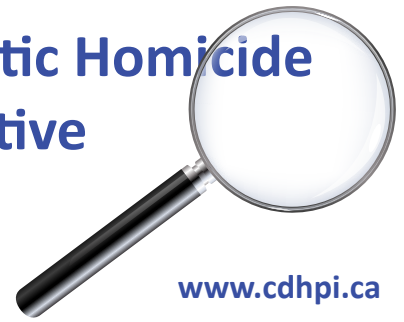




Canadian Domestic Homicide
Prevention Initiative
with Vulnerable
Populations



www.cdhpi.ca

**Domestic Violence Risk Assessment,
Risk Management, and Safety
Planning with Children Exposed
to Domestic Violence:
Summary of Selected Grey Literature**

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Summary of Selected Grey Literature

Produced on behalf of the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPVP) (<http://www.cdhipi.ca>)

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This work is supported by the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada.

1. Asawa, L. E. (2008). Reducing the risk of child maltreatment through the Early Head Start program. Retrieved from Digital Commons at University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

This article examines the impact of a home-based early childhood intervention program (Early Head Start) in reducing the risk of child maltreatment among high-risk families. It uses a developmental-ecological framework and assesses the effectiveness of the Early Head Start Program in reducing child maltreatment. Data for this study are drawn from 311 families in Nebraska. The core findings are that Early Head Start services were predictive of a reduction in nutrition concerns, and social support concerns. Additionally, families receiving more intensive services were more likely to report new indications of child maltreatment over time. Specific recommendations for risk assessment, and risk management include the use of a multiple information gathering methods to determine child maltreatment risk, and to incorporate interventions to address partner violence into the Early Head Start program. Factors that are identified as most predictive of maltreatment history were caregiver history of abuse, domestic violence in the home, and significant parenting concerns.

2. Bagshaw, D., Brown, T., Wendt, S., Campbell, A., McInnes, E., Tinning, B...Fernandez Arias, P. (2010, April). Family violence and family law in Australia: The experiences and views of children and adults from families who separated post-1995 and post-2006 (Volume 1). [PDF document]. Commonwealth of Australia. Retrieved from <https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/FamilyViolence/Documents/Family%20violence%20and%20family%20law%20in%20Australia%20volume%201.pdf>

This article focuses on the impact of family violence that occurs before and/or after parental relationship termination as well as decision-making and arrangements regarding the children. This study focuses on families living in rural, regional, and remote communities from all states and territories throughout Australia. Data for this study are drawn from adult survey respondents (N = 921), adolescent survey respondents (N = 65), adult phone interviews (N = 105), and adolescent phone interviews (N = 12). The authors find that, first, for most women, violence persisted after separation and often escalated, but no male participants reported an increase in violence after separation. Second, some women reported that their fear, as a result of the violence, was so substantial they could not use any services relevant for separating couples. Third, the most frequent complaint about all the services that were accessed, with the exception of domestic violence services, was victims not being believed as well as a lack of assistance. Lastly, some of the children interviewed reported that the damage from the violence was so severe they wished the abusive parent would be removed from their life entirely. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include (1) universal screening for and assessment of family violence conducted by professionals with appropriate education and training, (2) the ongoing review and evaluation of assessment tools for family violence, and (3) a revision of the friendly parent provision in order to recognize that parents sometimes need to take action to protect their at-risk children. Risk management recommendations are that (1) all allegations and/or denials of family violence should be heard and addressed by family law professionals and investigated before parenting arrangements for shared care are made and (2) improved links are needed between the family law system and state and territory government agencies (police, corrections,



health, domestic violence services). Lastly, safety recommendations include (1) including children's voices and opinions in decision making processes, (2) mandatory education and training programs for professionals working within the Family Court system including judges, and (3) family law professionals recognizing that abuse tactics occur before, during, and after separation and can effect the victims' ability to effectively negotiate.

