

ISSUE BRIEF



OCTOBER | 2009

Children Who Witness Domestic Violence

The effect of domestic violence is like dropping a rock into a lake: the impact ripples outward, not only affecting the victim, but also children who witness domestic violence, other family members and community resources.

More than one million incidents of domestic violence occur in the United States each year with between three and ten million children witnessing each act. According to a recent national survey, only about one quarter of domestic violence is reported to the police, making it difficult to accurately estimate the number of actual victims. In Ohio alone, 74,500 domestic violence calls were reported to the police in 2008, but many more incidences likely went undocumented. Society must confront the destructive nature of domestic violence in order to support and encourage the victims to ask for and receive help for themselves and their children.

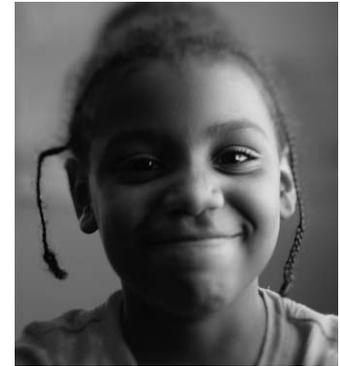
Our current economy, the worst in decades, has led to a sharp spike in the number of domestic violence victims seeking help, and the increase comes as funding for shelters and other crisis programs is being cut across the state, according to a 2009 study by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN).

The combination of increased demand and decreased funding has caused some shelters to turn away families and left many

others struggling to help families with a multitude of problems.

“Ohio already ranks near the bottom nationally in support for victims of family violence,” according to ODVN Executive Director Nancy Neylon. “At a time when demand for services is up, domestic violence programs are forced to cut back or turn people away, resulting in more victims returning to abusers because they feel they have no other choice.”

The purpose of this *Issue Brief* is to raise awareness of how destructive family violence is on child witnesses. Although there are limited scientific resources that measure the implications and the prevalence of children’s exposure to domestic violence, the Children’s Defense Fund – Ohio (CDF-OH) has produced this brief which is a collection of findings from relevant research and literature. With the publication of this *Issue Brief*, CDF-OH hopes to improve the understanding and support throughout Ohio to end family domestic violence and generate a shared vision to protect our children.



The Problem

Family domestic violence is a pattern of aggressive and coercive behaviors. This includes physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners. There is a higher incidence of domestic violence against women, although men are victims of domestic violence as well.

For purposes of this brief, the term ‘family’ is broadly used. ‘Family’ extends a traditional definition of legal status and/or blood relation to include living arrangements, dependency, and/or relationships external to marriage.

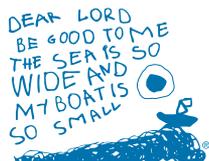
According to Ohio law, children are witnesses to domestic violence if the act occurs “in the vicinity of the child,” meaning within 30 feet of the same residence as the child. Therefore, he

or she does not necessarily have to physically view the violence to be considered a witness and experience the negative results.

Children from violent homes continue to suffer the consequences as adults, where they are more likely to commit suicide, abuse drugs or alcohol, be unemployed, or commit violence against their own partners versus their peers from non-violent households. Thus, these behaviors create a continuous cycle of domestic violence, as their children create a new generation of victims and witnesses.

Ohio, along with eight other states (Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Utah) consider witnessing domestic violence an issue of legal action. Although Ohio and similar states take legal action against domestic violence, other reforms need to be made statewide in order to make future research and proceedings more accurate and beneficial to our community.

A key limitation of this research is the difficulty in collecting statistics regarding children who are *witnesses* to domestic



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violence. The majority of current research focuses on adult victims of domestic violence. The child is usually only included if he or she has been physically inflicted by domestic violence. With this lack of research, it is a challenge to demonstrate the need to address the effects on children witnessing domestic violence and begin to establish effective solutions.

One example of an Ohio program that addresses the impact that domestic violence and other violence has on children and families is The Children Who Witness Violence (CWWV) program in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland). This program was organized by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners in the mid 1990's, and is one that could be replicated in other Ohio communities.

Police departments from communities participating in the CWWV program make referrals at the scene of the violent event by calling the 24/7 hot line operated by a Mobile Crisis Team. The Team then goes to the family's home and provides an immediate assessment and crisis intervention services. A program evaluation completed by Kent State University showed that children who completed services felt less anxious and depressed, and parents reported that their children were less withdrawn and restless. For more information about CWWV, go to <http://www.mhs-inc.org/ChildTraumaServices.asp>.

Although Ohio is taking steps towards improvement, there needs to be a focus on the accuracy and standardization of documenting domestic violence. New Jersey police reports, for example, include all children involved in the police report at the time of a domestic violence call. As a result, they are able to collect more accurate data about children who have witnessed domestic violence. This practice could be implemented in Ohio at no cost and would further the efforts to document and address the needs of ALL of the victims of domestic violence.

Another research limitation is the disparity between the services offered in various counties. While some areas have extensive domestic violence programs, other counties do not provide shelter as a source of protection for victims. For research and development to be more effective in Ohio, it is imperative that services and documentation are uniform statewide.

