

# Research Brief

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Domestic Violence

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# **Domestic Violence on Children**

What Are the Effects of Domestic Violence Against Children?

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#### Introduction

The research study analyzed the impact that domestic violence has on the lives of children between the ages of 8-18 years old. The purpose of this research study was to examine the association between domestic violence and the child's well being. The scope of this research discusses the importance and urgency, specifically from law enforcement agencies, to provide effective intervention strategies to mitigate this issue.

#### Research Problem

The research study is aimed to help law enforcement agencies better prepare for when they encounter victimized children. Domestic violence against children is significant because it can lead to a detrimental impact on the child and society. This research study suggests that law enforcement agencies must pay greater attention to children who have been victimized.

#### Methods

The research design was conducted through a critical appraisal method. A literature review was conducted to obtain the most relevant secondary data from Justice Institute of British Columbia's online library database.

### Results/Findings

The findings resulted in four common themes that are discussed in the result section in the structured abstract.

### Conclusions/ Recommendations

The research study found that effective intervention strategies from law enforcement agencies could mitigate this issue.

Recommendations to law enforcement agencies include specialized training, seminars, community based programs and



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programs about domestic

violence among children.

## Structured Abstract

Introduction: Domestic violence can be detrimental, which showed to affected children across Canada. Domestic violence against children is a significant issue due to the devastating consequences on the child. Domestic violence can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation and exposure to family violence (Kaukinen, C., Powers, R., & Meyers, S., 2016, p. 203). We must recognize that domestic violence against children can negatively impact the development of the child and also impact the society.

Methods: A critical appraisal was used to complete the research study. A thorough literature review was conducted to obtain the most relevant secondary data. The secondary data was collected through the Justice Institute of British Columbia's online library database (EBSOhost Discovery EDS). The keywords and inclusion criteria resulted in 35 articles and 14 articles were used in the research study. The secondary data was analyzed to determine the credibility and validity of the data.

Results/Findings: The secondary data obtained from the literature search was critically analyzed and produced four common themes. The findings from the four themes are associated with domestic violence among children. The common themes are negative symptoms, law enforcement response, criminal justice connection and future criminality. The themes suggest that children who are exposed to domestic violence undergo hardships throughout their lives.

Discussion: Children are the future generation, which is why it is important to mitigate this issue. This is a devastating issue because childhood is supposed to be a memorable and amazing life chapter. Sadly, it can be one of the most horrific and traumatic times for children who are exposed to domestic violence. If intervention strategies used by law enforcement agencies are not effective, it can lead the child to accumulate more negative symptoms and also lead to future criminality and a cycle of domestic violence.

Practical Applications: The research study addressed that law enforcement agencies must pay greater attention to how they deal with domestically abused children. Law enforcement agencies must analyze their intervention methods and determine if a child will suffer from a harsh interaction. Law enforcement agencies must become aware that domestic violence among children can be mitigated with proper intervention methods.

#### References:



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Kaukinen, C., Powers, R. A., & Meyer, S. (2016). Estimating Canadian childhood exposure to intimate partner violence and other risky parental behaviors. *Journal Of Child Custody*, 13 (2/3), 199-218. doi:10.1080/15379418.2016.1204581