3. Baker, L. B., Jaffe, P. G., Berkowitz, S. J., & Berkman, M. (2002). Children exposed to violence: A handbook for police trainers to increase understanding and improve community responses. [PDF document]. London, ON: Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System. Retrieved from <http://www.lfcc.on.ca/police-us.PDF>

This handbook is designed to complement existing police training initiatives and increase awareness about some of the more complex issues involved in police intervention. The focus of the handbook is on the special needs of children exposed to domestic violence and the challenges in conducting risk assessment and implementing risk reduction/management strategies. Specific recommendations or findings for risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning include talking to children to determine the level of risk the child has been subjected to during the incident to help police officers gain information to further inform decision-making (e.g., risk assessment, safety planning, arrests, charges). Additionally, it is important to incorporate multiple methods of assessment, multiple sources for data collection, and not be limited to a checklist of items. If concerns develop from an initial risk assessment by a police officer, a more comprehensive risk assessment may be warranted. Components of a comprehensive risk assessment are highlighted.

4. Bragg, H. L. (2003). Child protection in families experiencing domestic violence. [PDF document]. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau, and Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/domesticviolence.pdf>

This article discusses the overlap between child maltreatment and domestic violence and focuses on child protection strategies in the United States. The manual references the use of a strengths-based, family

centered approach to responding to families who are experiencing domestic violence. Data for this study are drawn from past literature, with a focus on American studies. The core findings discuss the three categories of childhood problems associated with exposure to domestic violence, including: (a) behavioural, social, and emotional problems, (b) cognitive and attitudinal problems, and (c) long-term problems that may also vary depending on the developmental stage of the child. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include assessing for domestic violence for every child abuse and neglect report received by the child protection services agency. This includes conducting a domestic violence risk assessment, interviewing the alleged victim alone, avoiding victim blaming, and being culturally sensitive. Safety planning recommendations will vary depending on whether the victim is separated from the abuser, is thinking about leaving, or is remaining in the relationship.

5. Canadian Council for Refugees. (2011). Proposed "Conditional Permanent Residence" for sponsored spouses: Comments on the notice published by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in the Canada Gazette, Part I, Vol. 145, No. 13. Retrieved from Canadian Council for Refugees: http://ccrweb.ca/files/comments_conditional_residence_proposal.pdf

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) analyzed Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) notice on the proposed two-year cohabitation requirement in sponsorship relationships. The CCR's report is in opposition to this requirement due to the required cohabitation creating or increasing unequal power dynamics within the sponsorship relationship and increasing the likelihood of abuse therein. The CCR contends that the two-year rule increases immigrant women's vulnerabilities and creates barriers for women who attempt to leave dysfunctional and/or abusive relationships. Despite the abuse exemption written into the proposed cohabitation requirement, the CCR contends that it is an ineffective measure as sponsored spouses are often unaware of their rights. Further, the authors suggest that the proposed cohabitation requirement also negatively impacts children, because it falls short of meeting requirements for the best interest of child(ren) who witness abuse and/or may be separated from a parent if their legal status is compromised. The CCR ultimately contends that the proposed requirement negatively portrays newcomers, creates barriers to family re-unification, and heightens the risk for violence against women.



6. Cunningham, A. J., & Baker, L. L. (2004). What about me!: Seeking to understand a child's view of violence in the family. [PDF document]. Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System of the London Family Court Clinic. Retrieved from http://www.lfcc.on.ca/what_about_me.pdf

This article focuses on children's perception and experiences of violence in the family. The article uses a child's eye view and developmental framework to develop suggestions for measurement techniques and proposes a developmental framework for understanding, intervening, and evaluating domestic violence responses. Data for this study are drawn from a literature review of empirical studies (N = 220), as well as interviews with children who have lived with familial violence (N = 13). The core findings suggest that combining youth who have experienced chronic violence with youth who have experienced one or two incidents of violence against a non-exposed comparison group, may under-estimate the impact of the abuse experienced by the chronic group. The authors suggest that a ratio-level measure of severity with a true zero-point is the best statistical scale to use in these studies. Additionally, the authors provide a list of ways to improve the rigor in these empirical studies, as well as eight principles to act as a framework for understanding the impact of parental violence on children that takes into account the developmental age of the child. Specific recommendations for risk assessment and risk management include educating professionals, therapy programs for abusers such as Caring Dads as well as group and individual therapy.