Reporting the extent of the damage that domestic violence inflicts has its limitations including under-reporting, insufficient methodological models, and most importantly lack of awareness about this social crisis. Yet, there are some statistics and resources that can help increase awareness:

- An estimated 3 to 4 million women in the United States are battered each year by their partners.¹
- In homes where domestic violence occurs, children are seriously abused or neglected at a rate 1500% higher than the national average in the general population.²
- Between 2.3 and 10 million children are witnesses to family violence.³

- Based on an estimate of 2 children per household, in 55% of violent homes, at least 3.3 million children in the U.S. are at risk of witnessing domestic violence each year.⁴

These statistics alone support that the prevalence of children exposed to family violence is, and will continue to be high, unless efforts to address this crisis are improved.⁵

Information and data in this brief shed light on the implications that domestic violence generates for our society. Of the many issues faced by Ohioans, few are as intrusive and destructive as family violence. Conversely, with an increased awareness, more developed methodology, and integrated intra-state cooperation Ohio can begin to affectively address the dilemma of domestic violence and the impact it has on the children who witness the violence.

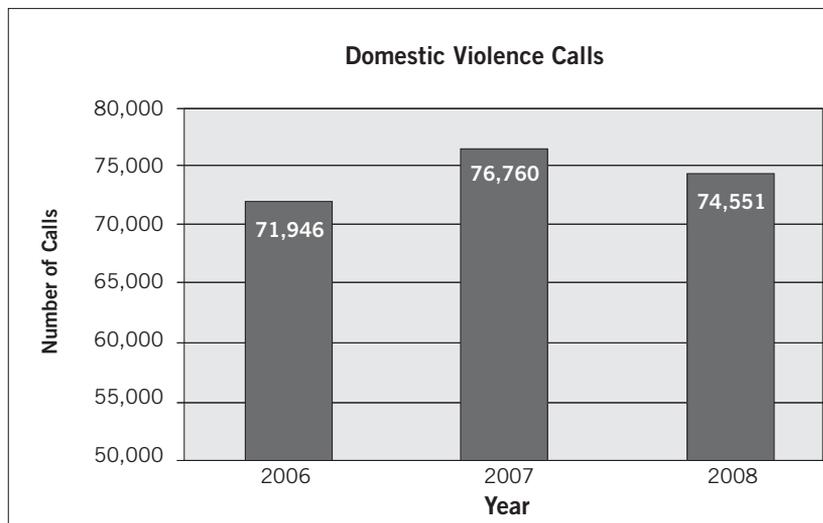


Our Silent Victims

Experiencing domestic violence has the ability to impact the overall well-being of a child's progress and success within his or her lifetime. These effects can transfer into adulthood through a stronger inclination to commit suicide, abuse drugs and/or alcohol, face unemployment, or even continue the rippling affect by committing violence against their partners. Figure 1 demonstrates the frequency of domestic violence calls in Ohio. Of significance, between 2006 and 2008, there were over 230,000 domestic violence dispute calls estimated to have been made in the state of Ohio.⁶



Figure 1



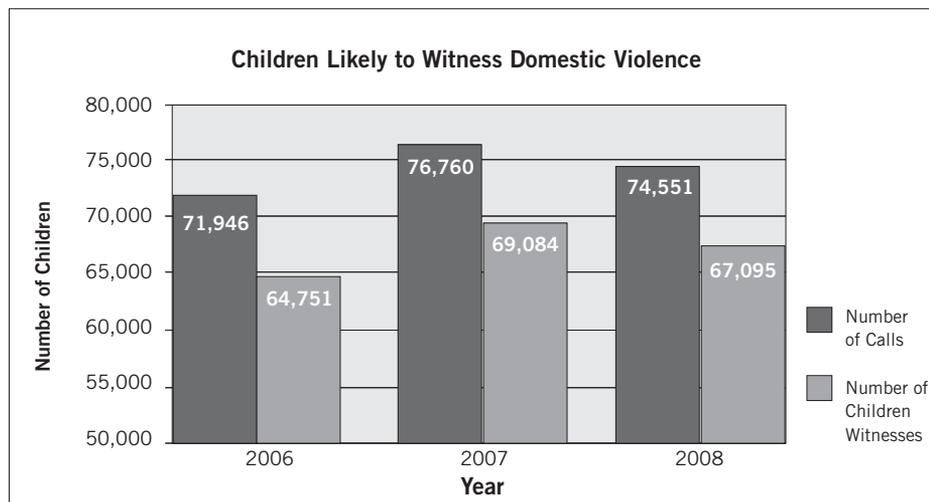
Ohio law enforcement tracks the number of domestic violence calls they receive (74,551 in 2008), but they do not maintain records on the number of children present in those households, leaving domestic violence shelters and service organizations as the main source of data.

