

Children and Domestic Violence

Definition

Children and Domestic Violence is the percentage of reported domestic violence incidents in which children under age 18 were present in the home. The data are based on police reports of domestic violence in 1999. Domestic violence is the use of physical force, or threat of force, against a current or former partner in an intimate relationship, resulting in fear and emotional and/or physical suffering.

Research Highlights

- ❖ Domestic violence is a serious social issue that affects all communities and cuts across racial, ethnic, and economic lines.¹ Studies provide strong evidence that children who witness domestic violence at home also exhibit a variety of behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and longer-term problems such as adult depression.²
- ❖ Children will experience adult domestic violence in unique ways depending on a variety of factors that include direct physical abuse of the children, their gender, age, time since exposure to violence, and their relationship with adults in the home.³
- ❖ Children who grow up in violent homes are much more likely to become abusive partners or victims of abuse in adulthood. Over 80 percent of abusive partners had themselves either been victims of child abuse or had witnessed their mothers being abused.⁴
- ❖ Children in homes where a parent is abusive to a spouse are at increased risk of child abuse. More than half of men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children.⁵

Children and Domestic Violence in Nevada

There are 15 shelters and advocacy programs in Nevada that offer services for victims of domestic violence and their families. Services include 24-hour hotlines, peer counseling, advocacy, emergency food, clothing, and shelter. In 1999, the 15 domestic violence agencies provided services to 6,063 Nevada children; of these, 1,718 children spent time in domestic violence shelters.

- ❖ Based on police reports from cities and towns in Nevada between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, children were present during 6,754 (38 percent) of the 17,706 reported cases of domestic violence.⁶
- ❖ These data underrepresent the number of incidents of domestic violence in which a child was present because (1) police reports may not be fully completed in all cases, and (2) not all cases of domestic violence are reported.
- ❖ These data underestimate the total number of children who experienced domestic violence in their homes, since more than one child may be present at the incident.

Text provided by Sue Meuschke of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (1-800-230-1955).

Children and Domestic Violence Continued

Domestic Violence Incidents with Children Present, Nevada: 1999

Contributing Agency	<i>Total Number of Domestic Violence Incident Reports</i>	<i>Total Number of Incidents in Which a Child Was Present</i>	<i>% of Incidents with Child Present</i>	Contributing Agency	<i>Total Number of Domestic Violence Incident Reports</i>	<i>Total Number of Incidents in Which a Child Was Present</i>	<i>% of Incidents with Child Present</i>
<u>Carson County:</u>				<u>Lyon County:</u>			
Carson SO*	472	227	48	Lyon SO	243	129	53
<u>Churchill County:</u>				<u>Mineral County:</u>			
Churchill SO	80	45	56	Yerington PD	14	7	50
Fallon PD**	72	37	51	<u>Mineral County:</u>			
<u>Clark County:</u>				<u>Nye County:</u>			
Boulder PD	100	39	39	Mineral SO	58	25	43
Clark Co. Schools PD	5	2	40	<u>Nye County:</u>			
Henderson	1,494	555	37	Nye SO	210	101	48
LV Metro PD	10,409	3,702	36	<u>Pershing County:</u>			
Mesquite	75	15	20	Pershing SO	11	7	64
North LV PD	1,302	646	50	Lovelock PD	19	8	42
UNLV PD	6	0	0	<u>Storey County:</u>			
<u>Douglas County:</u>				<u>Storey County:</u>			
Douglas SO	207	79	38	Storey SO	18	6	33
<u>Elko County:</u>				<u>Washoe County:</u>			
Elko SO	109	61	56	Washoe SO	351	180	51
Carlin PD	19	10	53	Reno PD	1,453	485	33
Elko PD	142	63	44	Sparks PD	747	317	42
Wells PD	9	2	22	Pyramid Lake PD	22	11	50
Wendover PD	78	25	32	UNR PD	8	0	0
<u>Esmeralda County:</u>				<u>White Pine County:</u>			
Esmeralda SO	3	0	0	Washoe Co. Schl PD	4	2	50
<u>Eureka County:</u>				<u>White Pine County:</u>			
Eureka SO	6	2	33	White Pine SO	22	8	36
<u>Humboldt County:</u>				TOTAL			
Humboldt SO	61	25	41	17,960	6,867	38	
Winnemucca PD	104	34	33	<i>Note:</i> The number of domestic violence reports and the number of incidents in which children were present are based on the State of Nevada Domestic Violence Statistical Form submitted by Law Enforcement Agencies to Nevada's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999.			
<u>Lander County:</u>				* SO = sheriff's office.			
Lander SO	20	10	50	** PD = police department.			
<u>Lincoln County:</u>				<i>Source:</i> Data gathered from <i>Domestic Violence</i> , a report published by the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and the Nevada Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, October 1, 1999.			
Lincoln SO	7	2	29				