

- Child Abuse
- physical, sexual, or emotional maltreatment or neglect of children by parents, guardians, or others responsible for a child's welfare
- Child Abuse
- About 40 million children are abused each year in the world
- Over 2.9 million cases of child abuse were reported last year in our country
- Approximately 1/3 of sexual abuse cases involve children 6 years of age or younger
- One in every four girls and one in every six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18
- Eighty-five to 90% of sexual abuse happens with a person known to the child
- Child Abuse
- 95% of child abusers were themselves abused as children
- 80% of substance abusers were abused as children
- 80% of runaways cite child abuse as a factor
- 78% of our prison population were abused as children
- 95% of prostitutes were sexually abused as children
- Child Abuse
- Awareness has increased and programs have become more appropriate to the developmental needs and abilities of children
- 90% of the public believe that all elementary schools should offer prevention of child abuse programming
- 92% of all teachers believe such instruction is effective
- 60% of all elementary school districts mandate prevention instruction- "Stranger Danger"
- Physical Abuse
- Physical abuse is characterized by physical injury, usually inflicted as a result of a beating or inappropriately harsh discipline/punishment
- Non-accidental physical injury may include severe beatings, burns, biting, strangulation and scalding with resulting bruises, welts, broken bones, scars or serious internal injuries
- Physical Abuse
- An "abused child", under the law, means a child less than 18 years of age whose parent or other person legally responsible for the child's care inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical injury by other than accidental means which causes or creates substantial risk of death or serious disfigurement, or impairment of physical health, or loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ
- It is also considered "abuse" if such a caretaker creates or allows to be created situations whereby a child is likely to be in risk of the dangers mentioned above
- Physical Abuse
- **Physical Indicators**
 - bite marks
 - unusual bruises
 - lacerations
 - burns
 - high incidence of accidents or frequent injuries

- fractures in unusual places
- injuries, swellings to face and extremities
- discoloration of skin
- Physical Abuse
- **Behavioral Indicators in Child**
 - avoids physical contact with others
 - apprehensive when other children cry
 - wears clothing to purposely conceal injury, i.e. long sleeves
 - refuses to undress for gym or for required physical exams at school
 - gives inconsistent versions about occurrence of injuries, burns, etc.
 - seems frightened by parents
 - often late or absent from school
- Physical Abuse
- **Behavioral Indicators in Child**
 - comes early to school, seems reluctant to go home afterwards
 - has difficulty getting along with others,
 - little respect for others
 - overly compliant, withdrawn, gives in readily and allows others to do for him/her without protest
 - plays aggressively, often hurting peers
 - complains of pain upon movement or contact
 - has a history of running away from home
 - reports abuse by parents
- Physical Abuse
- **Family or Parental Indicators**
 - many personal and marital problems
 - economic stress
 - parent(s) were abused as children themselves, were raised in homes where excessive punishment was the norm, and use harsh discipline on own children
 - highly moralistic
 - history of alcohol or drug abuse
 - are easily upset, have a low tolerance for frustration
 - are antagonistic, suspicious and fearful of other people
 - social isolation, no supporting network of relatives or friends
- Physical Abuse
- **Family or Parental Indicators**
 - see child as bad or evil
 - little or no interest in child's well-being;
 - do not respond appropriately to child's pain
 - explanation of injuries to child are evasive and inconsistent
 - blame child for injuries
 - constantly criticize and have inappropriate expectations of child
 - take child to different physicians or hospital for each injury
- Physical Abuse