7. Department of Justice Canada (2013a, November). Making the links in family violence cases: Collaboration among the family, child protection and criminal justice systems: Report of the Federal – Provincial – Territorial (FPT) Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Violence. (Volume I). [PDF document]. Retrieved from <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/mlfvc-elcvf/mlfvc-elcvf.pdf>

This report focuses on the barriers faced by professionals in the child protection, family, and criminal sectors of the justice system collaborating in family violence cases across Canada. The data for this report were drawn from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Violence, which included representatives from all Canadian provinces and territories. The report identifies promising practices across Canada in risk assessment, handling multiple court

proceedings, privacy, evidentiary issues, out-of-court dispute resolution, and cross-sector collaboration. Specific findings for risk assessment are that the failure to share information and lack of communication between the criminal justice, child protection, and family justice systems impedes risk assessment and impacts safety and well-being of family members. Recommendations for risk assessment include promising practices in high-risk case coordination protocols, integrated threat/risk assessment centres that conduct assessments upon police referral and can testify in hearings, and the implementation of domestic violence death review committees to identify risk factors. The report notes that risk management involves monitoring, treatment, supervision, and victim safety planning. Specific recommendations for risk management and safety planning include the high-risk case coordination protocols or committees to manage confidential information sharing. Factors that are identified as unique to this population are the privacy-related challenges to sharing information and lack of coordination in cross-sector collaboration. Promising practices that address lack of coordination include a 'one-family-one judge' concept. The report also notes that these practices are not all encompassing and may not address the unique needs of Indigenous or rural/remote populations.

8. Dubé, M., Lambert, M.C., Maillé, N., Drouin, C., Harper, É., & Rinfret-Raynor, M. (No date). Post-separation domestic violence: a reality. Montréal and Québec: Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale and la violence faite aux femmes and Femmes et Forte.

This pamphlet focuses on providing information to identify post-separation domestic violence, as well as information on the impact it can have on victims and their children. Based on a review from the literature, the pamphlet provides victims with the signs of post-separation domestic violence and strategies to protect themselves and their children following separation. Specific recommendations for risk management and safety planning include suggestions for dealing with an ex-spouse regarding child custody and strategies for co-parenting. Other unique aspects or contributions of this study include a checklist that individuals can complete to recognize the signs of domestic violence as well as services for victims in Québec.



9. Gordon, S., Hallahan, K., & Henry, D. (2002). Putting the picture together: Inquiry into response by government agencies to complaints of family violence and child abuse in Aboriginal communities. [PDF document]. Department of Premier and Cabinet, Western Australia. Retrieved from <http://www.strongfamilies.wa.gov.au/UserDir/Documents/Public/Putting%20the%20Picture%20Together.pdf>

This document is a comprehensive review of the services provided by government agencies addressing family violence and child abuse in Aboriginal communities. Utilizing an ecological framework, it assesses the responses of government agencies working with families where family violence and/or child abuse has occurred. Data for this study are drawn from consulting with, and reviewing written submissions from, members of the Aboriginal community and seven government agencies in Western Australia. The core findings are that the Aboriginal communities are in need of culturally sensitive, holistic and coordinated approaches to family violence. Specific recommendations for risk management include the use of a community focused systemic response, whereby services are coordinated by one lead agency into a single location that maintains the importance of local culture/tradition. Additionally, increasing the use of technology to facilitate communication amongst agencies for rural and remote populations. Factors that are identified as unique to this population are the inclusion of the Aboriginal community in developing and delivering these services. Other unique aspects of this study include the recommendation to those providing service to perpetrators of violence to acknowledge the historical racism and abuse that may have been a part of Aboriginal men's experiences.

10. Guhman, K. K. (2014). Violence within the family: Risk factors associated with child maltreatment. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.

This dissertation focuses on the three most common risk factors of child maltreatment: intimate partner violence (IPV), parental intellectual disability, and stress within an ecological framework of family violence. The data for this study are drawn from: a systematic review of the literature; a retrospective analysis of 204 cases of parents with and without Intellectual Developmental Disability (IDD) involved in childcare proceedings in the U.K.; and a critique of the Parenting Stress Index- Third Edition (PSI-3). The core findings are that the rates of co-occurrence of

child maltreatment and IPV range from 4% to 64.2% in the literature. Parents with IDD were significantly more likely to experience higher levels of parenting stress, and more likely to be living with an adult with violence tendencies. Lastly, the PSI-3 has practical utility for evaluating parenting stress within child custody evaluations. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include automatic screening of IPV within child protection, and that child protection services and IPV agencies should work together to develop more effective screening procedures.

