



Family or Partner Violence

Family or partner violence refers to violence within the family or between intimate partners. It includes child maltreatment, dating and intimate partner violence (IPV), and elder maltreatment.

Child Maltreatment:

All forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, development or dignity. There are four main types of abuse: neglect, physical abuse, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse.

Dating and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):

Abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. "Intimate partner" refers to both current and former spouses and dating partners. IPV can include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression. IPV can vary in how often it happens and how severe it is.

Elder Maltreatment:

Elder abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and includes physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious loss of dignity and respect.

Family or partner violence has no boundaries. It knows no cultural, socioeconomic, education, religious, or geographic limitation. It occurs in all races, ages, sexes, and sexual orientations. It is a common problem, but can be difficult to identify. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), many cases are not reported to health professionals or legal authorities.

Risk Factors for Family or Partner Violence

According to the NIH, risk factors include individual, relationship, community, and societal issues.

- Lower education levels correlate with more likely domestic violence.
- Childhood abuse is commonly associated with becoming a perpetrator of domestic violence as an adult.
- Drug and alcohol abuse greatly increases the incidence of domestic violence.
- Children who are victims or witness family violence are more likely to abuse others.
- Males who learn that females are not equally respected are more likely to abuse females in adulthood.
- Individuals who witness domestic violence as children are more likely to be victimized by their spouses.

Everyone deserves healthy relationships. If you or someone you know is impacted by family or partner violence, reach out to the EAP or visit EAP4YOU.com to access resources and find support.