

Domestic Violence

A study of pregnancy outcomes (abortion or carrying to term) based on a national survey of low-income women who delivered within the previous 18 months, found that: Irrespective of other difficulties raising a first child, a **lack of male support was associated with an abortion outcome** with the next pregnancy.

Those who had an abortion were:

- ↑ Over three times more likely to report heavy alcohol usage
- ↑ Twice as likely to report cigarette smoking
- ↑ More likely to report subsequently being slapped or kicked by the child's father.

Coleman, P. K., Maxey, C. D., Spence, M., & Nixon, C. L. (2009). Predictors and correlates of abortion in the fragile families and well-being study: paternal behavior, substance use, and partner violence. *International journal of mental health and addiction*, 7, 405-422.



A study of 906 and 658 Chicago women and men respectively, found abortion was associated with conflicted relationship compared to those with no abortion exposure.

Abortion in a *previous relationship*:

- Was associated with domestic violence in the current relationship.
- Men were more likely to report jealousy (95%) and conflict about drugs (385%) if their current partner had abortion exposure.

Abortion in *current relationship*:

- For women, was associated with various forms of sexual dysfunction (122-182%), verbal conflict about money, relatives, and children.
- For men, more likely to report arguing about children (196%).

Coleman, P. K., Rue, V. M., & Coyle, C. T. (2009). Induced abortion and intimate relationship quality in the Chicago Health and Social Life Survey. *Public health*, 123(4), 331-338.

UK researchers found 30% of women having second abortions were in abusive relationships with a statistical increase with three or more abortions.

Aston, G., & Bewley, S. (2009). Abortion and domestic violence. *The Obstetrician & Gynaecologist*, 11(3), 163-168.

Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Women with a history of one induced abortion were 2.4 times more likely to physically abuse their children.

Coleman, P. K., Maxey, C. D., Rue, V. M., & Coyle, C. T. (2005). Associations between voluntary and involuntary forms of perinatal loss and child maltreatment among low-income mothers. *Acta Paediatrica*, *94*(10), 1476-1483.

For first born children, maternal history of abortion was associated with lower emotional support in the home among children aged one to four, and more behavioural problems among five- to nine-year-olds.

Coleman, P. K., Reardon, D. C., & Cogle, J. (2002). The quality of the caregiving environment and child developmental outcomes associated with maternal history of abortion using the NLSY data. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, *43*(6), 743-757.