- *NOTE - Any one of these observations in isolation could be indicative of a number of other problems. Part of what we observe in physical abuse is a pattern or series of events. Be particularly aware of frequent occurrences which singularly seem to have a reasonable explanation, but which, as a whole, cause concern*
- Physical Abuse
- Physical child abuse was committed largely by biological parents: fathers were alleged perpetrators in 46% of substantiated cases of physical child abuse--mothers, 43%
- The highest proportions of substantiated physical child abuse cases were in the adolescent age group: boys, 22% and girls, 18%
 - This age group more capable/likely to report
- The central issue in mistreatment is the misuse of power
- Physical Abuse
- Parents abused in childhood were significantly more likely to abuse their children: this study found a 23% rate of inter-generational transmission
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgpeDhdEkV4&NR=1>
- Sexual Abuse
- The definition of sexual abuse with children is when an older child, a youth or an adult uses a child or youth for his or her own sexual gratification. This includes incest. Incest with children is when the child is sexually violated by a parent, parent figure, older sibling, other relative, or other significant person in the child's family life
- Sexual Abuse
- **Sexual abuse is any sexual contact with a child or the use of a child for the sexual pleasure of someone else. This may include exposing private parts to the child or asking the child to expose him or herself, fondling of the genitals or requests for the child to do so, oral sex or attempts to enter the vagina or anus with fingers, objects or penis, although actual penetration is rarely achieved**
- Sexual Abuse
- Most alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse were either "other" relatives (44% of the cases) or non-relatives (29%). Notably, very few substantiated cases involved a stranger (2%)
- Of sexual assaults on children/youth by their family members reported in 2000, 39% of the perpetrators were parents, 32% were siblings, 28% were members of the extended family, and 1% were spouses
- Sexual Abuse
- Alleged perpetrators were equally likely to be a biological father or stepfather
- In 7% of substantiated cases of child sexual abuse, the alleged perpetrators were baby-sitters
- There are 2 types of sexual abuse:
 - contact
 - non-contact
- Sexual Abuse
- **Definition of Sexual Abuse: Non-Contact**
 - **forced to watch sexual acts**

- forced to listen to sexual talk, including comments, tapes, and obscene phone calls
- sexually explicit material such as videos, DVDs, magazines, photographs, etc.; can be in-person, on the computer via e-mails, and otherwise through the Internet
- forced to look at sexual parts of the body--includes buttocks, anus, genital area (vulva, vagina, penis, scrotum), breasts, and mouth
- **FACT: An adult exposing genitals to a child accounted for 12% of substantiated abuse cases**
- sexually intrusive questions or comments; can be verbal, on the computer, or in notes
- Sexual Abuse
- **Definition of Sexual Abuse: Contact**
 - being touched and fondled in sexual areas, including kissing
 - **FACT: Touching and fondling of the genitals was the most common form of substantiated abuse cases--69% of the cases**
 - forcing a child or youth to touch another person's sexual areas
 - forced oral sex--oral sex is when the mouth comes in contact with the penis, the vagina or the anus; many children believe that oral sex is "talking dirty"
 - forced intercourse--can be vaginally, anally or orally; penetration *must* occur; penetration can be with body parts and/or objects (the most common body parts used are the fingers, tongue and penis)
 - **FACT: Attempted and completed intercourse accounted for 35% of substantiated abuse cases**
- Sexual Abuse
- **Statistics**
 - 10% of those children are preschoolers
 - 85-90% involve perpetrator known to the child
 - 35% involve a family member
 - Only 10% of the offenses involve physical violence
 - 1 in 4 girls and at least 1 in 10 boys is sexually abused
 - 50% of all assaults take place in the home of the child or the offender
 - The average offender is involved with over 70 children in his or her "career" of offending
 - Sexual Abuse
- **Physical Indicators**
 - difficulty walking or sitting
 - torn clothing,
 - stained or bloody underwear
 - pain or itching in genital area
 - venereal disease, especially in preteens
 - pregnancy
- Sexual Abuse
- **Behavioral Indicators in Child**

