



## ***Raising Families. Erasing Violence: Saving Our Precious Children.***

Research shows that children can be exposed to violence in three forms:

**PRIMARY**—a direct victim of a violent act

**SECONDARY**—witnessing an attack, shooting, or murder or even hearing gun shots in the neighborhood

**TERTIARY**—hearing about violence suffered by others, such as family and friends

As a result of exposure to violence on any of the above three levels, a host of negative outcomes have been identified in children including **difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety, and depression.**

**Consequently, these children are more likely to exhibit higher rates of delinquency, increased aggression and violent behavior, re-victimization, and higher rates of contact with both child welfare systems and the juvenile justice system.**

According to a U.S. Department of Justice national survey:

- More than 60% of children reported being exposed to violence, either directly or indirectly, during the past year.
- Almost 50% had at least once been the direct victim of an assault, with 10% being injured from the assault.
- Over 25% of the children reported witnessing a violent act and almost 10% saw a family member attack another family member.

### **In Memphis and Shelby County:**

- **21,381 children under the age of 5 will potentially be exposed to an act of violence in Memphis and Shelby County. That represents 35% of children under the age of 5 in our community.**
- 34.7% or 59,046 children between the ages of 5-17 will potentially be exposed to an act of violence in our community.
- More than 19,000 (31.9%) children under the age of 5 will potentially be exposed to domestic violence, including aggravated and simple assaults.
- **Nearly 55,000 (31.9%) children aged 5-17 will potentially have exposure to domestic violence in our community.**

This statistical analysis has been developed by the University of Memphis Center for Community Criminology and Research. It utilizes only data provided by the City of Memphis and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.

Our mission is to connect victims and volunteers to local services and resources, with the goals of rescuing those in danger and empowering those seeking to participate in a community response to domestic violence. For more information or to get help visit [www.erasedomesticcrime.org](http://www.erasedomesticcrime.org) or call 901-545-4357.