11. Gunnarsson, D. K. (2012). A multi-disciplinary intervention package for the management of stalking behaviors in child custody cases. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Widener University, Chester, PA.

This dissertation focuses on a review of the psychological and legal literature on post-divorce conflict, specifically victims of stalking in child custody cases. It uses attachment theory and proposes a multi-disciplinary intervention package for management of stalking behaviours in child custody cases. The core findings are that interventions must be holistically approached utilizing multi-disciplinary teams and that the dynamics of stalking should be taught to all professionals involved. Custody determinations should be put on hold, with custody going to the victimized parent or capable relatives of the children, until the stalking can be appropriately managed, bearing in mind the persistent and pervasive nature of stalking. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include recognizing the dangerousness of the stalking behaviours, and considering the threat to the child and custodial parent's safety. To manage risk, safety of the adult victim and their children should be the highest priority in custody proceedings and family courts should have multi-disciplinary threat management teams. Justice professionals should be educated about the link between the welfare of the stalked parent, and the welfare of the child. Specific recommendations for safety planning include a dynamic form of planning whereby victim and other people can respond and adjust quickly to a changing situation and environment, all while involving the victim in the process and minimizing psychological harm to them. Factors that are identified as unique to this population include taking all staking allegations seriously in child custody disputes and maintaining safety as top priority.



12. Gustafsson, H. C. (2013). Intimate partner violence in rural, low-income communities: Prevalence and links with child competence (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.

This study explores the prevalence, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence (IPV) occurring in families with young children and examines the extent to which IPV occurring early in the child's life was linked with her or her competence during the early school years. Data for this study are drawn from a subsample of a longitudinal study titled The Family Life Project in six predominantly low-income, rural communities in North Carolina and central Pennsylvania. The sample included 981 couples at the 6 month assessment, 936 couples at the 15 month assessment, 905 couples at the 24 month assessment, 877 couples at the 35 month assessment and 856 couples at the 60 month assessment. The author finds that estimates of IPV prevalence in the sample ranged from 21 to 41 percent of couples depending on the assessment timepoint. There was also a downward trend in the prevalence of IPV as time increased, which suggests that the integration of a new child into the family system is a particularly challenging time for couples. Mothers of African American children and those who had completed fewer years of education were at an increased risk for a number of dimensions and types of IPV. IPV occurring over the first five years of the child's life was negatively associated with the children's self-regulatory skills, their pro-social skills, and their ability to relate well to peers (small association). In terms of risk management, the author recommends that interventions aimed at helping families who are the victims of IPV target families around the birth of a new child.

13. Healy, J., & Bell, M. (2005). Assessing the risks to children from domestic violence. [PDF document]. Policy and Practice Briefing (No. 7). Barnados Northern Ireland: Belfast. Retrieved from http://www.barnados.org.uk/pp_no_7_assessing_the_risks_to_children_from_domestic_violence.pdf

This policy and practice briefing focuses on child protection workers' implementation of a Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Model. It assesses the effectiveness of the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Model, a holistic model used specifically for domestic violence cases in child protection that utilizes threshold scales, risk factors, potential vulnerabilities, and protective factors.

Data for this study are drawn from 40 workers from child protection services utilizing the model in Northern Ireland. The core findings are that the use of the model enhances practitioner ability to identify (a) risks to the child, (b) protective strategies by the non-abusive parent, and (c) suitable types of intervention; promote perpetrator accountability; and inform decision-making at case conferences. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include utilizing a model that assesses the nature and impact of the abuse to the children and non-abusive parent, risks to lethality, protective factors, and a detailed case history (including past help-seeking). Multi-disciplinary approaches to responding to domestic violence are strongly recommended.

14. Jackson, D. (2012). A meta-study of filicide: Reconceptualizing child deaths by parents. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ.