- sudden reluctance to go someplace or be with someone
- inappropriate displays of affection
- sexual acting out
- sudden use of sexual terms or new names for body parts
- uncomfortableness or rejection of typical family affection
- sleep problems, including: insomnia, nightmares, refusal to sleep alone or suddenly insisting on a night light
- regressive behaviors, including: thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, infantile behaviors or other signs of dependency
- Sexual Abuse
- **Behavioral Indicators in Child**
 - Children often do not tell us with words that they have been sexually abused or that they have successfully resisted an assault and don't know quite what to do next.
 - There are many reasons children might hesitate or be afraid to tell us about what has happened, including their relationship to the offender, fear of the consequences, retaliation or uncertainty about whether or not they will be believed.
 - Any one of the signs could indicate that there has been a sexual assault or it could be indicative of another problem. Whatever has caused the change in behavior should be explored.
- Sexual Abuse
- **Behavioral Indicators in Child**
 - extreme clinginess or other signs of fearfulness
 - a sudden change in personality
 - problems in school
 - unwilling to participate in or change clothing for gym class at school
 - runs away from home
 - bizarre or unusual sophistication pertaining to sexual behavior or knowledge, including sexual acting out
 - reports sexual assault by parent or guardian
- Sexual Abuse
- **Indicators of Sexually Abusive Parent/Guardian**
 - Overly protective or jealous of child and friends
 - abuses alcohol or other drugs
 - encourages exhibitionism in child
 - voyeuristic, seductive to child
 - exposes child to pornographic and sexually stimulating pictures
 - encourages the child in promiscuous and/or prostitute acts
 - freely talks or boasts about sexual themes with child
- Sexual Abuse
- *NOTE: Again, any one of the following signs could indicate that there has been a sexual assault or it could be indicative of another problem. Whatever has caused the change in behavior should be explored*

- Sexual Abuse
- **Myth #1:** You believe that since you live in a nice, safe neighborhood, where you know all your neighbors on a first name basis, and your children play with their children, hanging out at each other's houses etc, that all is well on the home front.
- **Fact:** Child sexual abuse can happen anywhere, in any neighborhood, in every religion or church group, covering all racial boundaries or ethnic groups, and it certainly doesn't matter how rich or poor you are. You can live in a beautiful, gated-community of homes worth millions of dollars, and your child is still not protected from being molested or abused
- Sexual Abuse
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice national statistics, 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 5 boys will become victims of sexual abuse by the time they reach their 18th birthday.
- Statistics show that children in elementary school are the most vulnerable and likely targets, and children with disabilities have even higher risk factors.
- Sexual Abuse
- **Myth #2:** You have already talked with your children about not allowing anyone to touch their private parts, perhaps even calling those body parts by their proper name, and you believe that's pretty much all there is to do. You may even have said to your children something like, "No matter what, you can always tell me anything that is on your mind, and I will believe you".
- **Fact:** Sexual abuse occurs by forcing or manipulating a child in a way that allows the sexual offender to touch the child's private parts (which may or may not include penetration), or takes photo's of children without any clothes on, or when an offender exposes themselves to a child, etc. Children need to be taught about sexual abuse, and they need to learn and know the words "sexual abuse". Listen, you can tell your children over and over about "good touch vs. bad touch" and proper names of body parts, but if your child doesn't know the correct terminology, how are they going to know how to tell you they were "sexually abused"?!
- Sexual Abuse
- **Myth #3:** Most sexual abuse cases are committed by people who are complete strangers to you or your child.
- **Fact:** Closely monitoring the online database for sex offenders who may have moved into your neighborhood simply isn't enough. 85-90% of child sexual abuse cases are committed by trusted family members and close friends. That includes fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, grandparents, cousins, babysitters, daycare workers, boyfriends of single mom's, fellow church members and clergy, and so on.
- Sexual Abuse
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmSdL7H-14Y&feature=Playlist&p=C2074E1CC835132C&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=23
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txEOYHwMv24&feature=related>
- Sexual Abuse

