



The Correlation Between Domestic Violence and Children's Development

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Introduction

- It is estimated that each year 3.3 million U.S. children will witness violence against their mother or female caretaker by a family member.
- Children said to have witnessed four types of domestic violence: verbal, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.
- Children are the secondary victims of domestic violence, and are often forgotten about.
- Witnessing domestic violence leads children to have a variety of age-dependent negative effects.

Coverage

- Information found through the Tennessee Technological University Volpe Library search engine.
- Key terms used to research:
 - "Domestic Violence"
 - "Children's Development"
- Definitions:
 - **Domestic Violence:** violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner.
 - **Children's Development:** Child development refers to the sequence of physical, language, thought and emotional changes that occur in a child from birth to the beginning of adulthood.



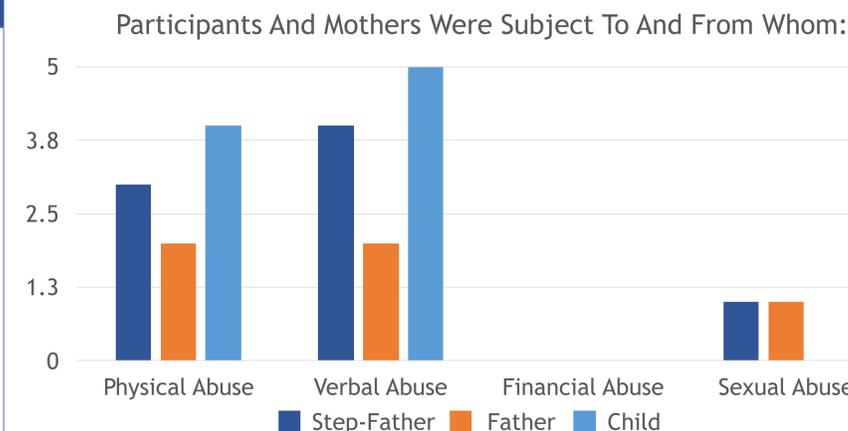
Methodology

- The following steps were followed in order to complete the literature review of this topic:
 1. Selected a research topic,
 2. Created key terms to complete search,
 3. Used key terms to find relevant articles,
 4. Reviewed the articles,
 5. Created a literature review,
 6. Synthesized the information into the final review,
 7. Summarized information into the final review

Results

- Three themes and eight sub-themes were found between participants who have witnessed domestic violence:
- Themes:
 - Contextualizing the violence
 - Dealing with the impact of witnessing abuse
 - Devising survival coping strategies
- Sub-themes:
 - Emotionally charged home environment
 - Type, frequency and duration of the violence
 - Deficient family relationships
 - Feeling invisible and becoming depressed
 - Feeling invisible and blocking out the abuse
 - Attempting to stop the abuse
 - Establishing a safe supportive place of retreat
 - Moving out and moving on

	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3
Siblings Present	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abuser had mental illness	No	No	No
child tried to intercede	No	Yes	No
child experienced physical abuse	No	Yes	No
child lived in safe house	Yes	Yes	No



Significance

- Children should always be protected from witnessing domestic violence and removed from the situation as soon as possible, and we **MUST** protect them.
- The findings showed us that children who witness domestic violence in the home are more likely to exhibit similar psychological effects.
- Children who witness domestic violence have an increased risk of poor school performance, cognitive delay, emotional and behavioral issues, trauma symptoms and mental health diagnoses in childhood.

Conclusions

- Domestic violence affects more than the primary victim, there are secondary victims who experience negative outcomes as well.
- We must protect children from being exposed to domestic violence, because it can lead to developmental declines as well as those behaviors reoccurring in their future.

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