Assessing accounts of witnessing violence by children is very difficult; regrettably authorities do not ask for detailed recounts of violent experiences from involved children. Still, women who

are survivors of domestic violence report that 90% of the time their children are either in the same room or in the next room during violent episodes.⁷ Considering this statistic, figure 2 illustrates the scope of how many children were likely to witness family violence between 2006 and 2008.

Witnessing violence between parents and/or caretakers is the strongest risk factor for transmitting these violent tendencies from one generation to the next.⁸

Figure 2



Understanding the Effects

Domestic violence negatively affects children, even when they are not the primary recipient of the abuse. In fact, children who witness domestic violence experience emotional and developmental problems similar to those of children who are physically abused. According to the Ohio Attorney General's

2008 *Domestic Violence Victim's Report*, 58,465 victims of domestic violence recorded their relationship to their offender. Of those, 4,528 or 7.7% recorded their relationship as the offender's child/children.

Research to date indicates that children who live in households with violence are at a greater risk for maladjustment than children who do not live with such violence.⁹ Problems are reflected in multiple facets of the child's life and fall into three primary categories.¹⁰

Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Problems:

- Higher levels of aggression
- Anger
- Hostility
- Oppositional Behavior
- Disobedience
- Fear
- Anxiety
- Withdrawal and Depression
- Poor peer, sibling, and social relationships
- Low self-esteem

Cognitive and Attitudinal Problems:

- Lower cognitive functioning
- Poor school performance
- Lack of conflict resolution skills
- Limited problem solving skills
- Pro-violence attitudes
- Belief in rigid gender stereotypes and male privilege

Long Term Problems:

- Higher levels of adult depression
- Increased tolerance for use of violence in adult relations
- Increased likelihood of drug and/or alcohol consumption and/or addiction

Other forms of behavior due to exposure to domestic violence may be exhibited through physical actions of the child such as:

- Difficulty sleeping or eating
- Consistent bed wetting
- Cruelty to animals
- Poor motor skills

Children's risk levels and reactions to domestic violence exist on a continuum where some children demonstrate minimal behaviors and others demonstrate multiple forms of extreme behaviors. Reactions are subject to the nature of the violence children are exposed to, duration of the exposure to the violence, their prior cognitive and coping abilities, age, gender, presence of physical or sexual abuse to the child, and elapsed time between episodes.

Ohio Domestic Violence Programs

Ohio offers several types of programs to aid domestic violence victims. While the specifics of these services may vary from county to county, the overall goals are the same: to offer help and support to the victims of domestic violence.

Shelters

Most of Ohio's counties offer temporary shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. Shelter locations are not published, providing a safe place for victims and their children to escape their abuser. The shelters vary from county to county, but many offer additional services such as hotlines for information, referrals, and support; legal advocates to assist victims in navigating the justice system; educational programs and counseling; and training for individuals who may deal with victims of domestic violence in their workplace.

Some also offer services especially for children who have witnessed domestic violence, including supportive and outreach services. However, shelters are not found in all of Ohio's counties, forcing victims to look elsewhere for assistance. Victims may also choose a shelter in a county other than their own because they may be less likely to be found by their abuser in their hometown. For a full list of shelters in Ohio, go to <http://www.odvn.org/>.

The extent to which the shelters maintain detailed records on those who use their services varies, and these statistics are often focused on the parent rather than the child. They may not maintain accurate numbers of occupants from other counties, and some are unwilling to share their records as a result of their desire to protect the victims. Accurate and extensive data on the victims and their children are necessary to understand domestic violence incidences, their causes, and to determine what programs are most effective in reducing further abuse cases.

Records need to be shared between sectors to create greater cooperation and a coordinated response across the community. It is equally important to maintain records on the children even if they have not been physically abused, as they will still need a variety of services to overcome the trauma they have experienced and reduce the likelihood that they will become abusers as adults.

Youth Advocacy

Youth advocates work with the individual child to access services available and provide assessments. Advocates may be staff or counselors in any number of service agencies, working to create a service plan for the child, including referrals to other agencies. Many youth advocates are also responsible for

maintaining a relationship with the child in order to coordinate, supervise, and respond to their future needs.

Counseling and Psychotherapy Services

Counseling services are provided by a professional licensed counselor and may include behavior, play, art, and music therapy. Sessions can take place in an individual, group, or family setting, although the abuser's presence at family therapy sessions can be counterproductive for the child and is not recommended unless he has participated in a batterer intervention program and shows no signs of recidivism.

Prevention

Preventive services are usually offered in a school setting where students attend presentations about domestic violence over the course of several weeks. This service follows a standard curriculum and works to prevent domestic violence in the future through education about abusive relationships for adolescents.

Professional and Public Education

Professional and public education services work to inform the public and other individuals who may encounter domestic violence both in and out of the workplace to improve understanding and provide information on how to respond to this problem. Ohio offers a variety of educational programs, including CUT IT OUT and the TANF tool kit. Other educational services including workshops and other presentations to increase awareness are available throughout Ohio.