- **Myth #4:** You believe that your child would automatically tell you that he or she had been sexually abused. You may say to yourself, “My child and I have such great communication, that I KNOW my child would come and tell me immediately”.
- **Fact:** Most sexually abused children **do not tell anyone** they were abused, **even when directly asked** by parents or other authority figures. Victims of sexual abuse are often too afraid that the news will hurt their parents, or they are afraid of not being believed, or they were threatened in some way by the offender.
- Emotional Abuse
- Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior that attacks a child's emotional development and sense of self-worth. Emotional abuse includes excessive, aggressive or unreasonable demands that place expectations on a child beyond his or her capacity
- Emotional Abuse
- Constant criticizing, belittling, insulting, rejecting and teasing are some of the forms these verbal attacks can take.
- Emotional abuse also includes failure to provide the psychological nurturing necessary for a child's psychological growth and development -- providing no love, support or guidance
- Emotional Abuse
- **Observable Indicators**
 - child rocks, sucks, bites self
 - inappropriately aggressive,
 - destructive to others
 - suffers from sleep, speech disorders
 - restricts play activities or experiences
 - demonstrates compulsions, obsessions, phobias, hysterical outbursts
- Emotional Abuse
- **Behavioral Indicators in Child**
 - negative statements about self
 - shy, passive, compliant
 - lags in physical, mental and emotional development
 - self destructive behavior
 - highly aggressive
 - cruel to others
 - overly demanding
- Emotional Abuse
- **Family or Parental Indicators**
 - blames or puts down child
 - is cold and rejecting
 - indifferent to child's problems or welfare
 - withholds affection
 - shows preferential treatment when there is more than one child in the family
- Emotional Abuse

- *NOTE Again, any one of these indicators could be attributable to a specific life event or other trauma. A pattern of behavior is the strongest indicator of abuse and should not be ignored*
- Emotional Abuse
- Emotional abuse includes excessive, aggressive or unreasonable demands that place expectations on a child beyond his or her capacity.
- Three-year-olds, for example, can not be expected to sit quietly for any extended length of time. They just do not have the physical control of their bodies yet. And still, you will find parent after parent placing this unrealistic demand on a young child, only to end up more frustrated at their lack of continued success.
- Emotional Abuse
- And if by some chance you have an overly cooperative child, parents are still often end up enforcing rules for convenience and not common sense. The end result: a **damaged child**.
- Constant *criticizing, belittling, name-calling, insulting, rejecting and teasing* are some of the forms these **verbal attacks** can take.
- Any time a child is the recipient of verbal abuse, it chips away at their emotional foundation. Sometimes it's just a scratch and other times it's a whole chunk of self-worth that falls off.
- Emotional Abuse
- It is the intention, severity and follow-up reactions of a parent that cause the child's self-esteem and value be whittled away. How many times is **too** many?
- Remember, not all emotional child abuse is *physical*.
- Mental abuse is one of the most pervasive and damaging forms of abuse. Being disrespectful and unreasonably critical towards your child can have serious emotional consequences and long-term repercussions.
- Emotional Abuse
- Like more violent forms of abuse, emotional abuse can impair your child's self-image and self-esteem and interfere with his ability to function well in society
- According to the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, emotional abuse also includes failure to provide the emotional nurturing necessary for a child's psychological growth and development and not providing love, support or guidance
- Emotional Abuse
- Sadly, most parents are inflicting emotional child abuse without even realizing it. No one thinks to pay attention to the small comments and the harsh handling -
- ***What are you stupid?***
- ***Are you deaf? I just told you not to do that!***
- ***You constantly disappoint me.***
- *- that are the most destructive. When you allow your own parenting stress to influence how you react to or treat your children, you'll only end up teaching them the same negative behaviors you'd rather avoid*
- Emotional Abuse
- There are six well-known types of emotional abuse
 - Rejecting

