Child Abuse Prevention

Principles of Human Services
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What is Child Abuse?
Child Maltreatment Rate (Unique Victims per 1,000 Population), by Age, 2011


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Child Abuse and Neglect

Last year:

- 231 Texas children died because of abuse or neglect at the hands of their parents or guardians
- 65,948 children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect
- 17,108 children were removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect
Factors Affecting Child Abuse

- The child’s age and developmental status when the abuse or neglect occurred
- The type of abuse (neglect, physical, sexual, or abandonment)
- The frequency, duration, and severity of abuse
- The relationship between the victim and his or her abuser
Physical Abuse

- Non-accidental physical injury
- Inflicted by a parent, caregiver or other person
- Physical discipline is not considered abuse as long as it is reasonable
Neglect

Neglect may be:

- Physical
- Medical
- Educational
- Emotional
Sexual Abuse

Five Steps to Protect Our Children

Step 1 – Learn the Facts
Step 2 – Minimize Opportunity
Step 3 – Talk About It
Step 4 – Recognize the Signs
Step 5 – React Responsibly

Five Steps to Protect Our Children
(click on link)
Child Sexual Abuse

Abusers - Often Known and Trusted

(click on link)
Emotional Abuse

May include:

• Constant criticism
• Threats
• Rejection
• Withholding love, support or guidance
A child is considered to be abandoned when:

- The parent’s identity or whereabouts are unknown
- The child has been left alone in circumstances where the child suffers serious harm
- The parent has failed to maintain contact with the child or provide reasonable support for a specified period of time
Substance Abuse

Substance abuse can begin during the prenatal period.

Children can be exposed to drugs in the home.

Selling, distributing, or giving illegal drugs or alcohol to a child.
Consequences of Child Abuse

Child may experience:

• Severe or fatal head trauma such as Shaken Baby Syndrome
• Increased risk for adverse health effects
• Psychiatric disorders
• Post-traumatic stress disorder
• Learning difficulties
• Memory difficulties
• DEATH!!!
Behavioral Consequences of Child Abuse

Children who experience maltreatment are at an increase for:

- Smoking
- Alcoholism
- Drug abuse
- Engage in high-risk sexual behaviors
- Delinquency
- Teen Pregnancy

- Low academic achievement
- Less likely to graduate from school
- Criminal record and behavior
What are the Circumstances that may Lead to Child Abuse?

• Unemployment
• Family illness
• Misappropriation of family funds
• Lack of intelligence and education
• Drug and/or alcohol use
• Lack of coping or parenting skills

• Unwanted pregnancy
• Single-or teen parenting
• Parent having been abused as a child
• Lack of self-esteem
• Marriage problems
• Illness or stressful event
Events that May Lead to Child Abuse

Special problems can strongly impact children such as

- Divorce
- Family violence
- Illness
- Death
Prevent Child Abuse

Five important factors that can help protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete support for parents
Child Protective Services responsibilities include:

- Investigating reports of abuse and neglect of children
- Providing services to children and families in their own homes
- Placing children in foster care.
- Providing services to help youth in foster care make the transition to adulthood
- Placing children in adoptive homes
The public education system plays an important role in reporting suspected abuse and neglect of Texas’ children. Of the 199,474 completed investigations of suspected child abuse and neglect conducted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) in 2012, 35,100, or 17.6%, were reported by school personnel.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Requirements
(click on link)
How Can I Report Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation?

Texas law says anyone who thinks a child, a person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS.

If you suspect child abuse, you can report it by calling 1-800-252-5400 24 hours a day, seven days a week, nationwide.
Future Trends in Early Childhood Development and Services

Professionals in these careers nurture and teach preschool-age children.

Childcare Workers

(click on link)
Becoming a Healthier, Happier Family

(click on picture)
Questions?
References and Resources

Images:

• Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Textbooks:


YouTube™:

• Help for Parents. Hope for Kids
  It's not easy being a parent. But recognizing that you have room for improvement is the first step toward becoming a better parent. Here you will learn where to find the help you need to begin your journey toward becoming a healthier, happier family. http://www.helpandhope.org/videos.html
References and Resources

Websites:

• Child Abuse Awareness
  Founded in 1959 by Sara O’Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, Childhelp® is a leading national non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of child abuse and neglect. Childhelp’s approach focuses on prevention, intervention and treatment. [http://www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

• Child Abuse: Emotional, Sexual, and Physical
  There are several types of child abuse, but the core element that ties them together is the emotional effect on the child. Children need predictability, structure, clear boundaries, and the knowledge that their parents are looking out for their safety. [http://helpguide.org/mental/child_abuse_physical_emotional_sexual_neglect.htm#types](http://helpguide.org/mental/child_abuse_physical_emotional_sexual_neglect.htm#types)

• ChildHelp
  National Child Abuse Statistics

• Child Trends DataBank
  Child Maltreatment
References and Resources

Websites:

• Prevent Child Abuse America
  Since 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) has led the way in building awareness, providing education and inspiring hope to everyone involved in the effort to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation’s children.
  http://www.preventchildabuse.org/index.shtml

• Prevent Child Abuse America
  What You Can Do: Report Suspected Abuse or Neglect

• Snapguide
  How to Make a Four-Door Diorama
  http://snapguide.com/guides/make-a-four-door-diorama/

• U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  What is Child Abuse and Neglect? Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms.
  https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/whatiscan.cfm

• U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  Child Maltreatment 2011

  Child Welfare Information Gateway connects child welfare and related professionals to comprehensive information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families.
  http://www.childwelfare.gov/