

WHY WE'RE NEEDED

Children exposed to family violence often face lifelong, negative consequences, including a host of physical and psychological health impairments that compromise healthy child development and constitute a serious public health issue.

Children can be exposed to family violence in numerous ways and to different degrees. Some are physically involved in the violence, while others are silent observers. Children who do not directly experience the violence are indirectly affected due to the impact of violence on maternal well-being, parenting, and household functioning. Exposure to intimate partner violence (the violence occurring between the child's caregivers or one caregiver and that person's intimate partner) is associated with increased risk of other forms of child maltreatment, including physical and emotional abuse and neglect.

Examples of symptoms in children:

- Increased aggression
- Persistent sleep problems
- Increased anxiety
- Difficulty with peer relationships
- Diminished capacity to concentrate in school

Examples of symptoms in adolescents:

- Impulsive behavior
- Addictions
- Depression
- Conflict and emotional detachment in relationships

Best practices are not consistently implemented by systems serving these children, and there is a need to strengthen the evidence base for child-focused interventions.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children's hospital serving as the primary teaching hospital for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Connecticut Children's is the only free-standing children's hospital in Connecticut that offers comprehensive, world-class health care to children. Our pediatric services are available at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and at Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, with neonatal intensive care units at Hartford Hospital and the University of Connecticut Health Center, along with a state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center, five specialty care centers and 11 other locations across the state. Connecticut Children's has a medical staff of nearly 1,100 practicing in more than 20 specialties.

For more information, visit

WWW.CONNECTICUTCHILDRENS.ORG

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them. We are a membership organization of the state's 18 domestic violence organizations. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the statewide hotline at **888.774.2900 (English)** or **844.831.9200 (Español)**. Victims can access shelter, counseling, support groups, children's services and court advocacy through our members.

For more information, visit

WWW.CTCADV.ORG

The Children's Center on Family Violence
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Office for Community Child Health
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The Children's Center on Family Violence |  **cca|DV**
 Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Improving outcomes for children impacted by family violence through a multidisciplinary, multi-agency approach involving clinical care, research & evaluation, education & training, and public policy & advocacy.

A partnership of
Connecticut Children's Medical Center and
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

WHO WE ARE

The Children's Center on Family Violence will respond to and reduce the number of children impacted by family violence through a trauma-informed, multidisciplinary, multiagency approach. As a partnership between Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Center will leverage expertise, resources, and collaborations with community-based and government agencies to reduce the impact of family violence on children. Housed within the Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health, the Center's activities will focus on developing and evaluating best practices and sharing learnings with the field through training, education, and public policy.

HOW DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS?

CORE STRATEGIES FOR IMPACT

- **Research & Evaluation:** develop and evaluate trauma-informed, culturally relevant best practices for children impacted by family violence.
- **Education & Training:** engage community members, students, and professionals from multiple disciplines to better understand and implement best practices for supporting children impacted by family violence.
- **Clinical Care:** develop, implement, and promote evidence-based best practices in victim advocacy, mental health, and medical care for children impacted by family violence.
- **Public Policy & Advocacy:** advance the field of family violence by providing public officials and policymakers with insight on evidence-based best practices to inform the adoption of policies, laws, and regulations.

National estimates indicate that more than **15 million children annually witness intimate partner violence** between their caregivers or their caregiver and her or his current or former partner.

In Connecticut:

- According to Connecticut's Judicial Branch, approx. 25% of the cases it handled each year from 2012 - 2015 involved a child physically present during a family violence arrest.
- Connecticut's 2013 Family Violence Arrest Report indicates that...
 - There were 18,437 incidents statewide of family violence in which at least one person was arrested
 - **In over 11% of those incidents (2,077), children were directly involved** as either victims or offenders.
 - In an additional 20% of those incidents (3,758), children were present in the household but were not involved in the incident.
- The CT Department of Children and Families reports providing support and intervention services to large numbers of families with substantiated family violence in the home:
 - 2012 - 5,690 families
 - 2013 - 3,973 families
 - 2014 - 4,319 families
- CCADV's 18 member organizations...
 - Provided intervention services to 1,334 children in fiscal year 2014; these children had a parent who had been abused by her or his partner
 - 93% of women receiving shelter services in fiscal year 2014 were mothers
 - **59% of children staying in Connecticut's domestic violence shelters in 2015 were under the age of 5**
- In one major hospital in Connecticut, **more than 25% of pregnant women have disclosed being victims of intimate partner violence during their pregnancy.**

TRAINING IS AVAILABLE!

Interested in learning more about how children are impacted by family violence and best practices for meeting their complex needs?

Please contact our Education & Training Lead:

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CENTER!

Visit us online at

www.ctccfv.org

to learn about upcoming events or to access useful resources.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CENTER OR OUR WORK?

Please contact our co-directors:

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