death rate that is twice the U.S. rate for all ethnic populations according to injury mortality data by Indian Health Service;

And

According to the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect, child fatalities remain a serious problem due to physical assault or severe neglect. Studies indicate that neglect is the most under-recorded form of fatal maltreatment. Children younger than one-year account for 41 percent of fatalities, while children younger than 6 years account for 85 percent of fatalities. These proportions have remained fairly consistent from year to year.

Children's reaction to domestic violence

Fear of loud noises with increased fear, crying, or reacting with a startle reflex.

Slower in walking, crawling or talking.

Nightmares or sleep disturbances and delay in potty training.

Aches and pains with no apparent cause. Clingy behavior.

Acting out domestic violence against siblings. Cruelty to animals.

Made to feel guilty for domestic violence.

Problems in school. Have learning disabilities. Withdrawn behavior.

Confuses love and violence.

Develop emotional problems such as depression.

Running away, theft, anxiety.

Developing distrust in any adult or authority figure.

Screaming, hitting, slapping, scratching, hitting with objects such as toys.

Other effects:

Shame

Low self-esteem

Feelings of powerlessness

Confusion

Increased deceptiveness

Bed wetting

Fear of abandonment

Loss of appetite

Verbal abusiveness

Lying

Increased tantrums

Shyness

School truancy and poor performance

Higher susceptibility to colds or illness

Who are the victims?

Research indicates very young children (ages 5 and younger) are the most frequent victims with boys being slightly more likely to be victims.