



SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

*Here for hope and healing*

## **Risks to Children**

### **Physical Abuse**

- Approximately 50% of batterers also physically assault their children

### **Sexual Abuse**

- Batterers are 4 X more likely to sexually abuse their children
- Profile of incest perpetrator compatible with battering
  - High level of control
  - Entitlement
  - Manipulation
  - Tendency to view children as owned possessions

### **Batterer as role model**

- Boys - elevated risks of battering their partners starting as adolescents
- Girls - elevated risks of accepting abuse in intimate relationships and not seeking help
- Acceptance of batterer's belief system
  - The abuse is the fault of the victim
  - The victim exaggerates the abuse
  - Use of force is justifiable

### **Exposure to Witnessing Violence/threats**

- Hearing
- Direct Involvement
- Experiencing the aftermath
  - Range of responses
  - Active involvement in the conflict

Distracting themselves and their parents

Distancing themselves

### **Neglectful/Irresponsible Parenting**

- Tend toward authoritarian, neglectful, verbally abusive parenting style
- Intimidation
- Inadequate supervision
- Using children as vehicles of control of mother
- Retaliation for mother's efforts to protect her children

### **Post-separation escalation**

- Volatility in behavior for an extended period  
Enraged and retaliatory
- Increase targeting of children to frighten or upset mother
- Loss of any mediation of danger by mother during non-supervised visits
- Risk of abduction