CUT IT OUT is a program created by the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund. It trains salon professionals to recognize the signs of domestic violence and safely refer the victims to the resources available. CUT IT OUT also builds awareness about domestic violence by making information available in the salons and volunteering with domestic violence agencies. It recognizes the importance of domestic violence awareness, a policy that must be spread to other service professions.

As with many programs, CUT IT OUT focuses on addressing the victim's safety, but its education also needs to include the harm to the child witnesses. Many times the parent chooses to stay with the abuser to protect the children from further harm or homelessness, making it is necessary to discuss the dangerous effects the situation has on the children living in those households.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network offers a TANF Training Project Tool Kit providing information about how service workers (particularly the Ohio Works First staff) should safely and effectively approach the issue of domestic violence and assist victims. It outlines how to communicate in a positive and supportive way, what options and resources are available to the victim, how to provide referrals, and what to do to avoid increasing the risks to the victim and children.



Similar resources should be provided to employees in other areas, as well as the general public. A greater understanding of domestic violence and knowledge of how to address the issue will result in more resources for victims and their children, as well as convey a lack of tolerance for the abusers within the community as a whole.

Batterer Intervention Programs

Batterer Intervention Programs vary from county to county in Ohio, but their overall aim is to provide therapy for the batterer in the domestic violence relationship. Group sessions are the preferred method for changing the abusive behavior, although individual sessions may be available in certain cases. These programs work to alter the batterer's behavior and promote change in the individual rather than the relationship. They also take the victim's welfare into account and ensure her safety throughout the process.

Batterer Intervention Programs remain controversial. Some advocates raise concerns about recidivism rates and fear victims may place themselves in a dangerous position by returning to their abuser, believing therapy has solved the problem. More research is necessary to determine the effectiveness of Batterer Intervention Programs and how they impact victims and their children. Once again, the focus of the current research generally revolves around the victim, thus more must be done to discover how these programs affect the children in the household.

Family Violence: Beyond the Scope of the Household

Limited methodology and data collection make it difficult to provide an accurate calculation of how much family violence actually costs families and communities. Although the financial impact is not easily calculated, there are real costs. These losses reach far beyond a household; family domestic violence generates a debt to the community as well.

While there has yet to be a comprehensive study in Ohio about how domestic violence impacts our health and mental health, education and criminal justice systems, there is data from the *White Paper on Improving Family Violence Prevention in Ohio*, by Dr. Kenneth Steinman of the Ohio State University which indicates that in 2006:

- Family violence directly cost more than \$1.1 billion in health care and social services
- 64,000 children under the age of 18 were abused or neglected

A recent study conducted in Florida indicates that an increase in the number of children from troubled families, categorized and defined under family domestic violence, within a school-grade cohort causes a reduction in their peer's math and reading scores. Combined with lower test scores, significant increases in peer disciplinary infractions and suspensions were also evident.¹¹

Results demonstrated that effects were influenced by exposure to domestic violence rather than other externalities. Findings indicate that negative peer effects were not impacted by

elements such as race, gender, and/or family income. Moreover, damage extends beyond the household and into the community. A nationally representative survey found that 85 percent of teachers and 73 percent of parents stated the “school experience of most students suffers at the expense of a few chronic offenders”.¹²

According to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) victims classified as ‘served’ are those who receive any allotment of treatment or resources other than alternative housing or shelter. Services may include civil protection orders, support groups, and individual counseling. Victims classified as sheltered are those directed to local housing for transition and protection. Residential services may include child care, transitional housing, and new employment opportunities.¹³

- In 2007, 13% of reported victims were children served in Ohio. (Figure 3)
- In 2007, 3,335 children were sheltered in Ohio. (Figure 4)
- In 2007, a total of 7,138 individuals were sheltered as a result of domestic violence disputes, including nearly 50% children.

