

# Coercive Control During Intimate Partner Violence: What About Children?



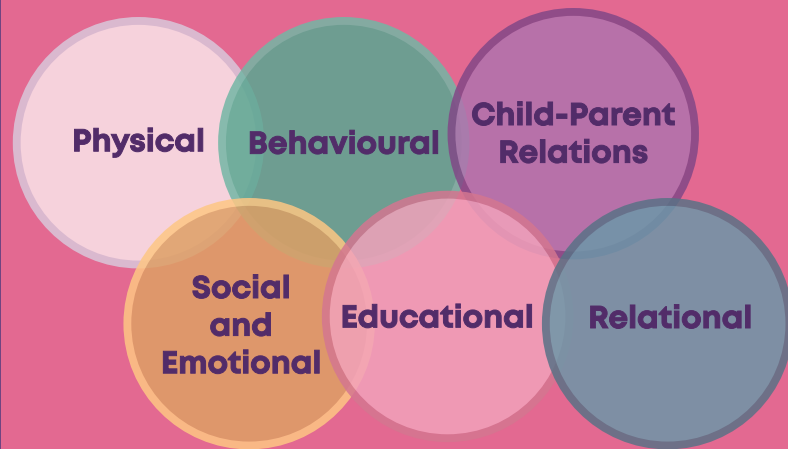
Children may experience coercive control used against them or their parent in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV). Coercive control is behaviour intended to isolate, exploit, and deprive a person of their independence through both physical and non-physical acts.

## Coercive control tactics can be used against the child and the parent experiencing IPV.

Tactics include:

- Accusing them of lying or misunderstanding the situation
- Isolating them from others
- Monitoring their time, activities, and location
- Withholding basic needs
- Restricting where they can go
- Threatening them to discourage seeking support
- Mistreating them in front of others
- Obstructing daily activities

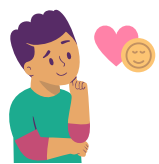
## Coercive control impacts all areas of a child's life



## How can service providers support children?



Use stories and activities to let children know that their safety and well-being are important.



Invite children to share about their feelings of safety (e.g. when they feel safest, when they feel scared, what they do to feel less scared).



Include children in safety planning with their non-abusive parent, usually their mother.



Encourage coping and calming strategies that build on children's strengths and interests.



Learn about children's experiences of coercive control within the context of IPV.



Listen to children and seek to understand their experiences and how they make sense of what is happening in their family.



Recognize how coercive control is impacting children, while also attending to their experiences of fun and happier times.

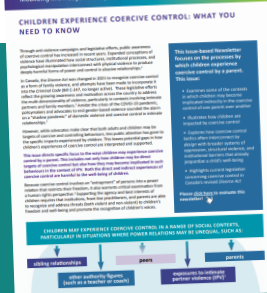


Support children's understanding of what is occurring through age-appropriate discussions and tools.



Validate children's feelings.

**LearningNetwork**  
Maximizing knowledge for the global health sector



**To learn more check out this Issue-Based Newsletter Children Experience Coercive Control: What You Need to Know**

