

## THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

- Reports by battered mothers show that 87% of children witness the abuse.
- Children who grow up in homes where violence is present are 6 times more likely to commit suicide.
- 70% of men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children.
- Child abuse, whether by fathers or mothers, is likely to diminish once the battered mother is able to gain access to safety services and achieve separation from the violent father.
- Children who grow up in homes where there is violence are 24 times more likely to be sexually assaulted.
- As violence against women becomes more severe and more frequent in the home, children experience a 300% increase in physical violence by the male batterer.
- 5% to 25% of pregnant women are battered.
- Domestic violence is the largest single cause of birth defects in children.
- Children who grow up in homes where there is violence are 1,000 times more likely to become abusers themselves.
- Children whose lives are disrupted by moves to escape domestic violence lose considerable school time and are often unable to enroll in new school districts because they lack birth certificates, immunization records and other necessary paperwork to get into school.
- Up to 50% of all homeless women and children in this country are fleeing domestic violence.
- 62% of sons over age 14 were injured when they attempted to protect their mothers from attacks by abusive male partners.
- Many fathers inadvertently injure children while engaging in domestic violence, with the youngest children sustaining the most serious injuries, such as concussions and broken shoulders and ribs.
- Children who have grown up in homes where violence is present are 60 times more likely to engage in delinquent behavior as an adult.

- 8 times as many women report using physical discipline on their children while with the batterer than when living alone or in a non-abusive relationship.