- Ignoring
- Terrorizing
- Isolating
- Corrupting
- Exploiting
- Emotional Abuse
- **1. Rejecting**
 - Parents or caregivers who display rejecting behavior toward a child will [purposefully or unconsciously] let a child know, in a variety of ways, that he or she is unwanted.
 - Putting down a child's worth or belittling their needs is one form these types of emotional abuse may take.
 - Other examples can include telling a child to leave or worse, to get out of your face, calling him names or telling the child that he is worthless, making a child the family scapegoat or blaming him for family/sibling problems.
 - Refusing to talk to or holding a young child as he or she grows can also be considered abuse.
- Emotional Abuse
- **1. Rejecting**
 - constant criticism
 - name-calling
 - telling child he/she is ugly
 - yelling or swearing at the child
 - frequent belittling and use of labels such as "stupid" or "idiot"
 - constant demeaning jokes
 - verbal humiliation
 - constant teasing about child's body type and/or weight
- Emotional Abuse
- **1. Rejecting**
 - expressing regret the child wasn't born the opposite sex
 - refusing hugs and loving gestures
 - physical abandonment
 - excluding child from family activities
 - treating an adolescent like he is a child
 - expelling the child from the family
 - not allowing a child to make his own reasonable choices
 - Emotional Abuse
- **2. Ignoring**
 - Adults who have had few of their emotional needs met are often unable to respond to the needs of their children.
 - They may not show attachment to the child or provide positive nurturing.
 - They may show no interest in the child, or withhold affection or even fail to recognize the child's presence.
 - Many times the parent is physically there but emotionally unavailable.

- Failing to respond to or interact with your child, consistently, constitutes emotional and psychological abuse.
- Emotional Abuse
- 2. Ignoring
 - no response to infant's spontaneous social behaviors
 - failure to pay attention to significant events in child's life
 - lack of attention to schooling, peers, etc.
 - refusing to discuss your child's activities and interests
 - planning activities/vacations without including your child
- Emotional Abuse
- 2. Ignoring
 - not accepting the child as an offspring
 - denying required health care
 - denying required dental care
 - failure to engage child in day to day activities
 - failure to protect child
- Emotional Abuse
- **3. Terrorizing**
 - Parents who use threats, yelling and cursing are doing serious psychological damage to their children.
 - Singling out one child to criticize and punish or ridiculing her for displaying normal emotions is abusive.
 - Threatening a child with harsh words, physical harm, abandonment or in extreme cases death is unacceptable. Even in jest, causing a child to be terrified by the use of threats and/or intimidating behavior is some of the worst emotional abuse.
 - This includes witnessing, hearing or knowing that violence is taking place in the home
- Emotional Abuse
- 3. Terrorizing
 - excessive teasing
 - yelling, cursing and scaring
 - unpredictable and extreme responses to a child's behavior
 - extreme verbal threats
 - raging, alternating with periods of warmth
 - threatening abandonment
- Emotional Abuse
- 3. Terrorizing
 - berating family members in front of or in ear range of a child
 - threatening to destroy a favorite object
 - threatening to harm a beloved pet
 - forcing child to watch inhumane acts
 - inconsistent demands on the child
 - displaying inconsistent emotions

- Emotional Abuse
- 3. Terrorizing
 - changing the "rules of the game"
 - threatening that the child is adopted or doesn't belong
 - ridiculing a child in public
 - threatening to reveal intensely embarrassing traits to peers
 - threatening to kick an adolescent out of the house
- Emotional Abuse
- **4. Isolating**
 - A parent who abuses a child through isolation may not allow the child to engage in appropriate activities with his or her peers; may keep a child in his or her room, not exposed to stimulation or may prevent teenagers from participating in extracurricular activities.
 - Requiring a child to stay in his or her room from the time school lets out until the next morning, restricting eating, or forcing a child to isolation or seclusion by keeping her away from family and friends can be destructive and considered emotional abuse depending on the circumstances and severity
- Emotional Abuse
- 4. Isolating
 - leaving a child unattended for long periods
 - keeping a child away from family
 - not allowing a child to have friends
 - not permitting a child to interact with other children
 - rewarding a child for withdrawing from social contact
- Emotional Abuse
- 4. Isolating
 - ensuring that a child looks and acts differently than peers
 - isolating a child from peers or social groups
 - insisting on excessive studying and/or chores
 - preventing a child from participating in activities outside the home
 - punishing a child for engaging in normal social experiences
- Emotional Abuse
- **5. Corrupting**
 - Parents who corrupt may permit children to use drugs or alcohol, watch cruel behavior toward animals, watch or look at inappropriate sexual content or to witness or participate in criminal activities such as stealing, assault, prostitution, gambling, etc.
 - Encouraging an underage child to do things that are illegal or harmful is abusive and should be reported.
- Emotional Abuse
- 5. Corrupting
 - rewarding child for bullying and/or harassing behavior
 - teaching racism and ethnic biases or bigotry
 - encouraging violence in sporting activities