This meta-study endeavored to develop a deeper understanding of the social construction of filicide. Utilizing a social constructionist perspective, this dissertation build on the notion that how a society defines and discusses a phenomenon (i.e., filicide) influences prevention efforts as well as policy development. Accordingly, the contexts, theories, methods, findings, and themes of 66 filicide studies were analyzed from around the world in order to answer the guiding question of what do we know about filicide and how do we know it. Results from synthesizing these studies include a proposed reconceptualization of filicide, the development of a preliminary screening tool for assessing filicide risk, and an outline for education of clinical professionals. Specific findings related to risk assessment include identifying the age of victims and offenders as risk factors; suicidal ideation prior to filicide by the offender is another major theme found in the majority of studies; the notion that there are unique offender, victim, and contextual variables between types/subtypes of filicide. Specific findings for risk management indicated that there were clear missed opportunities for prevention/intervention. The study recommended that police officers consider risk for children in the home when involved in domestic violence cases.



15. Jacobs, I. E. (2008). Predicting the potential for child abuse perpetration among victims of domestic violence: Testing an ecological model. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

This dissertation examines the impact domestic violence has on the potential for maternal child abuse. Employing an ecological framework for understanding child abuse and using survey data from a sample of 149 women recruited from the general community, analysis revealed that the combination of variables from different ecological levels accounts for a significant amount of variance in potential for child abuse. More explicitly, five explanatory variables (social support, trauma symptoms, maternal history of child abuse, physical abuse by a previous partner, and total physical abuse in the past year) accounted for 65 percent of the variance in the potential for child abuse. Specific recommendations for risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning include the importance of considering the impact of domestic violence on the potential for child abuse from an ecological model, where risk (e.g., trauma symptoms, maternal history of child abuse) and protective factors (e.g., social support, etc.), as well as direct and indirect pathways are identified.

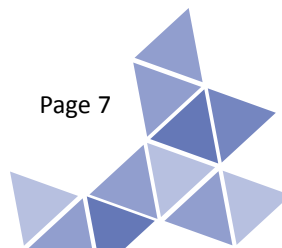
16. Jacobson, W. B. (2000, November). Safe from the start: Taking action on children exposed to violence. [PDF document]. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/182789.pdf>

This report provides a summary of a U.S Department of Justice summit on children exposed to violence, which culminated in the creation of a national blue print for action. 150 professionals from both the public and private sectors joined together to discuss their concerns, representing child protective services; domestic violence services and advocacy; juvenile and family courts; law enforcement and prosecution; mental health, substance abuse, and healthcare services; family violence prevention services; childhood education and services; and State legislatures. These policymakers and practitioners offered their insights into how best to address the complex issue of children exposed to violence. A series of operating principles to address children's exposure to violence was created, including (1) work together, (2) begin earlier, (3) think developmentally, (4) make mothers safe to keep children safe, (5) enforce the law, and (6) make adequate resources available. Each step is further explained and suggestions are provided in establishing what appropriate

actions should be taken generally, and for specific disciplines.

17. Jenney, A. C. (2011). Doing the right thing: Negotiating risk and safety in child protection work with domestic violence cases. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

This dissertation explores how womens narratives of domestic violence (DV) are translated by child protective services (CPS) worker's assessments of risk/need and safety planning. Using a combination of the Just Practice Framework, Symbolic Interactionism and Social Constructionism, this study aims to explain how both workers and clients' experiences of the process of risk assessment and safety planning influence the course of the intervention. Utilizing qualitative data from interviews with 11 DV victims and 17 CPS workers, the author finds similarities in workers' and clients' representations of DV and the work of CPS. The overarching theme that emerges from both worker and client participants was the concept of "doing the right thing". Results highlight that the ways in which CPS workers interact with clients with respect to DV cases within child protection shapes the interactions that take place within the context of care and prevention. Furthermore, these structures manifest themselves in complex ways that can lead to misunderstanding the impact on children, subjugation of victims, and the absence of dialogue about the role of men in addressing DV. Specific recommendations for risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning included working collaboratively with victims, continually emphasizing the importance of therapeutic relationships in child protection practice, and increasing professional development for managing cases of DV in the context of the current model of intervention for child maltreatment.