Figure 3

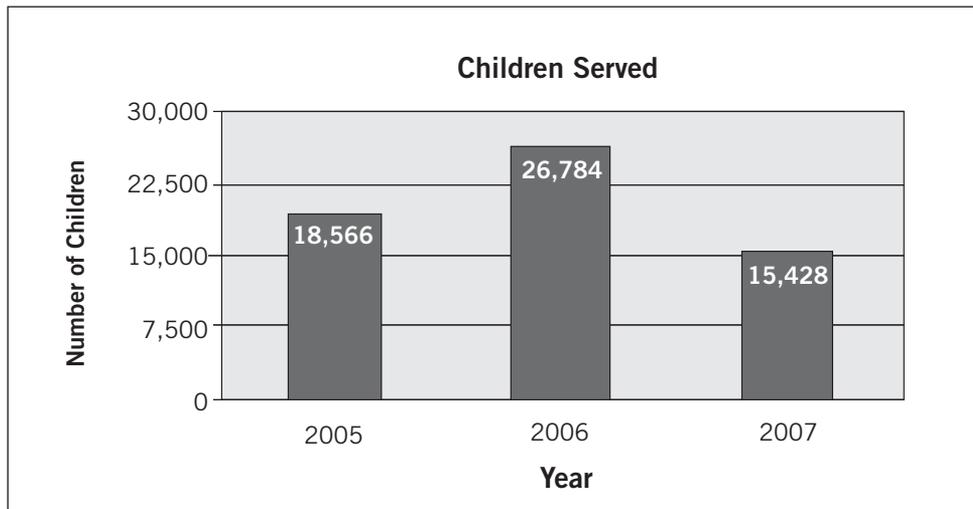


Figure 4

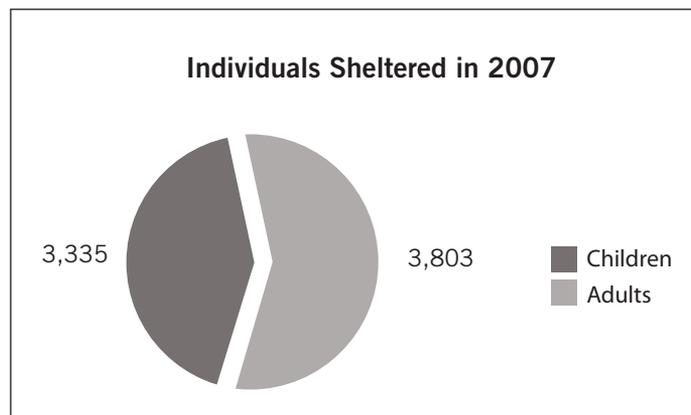
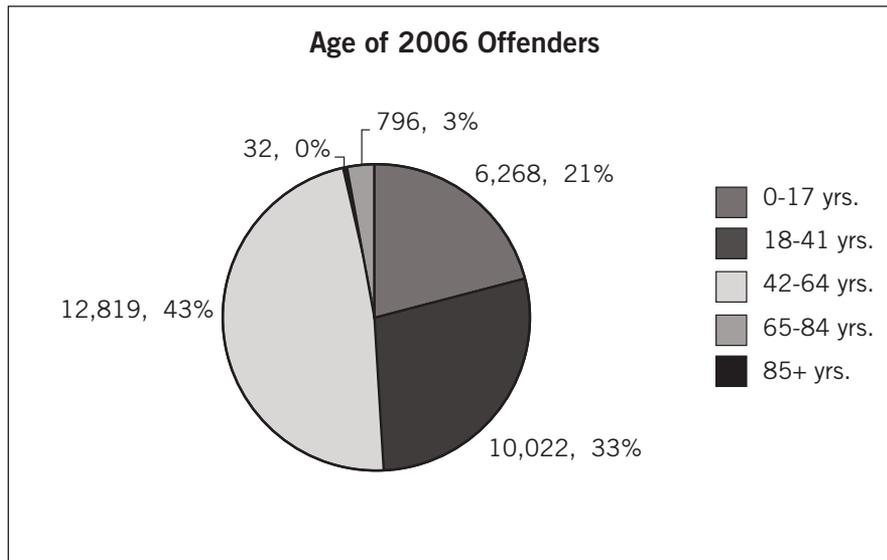


Figure 5



On average, victims of mistreatment are more likely to perpetuate future violence in the form of youth violence and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), while children who are non-victims of mistreatment are less likely to perpetuate future violence. Effects may vary depending on the severity of exposure and violence inflicted upon the child. However, male victims of child mistreatment are almost two times more likely to perpetuate IPV than female victims.¹⁴

Figure 5 shows that in 2006, an estimated 6,268 offenders of domestic violence were categorized as children.¹⁵ In addition, boys that witness domestic violence are, on average, twice as likely to be perpetrators of domestic violence than boys who are not exposed to domestic violence.¹⁶

The detrimental effects of family domestic violence reach far beyond the scope of the household. While the examples demonstrate that the results of children exposed to family violence affect their contribution to society, there are also costs to multiple systems within society. The education, prevention, intervention and criminal justice systems are only a few of the areas that are impacted by childrens' exposure to domestic violence. Working to eliminate family domestic violence will ultimately make the people in the state of Ohio the likely beneficiaries, by reducing crime-related activity, substance-abuse, the use of community resources, and lost-productivity costs. Addressing this crisis requires that public and private organizations view child exposure to domestic violence research and prevention as a business investment.