- inappropriate reinforcement of sexual activity
- Emotional Abuse
- 5. Corrupting
 - rewarding a child for lying and stealing
 - rewarding a child for substance abuse or sexual activity
 - supplying child with drugs, alcohol and other illegal substances
 - promoting illegal activities such as selling drugs
- Emotional Abuse
- **6. Exploiting**
 - Exploitation can be considered manipulation or forced activity without regard for a child's need for development.
 - For instance, repeatedly asking an eight-year-old to be responsible for the family's dinner is inappropriate. Giving a child responsibilities that are far greater than a child of that age can handle or using a child for profit is abusive
 - Emotional Abuse
- 6. Exploiting
 - infants and young children expected not to cry
 - anger when infant fails to meet a developmental stage
 - a child expected to be 'caregiver' to the parent
 - a child expected to take care of younger siblings
- Emotional Abuse
- 6. Exploiting
 - blaming a child for misbehavior of siblings
 - unreasonable responsibilities around the house
 - expecting a child to support family financially
 - encouraging participation in pornography
 - sexually abusing child or youth
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOpAk0Um4qY&feature=Playlist&p=C2074E1CC835132C&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=21
- Neglect
- "Neglected Child" means a child less than 18 years of age whose physical, mental or emotional condition has been impaired or is in danger of becoming impaired as a result of the failure of the child's legal guardian to exercise a minimum degree of care in supplying the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or education or medical care.
- Neglect also occurs when the legal guardian fails to provide the child with proper supervision or guardianship by allowing the child to be harmed, or to be at risk of harm which includes when the guardian misuses drugs or alcohol him/herself
- Neglect
- **Observable Indicators**
 - dirty skin
 - offensive body odor
 - unwashed, uncombed hair
 - tattered, under or oversized *and* unclean clothing
 - dressed in clothing that is inappropriate to weather or situation

- frequently left unsupervised or alone for periods of time (**Note: This is the most frequent cause of child death and should not be minimized**)
- Neglect
- **Indicators of Poor Health**
- drowsiness, easily fatigued
- puffiness under the eyes
- frequent untreated upper respiratory infections
- itching, scratching, long existing skin eruptions
- frequent diarrhea
- bruises, lacerations or cuts that are infected
- untreated illnesses
- physical complaints not responded to by parent
- Neglect
- **Indicators of Malnutrition**
- begging for or stealing food
- frequently hungry
- rummaging through garbage pails for food
- gorging self, eating in large gulps
- hoarding food
- obesity
- overeating junk foods
- Neglect
- **Indicators in Infants and Toddlers**
- listlessness
- poor responsiveness
- does not often smile, cry, laugh, play, relate to others
- lacks interest, curiosity
- rocks, bangs head, sucks hair, thumb, finger,
- tears at body
- is overly self-stimulating, self-comforting
- does not turn to parent for help or comfort
- hospitalization for failure to thrive - regresses upon return to home
- unduly over or under active for no apparent purpose
- Neglect
- **Indicators in Children**
- cries easily when hurt even slightly
- comes to school without breakfast
- has no lunch or lunch money
- needs dental care, glasses
- falls asleep in class
- often seems in a fog or dream world
- comes to school early, does not want to go home
- sees self as failure
- Neglect