18. Kirkwood, D. (2013, January). 'Just say goodbye': Parents who kill their children in the context of separation (Discussion Paper No. 8). [PDF document]. Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria. Retrieved from [http://www.dvrcv.org.au/sites/default/files/%E2%80%98Just%20Say%20Goodbye%E2%80%99%20\(January%202013%20online%20edition\).pdf](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/sites/default/files/%E2%80%98Just%20Say%20Goodbye%E2%80%99%20(January%202013%20online%20edition).pdf)

This article focuses on the role of separation and family violence in cases of filicide. Data for this study are drawn from a review of literature and cases of filicide in several Australian states. Information on the cases was obtained largely from the media and trial judgments. The core findings indicate that approximately 10 percent of homicides in Australia involve child victims who are killed primarily by a parent. Past research indicates that mothers are more likely to be the biological parent of the children they kill than are fathers, and are also more likely to kill younger children. Additionally, Australian research has found that 15 percent of filicide offenders had a mental disorder immediately before or during the filicide incident. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include improving service provider responses to adequately detect warning signs and particular risks for filicide, including suicide as a risk for filicide. Lastly, safety-planning recommendations include addressing bystander inaction to family violence, challenging men's sense of entitlement over their families, as well as implementing initiatives to respond and prevent familial violence, including violence in the context of parental separation.

19. Lake Jr, I. B., Odom, C. H., & Staroneck, L., (2003, Febuary). Child well-being and domestic violence task force final report. [PDF document]. Retrieved from <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/yaio/documents/publications/cwbdvtf.pdf>

This article focuses on judicial procedures in the state of North Carolina surrounding child maltreatment and domestic violence. The authors highlight the Multiple Response System model, a strengths-based model that is currently being piloted in 10 counties. Data for this study are drawn from past literature and cases that have been reviewed. The core findings indicate that the safety of children is closely connected to the safety of the non-offending parent. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include having a domestic violence specialist in each county in North Carolina, and the adoption of uniform policies across all counties that include screening,

investigation, safety planning, lethality assessment, case decision and management. Additionally, the authors recommend mandatory, regular continuing education on domestic violence and child well-being for law enforcement officers. Risk management recommendations include prioritizing funding for the implementation of supervised visitation centers for North Carolina. Lastly, a major safety planning recommendation includes considering adopting a statute that criminalizes the act of seriously assaulting an adult in the presence of a child.

20. Lawson, J. N. (2015). Domestic violence as child maltreatment: Differential risks and outcomes among cases referred to child welfare agencies for domestic violence exposure. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

This dissertation examines differences between demographics, risk factors, and outcomes of child protective services cases when domestic violence (DV) is reported (alone or with other allegations) compared to cases of reported maltreatment types other than DV. It also examines whether the presence of DV allegation is an independent predictor of child welfare outcomes. Utilizing a sample (n=5055) drawn from the second National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II, the author applies a retrospective case comparison design to generate descriptive findings on cases referred for DV. Results indicate that cases of DV as a maltreatment allegation have unique profiles of risk, demographics, and outcomes that differentiate them from cases alleging other maltreatment types. However, cases where DV was identified as an alleged abuse type at intake concurrently with at least one other type of maltreatment held higher levels of risk than the other two allegation groups; this held for almost every risk variable in the study (i.e., financial difficulty, moderate/severe levels of risk and harm, caregiver cognitive impairment, caregiver substance abuse, recent caregiver arrest, history of caregiver maltreatment, caregiver mental health problems, poor parenting skills, high stress, and low support). Furthermore, cases of alleged DV have a higher likelihood of substantiation but were no more likely to receive child protective services. Specific recommendations or findings for risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning include appropriately targeting some lower-risk DV cases for specialized, non-investigative responses. This study also makes a unique contribution to the literature by examining how the child welfare system responds to cases alleging DV as child maltreatment, which has been scarcely investigated. For



instance, while DV referred cases are substantiated at a higher rate than cases referred to CPS for other allegations, substantiation of these cases is not a good predictor of subsequent levels of CPS intervention.

