

RESOURCES

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
toll free hotline 800.332.7385

Connect2Help (in most areas of Indiana)
211

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800.799.SAFE - www.ndvh.org

Rape Abuse & Incest National Network
800.656.HOPE - www.rainn.org

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana CARE Line
800.962.2798

Child Abuse Hotline 800.800.5556

Children are watching

The effects of domestic violence on children



P.O. Box 903 - Jasper, IN 47547

Fax: 812.482.1571

Email: info@crisisconnectioninc.org

Visit: crisisconnectioninc.org

24 hour hotline 800.245.4580

INDIANA SAYS
NO MORE
TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT



Crisis Connection is a member
of the Indiana Coalition Against
Domestic Violence.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is the use of power and control within an intimate relationship that threatens a person's well-being. The abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional and financial. It can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or dating.

Domestic violence affects people of all socio-economic backgrounds and education levels.

It can happen to friends, family or co-workers. It can happen to you.

Respectful relationships allow both partners to feel supported and connected but still feel independent. Ultimately, the two people in the relationship decide what is healthy for them and what is not. If something doesn't feel right, you should have the freedom to voice your concerns to your partner.

The presence of respectful relationships in the home make children feel safe and secure. Such homes enhance a child's physical, social and emotional development and have been shown to reduce their risk of a broad range of social problems as they grow up.



Preventing domestic violence begins when we all agree that fair treatment in a relationship is a basic right.

- Children SEE incidents of physical or sexual abuse.
- Children HEAR threats or fighting noises. Children OBSERVE the aftermath of physical abuse such as blood, bruises, tears, torn clothing and broken household items.
- Children are AWARE of the tension in the home such as mom's fear when the abuser's car pulls into the driveway.



The effects of domestic violence on children.

Children who grow up in homes where violence is present are*:

- 6 times more likely to commit suicide.
- 24 times more likely to be sexually assaulted.
- 67 times more likely to engage in delinquent behavior as an adolescent.
- 100 times more likely to be abusers themselves.
- 1500 times more likely to be abused or neglected.

**U.S. Department of Justice, Special Report 2002*

Children exposed to abuse:

- become fearful and anxious.
- are always on guard, watching and waiting for the next event to occur.
- never feel safe, never knowing what will trigger the abuse.
- are always worried for themselves, their mother and their siblings.
- may feel worthless and powerless.



Children growing up with abuse:

- are expected to keep the family secret.
- can look fine on the outside, but inside they are in terrible pain.
- live in families that are chaotic and crazy.
- may blame themselves for the abuse.
- may become angry at their siblings or mother for triggering the abuse.
- may feel rage, embarrassment and humiliation.
- may feel guilt for loving the abuser or for not being able to stop the abuse.

Boys who witness their mothers' abuse are more likely to abuse their female partners as adults than boys raised in nonviolent homes. Girls may learn that threats and intimidation are normal in relationships.