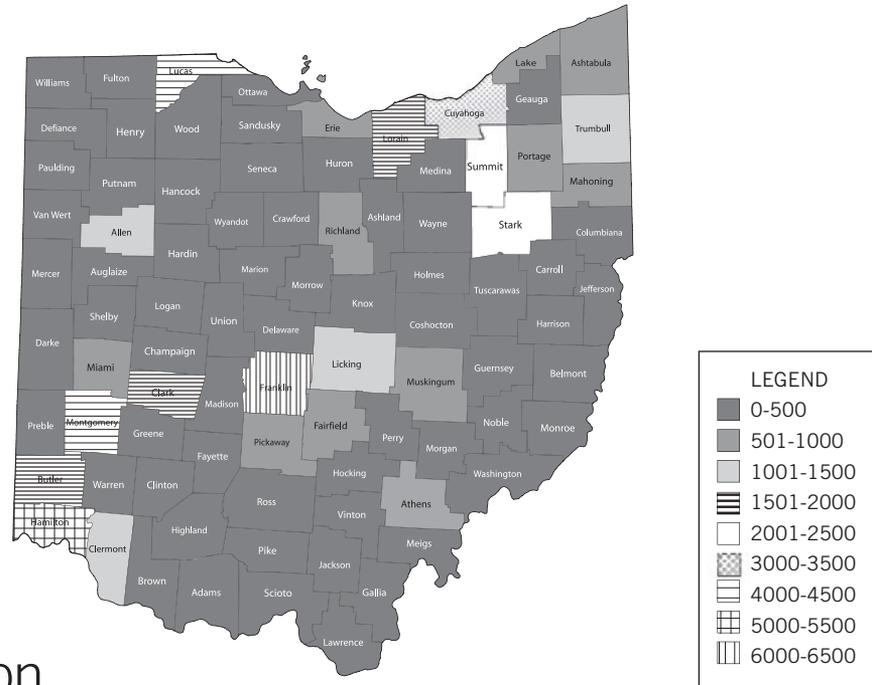
County Risk for Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

The Ohio Attorney General's 2008 *Domestic Violence Victim's Report*, records the number of victims of domestic violence by county (Figure 6). Actual numbers for each county can be accessed at http://www.ag.state.oh.us/victim/dvp_reports.asp. The statewide average is 664 victims per county. The risk of children witnessing domestic violence increases with the increased number of reported victims.



Number of Victims of Domestic Violence in 2008

Figure 6



A Debate on a Legal Classification

Sociologists who are proponents of The Social Learning and Differential Association Theory are concerned with the rippling effects of violence within the home. Sociologists contribute behaviors and actions mimicked through observation as the Social Learning Theory. Differential Association states that behaviors and actions mimicked will parallel those in constant close contact. Studies shows that between 3% and 92% of children in homes with family violence are also mistreated, (Edleson, 1999a).¹⁷ With the significant amount of our children exposed to domestic violence; researchers, policy makers, state officials, and advocates are in debate of whether children exposed to domestic violence should be defined as maltreated.

Currently, child abuse and domestic violence cases are regarded as separate matters. Authorities of child welfare agencies and domestic violence organizations generally have little communication and coordination in their response efforts. Maltreatment under the law is a general term to include all forms of child abuse and neglect, including but not limited to: physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse. If future cases of child exposure to domestic violence fall under the statute of maltreatment, child welfare authorities will receive jurisdiction of the case. There is often conflict in regards to the classification of this offense because of the nature of the reactions and responses from the different agencies.

Proponents of classifying exposure to domestic violence as abuse claim that child welfare agencies will be better able to serve victims of family violence. Agencies will be given the authority to intervene and immediately remove the child; which is optimal for the child's safety. Officials will be

encouraged to intervene early to prevent lasting effects and will be more inclined to merge their efforts with domestic violence activists to protect victims of family violence.

In opposition, domestic violence advocates argue that caseworkers and state officials can not fathom the complexity of relationships involving domestic violence. An assertion of the parent "failing to protect" the child is an agitating circumstance for their survival. Removal of the child revictimizes both the parent and child involved.

Advocates maintain that classifying a child exposed to family violence as maltreated is counterproductive. It potentially discourages victims fearful of abandonment and custody battles from seeking protection from authorities. Observers also argue welfare agencies do not have the capacity to respond to the magnitude of 'exposure' cases. Supporters claim officials should refocus their efforts to holding the perpetrators more accountable for their actions.

For future decisions concerning our children, legislators and community members are encouraged to consider the following issues before making an informed decision:

- 1) Will our local welfare agencies have the resources to respond to the increase in child abuse cases due to the change in legislation?

Point to Consider: The Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators estimated an additional \$30 million per year for allotted resources in order to be able respond to the increase of cases, (NCSL, 2002).¹⁸

- 2) Will local child welfare agents be trained accordingly to assess the multitude of risks involved with children and family domestic violence?

Point to Consider: In order to effectively handle children exposed to family domestic violence child welfare agents will be required to take additional training in dealing with procedures. Training will include in-depth instruction on appropriate procedures to eliminate re-victimization.

- 3) Will statutory changes within The Ohio Revised Code clearly define circumstances which mandatory reporters of child maltreatment must report a child's exposure to domestic violence?

Point to Consider: A timely process will be needed in defining legally the jurisdiction and requirements for state officials to report an incidence. As well as affect reporting and agency practices.

- 4) Will the changes in the statute include additional outreach to victims and agencies involved?

Point to Consider: If so, adequate funding must be provided.



Recommendations

The number of children witnessing domestic violence makes it clear that this is an issue that needs to be addressed further, despite the many steps that have already been taken in Ohio. As discussed earlier, children who witness domestic violence are much more likely to be abusers as adults, perpetuating the cycle of domestic violence into future generations.