- **Indicators in Children**
 - troublesome at school
 - does no homework, refuses to try
 - destroys completed written work
 - destroys books, assignments and learning aids or toys
 - is withdrawn, overactive, underactive and/or lethargic (depressed)
 - is cruel to classmates
 - lies, steals from classmates, school
 - breaks objects or damages school property
 - frequently absent or late for school
- Neglect
- **Indicators with Parents and Family**
 - promises but does not follow up on recommendations
 - fails to keep appointments and/or refuses help from school or other resources
 - abuses alcohol or other drugs
 - lifestyle of relative isolation from relatives, friends
 - history of abuse or neglect as a child
 - disorganized, chaotic home life
 - history of chronic illness
 - gives impression of resignation and feeling that nothing makes much difference anyway
 - failure to provide supervision of children (This is the most frequent cause of child death and should not be minimized)
- Neglect
- *NOTE Again, any one of these indicators could be attributable to a specific life event or other trauma. A pattern of behavior is the strongest indicator of abuse and should not be ignored.*
- Neglect
- **What is MALTREATMENT?**
- **Maltreatment takes many forms, many children are subjected to multiple abuse. The breakdown for 2001 by American Humane is as follows:**
- **Neglect 59.2% Physical abuse 18.6% Sexual abuse 9.6% Emotional/psychological 6.8% Other 19.5% (unknown, abductions by parents or relatives, etc.)**
- Neglect
- **Sexual abuse is not the number one abuse type.**
- **There has been a steady decline of all types of reported abuse since 1995.**
- **The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, has been tracking these statistics.**
- Who Are Abusers?
- Abusers are family, friends and neighbors. As described by the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse:
- "It is a sad irony that many abusers genuinely love their children, but they find themselves caught in life situations beyond their control and they do not know how to cope. They are often isolated from friends and family and may have no one to give them

emotional support. They may not like themselves and may not know how to get their emotional needs met" (National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse).

- Child abuse happens in all socio-economic, racial, ethnic and religious groups although it is now known that it does not occur equally over all groups
- What Abuse Does To Children
- **WHAT ABUSE DOES TO CHILDREN**
- Children who have been physically, sexually and/or emotionally abused not only suffer a wide range of effects from their victimization, but are at greater risk to be abused again.
 - Abuse commonly produces feelings of:
 - ✦ guilt
 - ✦ violation
 - ✦ loss of control
 - ✦ lowered self-esteem
- What Abuse Does To Children
- Even those who seem to be handling their abuse are concerned that:
 - it might happen again
 - they did something wrong
 - future relationships might be abusive
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9njhcQUIXc>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PztTA5EVGQU&feature=fvw>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSC9t8Pxo3Y>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QmLfMT2GH8>
- Long Term Effects
- Common problems for abused children include:
 - emotional problems
 - behavioral problems
 - poor performance in school
 - further abuse
- Long Term Effects
- **Long-term studies of low achievers, runaways, drug abusers, prostitutes and incarcerated individuals paint a disturbing picture.**
- **Abuse is a consistent and pervasive element in their backgrounds. Low self-esteem and poor self-concept are ever-present.**
- Knowing this, there can be little doubt that children who are abused, as well as adults who were abused as children, need assistance to resolve the questions that the abuse experience has raised, even if that assistance does not come until years after the abuse.
- Prevention
- Most people want to love and care for their children, but parents can harm their children when stress, tiredness, lack of skills, information or support combine to make the pressures of caring for them overwhelming.
- Understanding the behavior of parents and the possible triggers does not justify harm to a child or young person.
- Parents are responsible for the care of their children and need to recognize when they need help before harm occurs.

- With early identification and an appropriate response and support, children and young people can recover from their experiences of harm.
- Prevention
- Every child and young person has the right to grow up in a safe and supportive family and to have opportunities that assist them to reach their full potential.
- One of the ways this can be achieved is through supporting families to provide for the physical, social and emotional needs of children and young people.
- If a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm, it is important for the whole family to be supported.
- Support networks can work to strengthen families and can consist of friends, family members, community or non-government services.
- Prevention
- If you suspect that a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm, contact us to report your concerns.
- If the person responsible for the harm is a child or young person, reporting your concerns may enable them to get help to address their behavior.
- Prevention
- Anyone suspected that a child is being abused should report it to their state child abuse hotline or call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD).
- Visiting a state's child abuse website will also help you learn about mandatory child abuse reporting laws that you may be subject to.
- Also remember that if you think that a child is in immediate danger from child abuse or neglect, then you should call 911.