

Domestic Violence & Pregnancy

While pregnancy is supposed to be a happy time for women, it is also a risk factor for Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence during pregnancy puts both the mother and the unborn child in danger.



High Risk Pregnancy

Domestic Violence during pregnancy increases the risks of miscarriage, premature birth, infection, low birth weight, foetal injury and death.



Violence During Pregnancy

For some women violence starts during pregnancy but for women already experiencing violence it generally becomes worse. This is often because a woman may become less available emotionally and physically, and the partner expects the same level of attention and intimacy.



Harm to the Mother

The emotional damage to the mother caused by Domestic Violence causes depression and anxiety. Both of these can have long lasting effects on the mental health of the baby later in life.

Talk to a Professional

When you have an antenatal appointment at a Queensland Hospital, the midwife will ask you some questions to ensure yours and your unborn baby's safety. If you are feeling unsafe or are experiencing Domestic Violence, you can speak to your midwife or a QLD Health Social Worker to access Domestic and Family Violence support services.

If you are in immediate danger DIAL 000

If you require immediate safe accommodation call 1800 811 811

For Domestic & Family Violence support call (07)3816 0139

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The Effects of DV on Children & Young People

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Domestic and Family Violence can cause physical and emotional harm to children and young people. There can be long term psychological and developmental issues associated to domestic violence exposure.



Domestic violence has profound and lasting effects on children who are exposed to it, even if they are not the direct victims. These effects can manifest in various ways, impacting their physical, emotional, social, and psychological well-being.

Children exposed to domestic violence often experience a range of negative emotions, including fear, anxiety, anger, and sadness. They may also suffer from feelings of helplessness and guilt, believing that they are somehow responsible for the violence.

Exposure in childhood can lead to long-term psychological problems, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other anxiety disorders. These issues can persist into adulthood.

Research shows children who witness domestic violence are at a higher risk of becoming either victims or perpetrators of violence in their adult relationships, thus perpetuating the cycle of violence. Children in violent homes may develop unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as substance abuse or self-harm as a way to deal with their emotional stress.

It's important to note not all children will experience all of these effects, and the impacts vary depending on the severity and frequency of the violence, the child's age and personality, and the presence of supportive adults in their lives.

Interventions such as counselling and support services can help children cope and mitigate long-term consequences. Breaking the cycle of violence involves providing a safe and stable environment for children and teaching them healthy ways to manage their emotions and build positive relationships.

