Child Abuse Statistics

Statistics were obtained from Child Treatment 2011, National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) of the Children’s Bureau and ChildHelp. National and State statistics about child maltreatment are derived from the data collected by child protective services agencies and reported to NCANDS.

Young children are more likely than older children to be victims of child maltreatment.

In 2011, approximately 1,570 children died as the result of abuse or neglect.

In 2011, 50 states reported 676,569 victims of child abuse and neglect.
Boys had a higher child fatality rate than girls at 2.47 boys per 100,000 boys in the population.

Girls died of abuse and neglect at a rate of 1.77 per 100,000 girls in the population.

Four fifths (78.3%) of child fatalities were caused by one or more parents.
87% of victims were comprised of three races or ethnicities—African American (21.5%), Hispanic (22.1%), and White (43.9%)

An estimated 3.4 million referrals were received by Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies in 2011

Children who experience child abuse and neglect are about nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activity
More than 75 percent of children (78.5%) suffered neglect in 2011.

More than 15 percent of children (17.6%) suffered physical abuse in 2011.

Less than 10 percent of children (9.1%) suffered sexual abuse in 2011.
Every year more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more than 6 million children (a report can include multiple children).

The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations – losing on average between four and seven children every day to child abuse and neglect.

A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds.
More than four children die every day as a result of child abuse.

Approximately 80% of children that die from abuse are under the age of 4.

More than 90% of juvenile sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator in some way.
About 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse.

About 80% of 21 year olds that were abused as children met criteria for at least one psychological disorder.

Abused children are 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy.
Abused teens are more likely to engage in sexual risk taking, putting them at greater risk for STDs.

One-third to two-thirds of child maltreatment cases involve substance use to some degree.

In one study, children whose parents abuse alcohol and other drugs were three times more likely to be abused and more than four times more likely to be neglected than children from non-abusing families.
As many as two-thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused or neglected as children.

More than a third of adolescents with a report of abuse or neglect will have a substance use disorder before their 18th birthday. This is three times as likely as those without a report of abuse or neglect.

14% of all men in prison and 36% of women in prison in the United States were abused as children, about twice the frequency seen in the general population.