One of the largest problems we found while researching this issue was the difficulty in collecting quantitative data for child witnesses to domestic violence. Most of the current statistics focus on the adult victim; and are only concerned with the child if they have been a victim of physical abuse. However, child witnesses to domestic violence experience the same negative consequences as those who are abused, so greater attention must be paid to children's needs as well. It is difficult to determine what type of services would best address the problems these children face without maintaining current records. New Jersey has found one solution to this problem by including the number of children present in the report the police file after answering a domestic violence call. As a result, more accurate data is collected about children who have witnessed domestic violence. This is an option that could be implemented in Ohio.

As a result of limited state funding for core domestic violence services – such as crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, shelter and legal assistance – an area of concern is the disparity of the services offered between counties. While some communities have extensive domestic violence services, others are not able to provide basic services such as a shelter as a source of protection for victims. Domestic violence is a statewide issue and the same protections and services must be made available to all victims no matter where they live.

A Call to Action:

While there has been research on domestic violence, more research focused on child witnesses to domestic violence is needed. Family violence and child witnesses are far-reaching social issues. To effectively aid the *silent victims* and families enduring domestic violence, the Children's Defense Fund recommends taking *The First Step*:

1. Inform public, private, and government organizations of this urgency.
2. Establish a universal definition of family domestic violence and other relatable terms.
3. Incentivize intra-state cooperation between intervention and prevention organizations.
4. Reform and standardize reporting of family domestic violence incidents.
5. Develop and support methodology to include child witnesses.
6. Provide adequate funding for services.
7. Generate public will to ending family domestic violence.

Creating a consistent definition, cooperation amongst organizations, and data that has an emphasis on children witnesses can be utilized in creating and supporting preventative services. Furthermore, improved prevention and intervention can impact some of Ohio's other social problems by reducing crime, improving the economy through the reduction of crime and improving learning environments. CDF-OH published this brief to demonstrate the need for research to aid our *silent victims*. This is a call to STOP the ripple of abuse.

Acknowledgements

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A Friend's House
 A Shepherd's House
 ALIVE, Inc.
 Abuse & Rape Crisis Shelter of Warren County
 Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter
 Artemis Center
 Auglaize County Crisis Center
 Battered Women's Shelter
 Bethany House
 Carita's House
 Center for Child & Family Advocacy
 Center for New Beginnings
 Children Who Witness Violence
 CHOICES
 Christina's House
 Citizens Against Domestic Violence
 Crime Victim Services
 Crisis Care Line
 Crossroads Crisis Center
 Domestic Violence Center
 Domestic Violence Project, Inc.
 Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.
 East Side Catholic Shelter
 Eve, Inc.
 Every Woman's House
 Family & Child Abuse Prevention Center
 Family Crisis Network
 Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County
 First Step
 Forbes House
 Genesis House
 Harbor House, Inc.
 Haven House of Pickaway County
 Haven of Hope
 Highland/Clinton Domestic Violence Program
 Homesafe
 House of Ruth
 Jewish Family Services Association
 Lawrence County Helping Hands Task Force
 My Sister's Place
 New Choices
 New Directions
 Ohio Domestic Violence Network
 Open Arms Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Services
 Pike County Partnership Against Domestic Violence
 Preble County Domestic Violence Shelter Services

Project Woman
 Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven
 Reach Out, Inc.
 Ross County Coalition Against Domestic Violence/ Phoenix House
 Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter
 Safer Futures
 Sarah's House
 Serenity House, Inc.
 Sojourner House
 Someplace Safe
 Southern Ohio Shelter
 The Family Abuse Shelter of Miami Co., Inc.
 The Lighthouse
 The Noble Family Violence Council / Six County Transitions
 Tri-County Help Center
 Turning Point
 West Side Catholic Center
 Women & Family Services
 Womensafe, Inc.
 YWCA Battered Women's Shelter
 YWCA House of Peace
 YWCA Shelter & Housing
 YWCA Shelter Services