21. Robinson, L. (2014). Exploring the link between intimate partner violence and child maltreatment. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.

This thesis aimed to further the psychological understanding of intimate partner violence (IPV), child maltreatment (CM), and the overlap in risk factors for both forms of family violence. In order to explore this, this dissertation is split into three separate sections: a systematic literature review, a critique of the Danger Assessment, and an empirical study that examines the effectiveness, reliability and validity of the Multi-agency Joint Screening process and the Barnardo's Multiagency Domestic Violence Risk Identification Threshold Scales. The systematic review highlights that families with concurrent IPV and CM are not qualitatively different from families with isolated forms of family violence, but rather, families characterized by concurrent IPV and CM display more severe levels of risk factors related to victimization, mental health issues and criminality. Furthermore, there seems to be a difference between co-occurring IPV and CM in respects to risk factors associated to the perpetrator (e.g., substance abuse, mental health difficulties, convictions for violence outside the family home, childhood victimization and lower levels education). From the critique of the Danger Assessment, overall the literature views it to be a valuable tool, though not a foolproof one, for predicting risk of repeat IPV and intimate partner homicide. This dissertation suggests that, like other risk assessment tools, the Danger Assessment should be considered a process, not a product to be used in isolation. In regards to the empirical study contained in this dissertation, the Multi-agency Joint Screening process was found to be effective, particularly in relation to the intervention and management of higher risk cases. Overall, it was found that the Multi-agency Joint Screening Teams were assigning cases with a higher number of risk factors to higher and appropriate level scales. Recommendations include the need to adopt a holistic approach to family violence, the need for professionals to approach IPV not as an isolated problem but as a dynamic family issue, and the importance of viewing screening for IPV not as a stand-alone assessment but as one that can be built upon when cases are re-screening as a result of additional IPV incidents.

22. Saunders, D. G. (2007, October). Child custody and visitation decisions in domestic violence cases: Legal trends, risk factors, and safety concerns. [PDF document]. Retrieved from http://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/materials/files/2016-09/AR_CustodyREVISED.pdf

This article focuses on custody and visitation decisions in the context of battered women and the impact of courts. Data for this study are drawn from a review of the literature. The author discusses the “friendly parent” provision that is included in some statutes and policies and how this can be harmful to battered women who are labeled as “unfriendly”. Furthermore, the author notes that trends such as the use of parent coordinators, special masters, and virtual visitation that are being implemented in custody and visitation decisions. Findings indicate that only about half of the courts in all states make domestic violence a primary consideration in custody and visitation decisions. Specific recommendations for risk management include states repealing the friendly parent provision in cases where domestic or family violence has occurred. Lastly, safety planning recommendations include specifications in orders of visitation including the exchange of the child and the perpetrator completing an intervention program. Additionally, the authors suggest that unsupervised visitation should be allowed only after the abuser completes a specialized program for men who batter, as well as abstaining from violent behavior for a substantial period of time.

23. Stanley, N., Miller, P., Richardson Foster, H. R., & Thomson, G. (2010, January). Children and families experiencing domestic violence: Police and children's social services' responses. [PDF document]. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Retrieved from <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/children-families-experiencing-domestic-violence-report.pdf>

This article focuses on services provided to families residing in England and Wales who are involved with children's social services before and after the amendment of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The definition of “significant harm” was amended to include a new category of “impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another”. Data for this study are drawn from interviews with young people, survivors, and perpetrators (N = 40), interviews with police officials and social service workers (N = 58), retrospective review of police and social service records (N = 251 incidents



of domestic violence), and responses to a survey on innovative practice (N = 57 responses). Core findings indicate that, (1) just over half the couples in the sample were separated, (2) young people described being excluded by police officials responding to a domestic violence incident, and (3) intervention from social services often ceased once couples separated, despite evidence that domestic violence continues after separation. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include, (1) regular inter-professional training for staff that focuses on the impact of domestic violence on children and (2) risk assessment tools that focus on risks to children in addition to risks to victims. Risk management recommendations are that (1) police officers should provide information on domestic violence to children involved in a domestic violence report, (2) police officers should recognize children as additional victims in domestic violence incidents, and (3) the amount and availability of voluntary support services for perpetrators should be increased. Lastly, safety planning recommendations include (1) increasing the availability of early intervention services for families experiencing domestic violence and (2) increasing interventions for children involved in domestic violence incidents.

