

Over the past 5 years, CCADV has partnered with the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) at the University of Denver to conduct statewide research looking at the impact on children who witness both animal abuse and domestic violence. Designated advocates at 22 domestic violence organizations were trained to help recruit mothers and their children to participate in the study, as well as how to conduct interviews with them to obtain data. A total of 291 families participated in the study, and 180 completed follow-up interviews a year and a half later.

This project was an extension of Dr. Frank Ascione's groundbreaking work* regarding the Link, which first documented the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse in 1998. This work led to an earlier partnership between GSSW and CCADV when then Public Policy Director Amy Miller approached Dr. Ascione to help with the passage of [SB10-80](#) in 2010.

This Colorado-specific research is ground breaking in many ways including the large number of participants, the richness of the follow-up data set, and the findings involving animal abuse, domestic violence, and children. Some results have already been published in academic journals, while some of the data is still be analyzed and written-up by various research team members.

The [Key Findings](#), [Practice Implications](#), and [Bibliography](#) sections of this site will be continually updated as more analyses are produced.

**Ascione, F.R. (1998). Battered women's reports of their partners' and their children's cruelty to animals. Journal of Emotional Abuse, 1, 119-133.*