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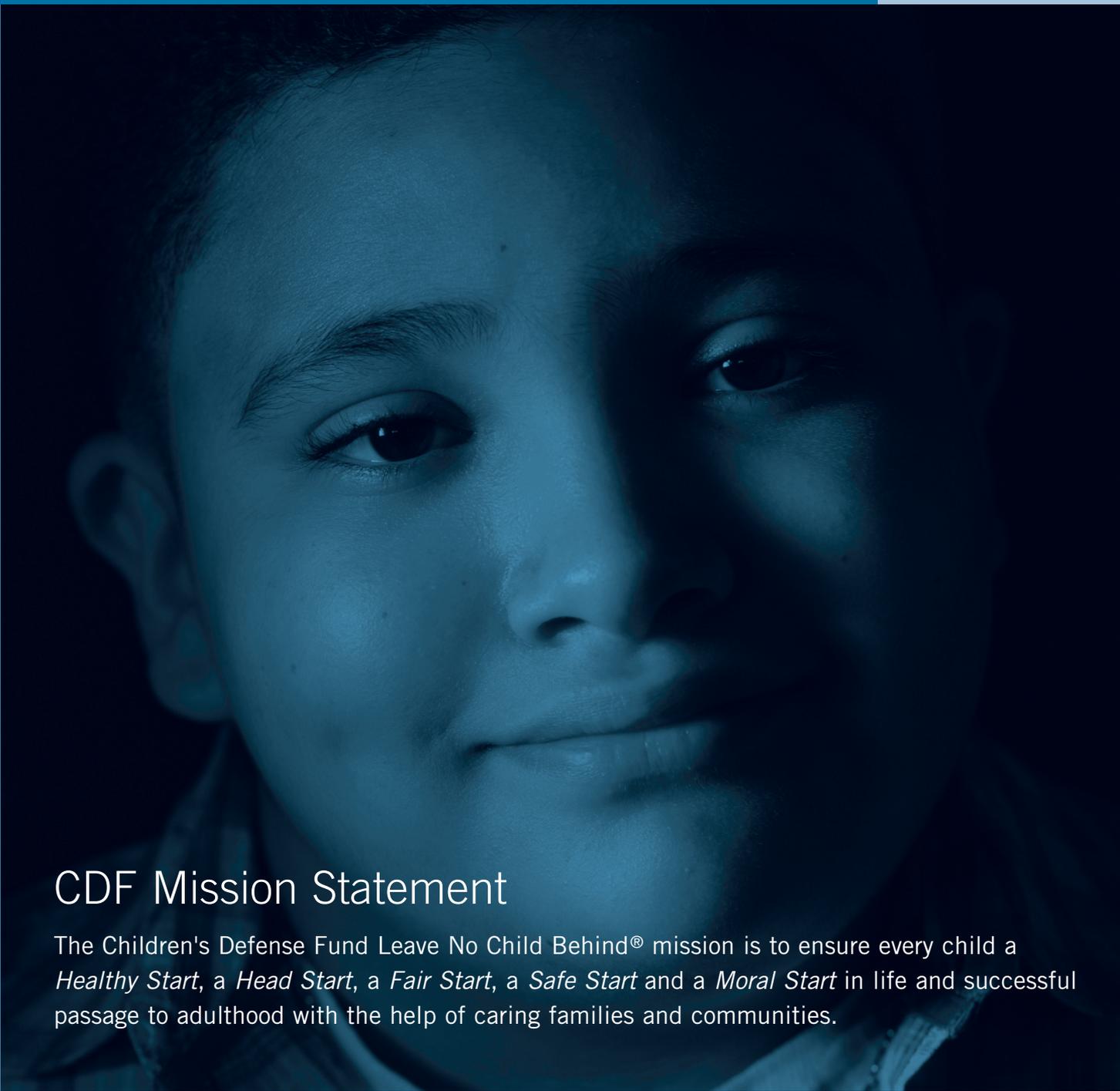
Other Resources

Ohio Domestic Violence Network: www.odvn.org
 "Increasing Safety for Ohio Families." Ohio Domestic Violence Network
www.NRCDDV.org
 Child Advocacy Manual Task Force. "When Fear Has No Voice." Ohio Domestic Violence Network.
 Child Welfare Information Gateway: www.childwelfare.gov
 Columbus Welfare Information Gateway: www.childwelfare.gov
 Columbus Coalition Against Domestic Violence: www.thecolumbuscoalition.org
 Fight Crime: Invest in Kids: www.fihtcrime.org
 Forbes House: <http://forbeshouse.org>
 Gondolf, Edward W. Batterer Intervention Systems: Issues, Outcomes and Recommendations. London: Sage Publications, Inc., 2002.



Footnotes

- ¹ B.R.A.V.E. Foundation Be ready against violence everywhere. 1999. "Domestic Abuse Statistics." (<http://www.brave.org>).
- ² Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. 2003. "Statistics on Children, Youth, and Domestic violence." Children and Youth Program. (<http://www.wcadv.org>).
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- ⁵ Rossman, Robbie B.B., Hughes, Honore M., Rosenberg, Mindy Susan. Children and Interpersonal Violence: The Impact of Exposure. Honore M. Hughes. Psychology Press, 1999. Pgs 3-7.
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- ¹³ Attorney General's Office. 2007. "Domestic Violence Reports." Ohio. Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification. (<http://www.ag.state.oh.us/victim>).
- ¹⁴ Fang, Xiangming and Phaedra S. Corso. 2007. "Child Maltreatment, Youth Violence, and Intimate Partner Violence Developmental Relationships." *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* 33:4 281-90.
- ¹⁵ Child/children is legally defined as any person(s) under the age of 18.
- ¹⁶ Strauss, M. & Gelles, R. (1990). Physical violence in American families-Risk factors and adaptations to violence in 8,145 families. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.
- ¹⁷ Edleson, J.L. (1999a). The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering. *Violence Against Women*, 5(2), 134-154.
- ¹⁸ NCSL State Legislative Report, Analysis of State Actions on Important Issues. Christian, Steve. January 2002. April 2008. www.ncsl.org



CDF Mission Statement

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.



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