24. Tutty, L., Weaver-Dunlop, J., Barlow, A., & Jesso, D. (2006, May). Evaluation of the community safe visitation program: Updated 2006. [PDF document]. YWCA Calgary. Retrieved from <http://www.ocalgary.ca/resolve-static/reports/2006/2006-05.pdf>

This article documents an evaluation of a supervised visitation center known as The Community Safe Visitation Program offered in Calgary, Alberta. Data for this study are drawn from standardized pre-test/post-test measures for eligible parents and children involved in the program (N = 281), as well as qualitative interviews that lasted between one and two hours (N = 22 parents). Children had to be older than 6 years to participate. The three core findings are, first, that three subscales rated by parents improved significantly after 6 months: (a) the BSI Interpersonal Sensitivity scale, (b) the BSI Positive Symptom Distress Index, and (c) the BSI Global Severity Index. Second, after participating, parents reported improvements in three areas: (a) parental distress, (b) parent-child dysfunctional relationship, and (c) PSI Total stress. And finally, protective factors for children exposed to domestic violence include (a) average or higher than average intellectual ability, (b) good attention, (c) good interpersonal skills, (d) talent, (e) religious affiliation, (f) socioeconomic advantage,

(g) and connections with nurturing people. Specific risk assessment recommendations include screening all clients for domestic violence separately, and, when providing reports to courts and judges regarding the visiting parents' behaviours and abilities, to only provide factual data to courts. Specific risk management strategies include being proactive about providing referrals and supplementary support to custodial and visiting parents. Lastly, safety planning recommendations include having parents' drop off and pick up times staggered to ensure monitoring and security for both parents, and increasing the hours of operation as to provide more support for visiting parents to be with their children.

25. UNICEF Canada. (2011). Proposed amendment to immigration and refugee protection regulations: Introduction of 'conditional' permanent residence period for spousal and partner sponsorship. Retrieved from Canadian Council for Refugees: <http://ccrweb.ca/files/unicef-conditionalprstatus.pdf>

This position paper, written by UNICEF Canada, demonstrates how Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) two-year requirement for conditional permanent residence negatively impacts women and children, as it: (1) enhances the power imbalances within the relationship; (2) has the potential to trap women and children in abusive relationships; (3) hinders familial relations for children; (4) puts children at risk of exploitation, witnessing, and/or direct experiences of abuse; (5) may separate abused mothers and their children through the involvement of child protection impacting women's status; (6) hinders service provision to non-status women and their children; and (7) increases participation in the sex trade. The authors further argue that the two-year policy for conditional permanent residence does not meet the requirements set out by the Convention on the Rights of Children, and recommends that the federal government adopt and implement an equity focus to reduce the risks faced by children of sponsored parents and ensure the establishment of an independent Children's Advocate Commissioner for Canada to guarantee the children's rights.



26. Weaver-Dunlop, G., Nixon, K., Tutty, L., Walsh, C., Ogden, C. (2006, November 1 & 2). A Review of Policies to Address Children/Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence. [PDF document]. RESOLVE Alberta. Retrieved from <http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve-static/reports/2006/2006-08.pdf>

This article reviews policies and legislation in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand regarding childhood exposure to domestic violence. Data for this study are drawn from a review of the literature and international policies. The core findings indicate that children who witness domestic violence often exhibit similar symptoms to children who have been physically, sexually, and emotionally abused. Resiliency research has identified factors such as parenting qualities, cognitive functioning, socioeconomic status, and positive self-mate as correlated with child' adversity. Specific recommendations for risk assessment include expanding the definition of child maltreatment as well as proper assessment of children exposed, including direct questions about the exposure, the co-occurrence of direct forms of abuse, coping abilities, and the child's perception of violence. Safety planning recommendations include avoiding the removal of the child from the non-abusive parent. Additionally, legislation needs to focus on penalizing the batterer, avoiding penalizing the victim, and only penalizing the most violent criminal conduct of perpetrators.

