



**“When we get our money, that’s the only time they come. They won’t leave until we give it them
When we need food, we ask for help. They tell us, “You didn’t have to help us, that’s on you
guys!” We’re too scared to tell them no, they might not come us or put us in a nursing home.”**

ELDERS ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Some, tribal social service providers have estimated that close to 80% of those abusing native elders are immediate family members and that 10% of the abusers are extended family members. Nationally, neglect is the most frequent form of elder abuse. Emotional and psychological abuse, physical abuse, financial and material exploitation and abandonment are the most common forms of abuse. Adult children, spouses, other relatives, and grandchildren are most likely to be perpetrators of abuse. For more information on (www.elderabusecenter.org)

CALL 480-789-7678

FMYN DV ADVOCATE

Or

CALL 1800-799-7233

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

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“I thought it would stop....he hit me on the side of my head, he wouldn’t stop beating on me, he kept kicking me. I am just glad nothing happened to my baby”

PREGNANT WOMEN ARE VICTIMS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pregnancy when coupled with domestic violence is a form of intimate partner violence (IPV) where health risks may be amplified. Abuse during pregnancy, whether physical, verbal and emotional, produces many adverse physical and psychological effects for both the mother and fetus.

“Domestic Violence and Pregnancy”, www.wikipedia.org

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“He took away my birth control pills and told me he wants me to have his baby, so I can be in his life forever.”

PREGNANT WOMEN EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1 in 4 callers to the National Domestic Violence Hotline report birth control sabotage. “Birth control sabotage is a serious form of control that leads to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. While there is a cultural assumption that some women use pregnancy a way to trap their partner in a relationship, this survey shows that men who are abusive will sabotage their partner’s birth control and pressure them to become pregnant as a way to trap or control their partner,” per Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler.

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Dog owner “I didn’t want to leave, I was told, my dog will not live another day if I left”

Animals are victims of Domestic Violence, too.

52 percent of victims in shelters leave their pets with their batterers ([National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)) Nearly 50 percent of domestic violence victims delayed leaving their abuser out of fear of harm to their animals ([Carlisle-Frank, Frank and Nielsen, \(2004\). Pets as Pawns.](#))71 percent of pet-owning women entering women’s shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims; 32 percent reported their children had hurt or killed animals ([National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.](#))

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“If I try really hard to be good, they won’t fight again.”

CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Children may be physically harmed (either accidentally or intentionally when witnessing violence), sexually harmed (either intentionally abused or indirectly from witnessing unhealthy relationship patterns) or traumatized from experiencing domestic violence. They do not have to be physically present to experience it; they can hear verbal or physical abuse, see the aftermath (bruises, broken items, depression, etc.), hear verbal threats or demeaning language, or know about it through other direct or indirect communications. They often have increased feelings of fear, self-blame, being threatened; decreased ability to regulate affect; and heightened risk of behavioral or mental health problems (Greeson et al., 2014).<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/domesticviolence2018.pdf>

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“Yeah, she ruined all my stuff, broke my laptop, hit he then left. I’ll be okay.”

MEN ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Moreover, men reported a lasting impact of abuse on the successful formulation of future relationships, as they felt unable to trust future partners, or were overly fearful. Importantly, for men who were also fathers, many reported that the relationship with their child(ren) was affected, for example, through experiences of alienation, parental relationship disruption, and the legal aggression described above (E. A. Bates, 2019b). Moreover, this use of systems, particularly family courts, had a substantial impact on the mental health of male victims (Berger et al., 2016) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0886260520944551>

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“I hurt my parents, if I got good grades, they wouldn’t hurt each other, it’s my fault”

CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Researchers who followed 1,420 children in North Carolina from age 9 to 30 found that exposure to domestic violence in the home had the same serious and life-changing effects as experiencing the abuse directly.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2019/01/29/domestic-violence-research-children-abuse-mental-health-learning-aces/2227218002>

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“I don’t want to leave my dad, she said I will never see him again. No one listens to me.”

Myth: Non-abusive parents won’t lose custody of their children. Truth: Victims of domestic violence are often depressed and can be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. As a result, says the ABA, they can present poorly in court. This, combined with a lack of proper legal counsel (as many victims can’t afford to hire a lawyer who specializes in domestic violence), may lead them to lose custody of their children to the abusive parent.”

<https://www.domesticshelters.org/articles/child-custody/5-myths-about-child-custody-and-domestic-violence>

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