

2002 Child Abuse and Neglect Fact Sheet

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is non-accidental physical injury of a child inflicted by a parent or caretaker which ranges from superficial bruises and welts to broken bones, burns, serious internal injuries and in some cases, death. The definition of physical abuse includes actions that create a substantial risk of physical injury to the child.

Physical Neglect

Physical neglect is withholding, or failing to provide, adequate food, shelter, clothing, hygiene, medical care, education, and/or supervision, such that the child's physical, mental or emotional condition is impaired or at imminent risk of being impaired.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is when a parent or caretaker commits a sexual offense against a child or allows a sexual offense to be committed, such as rape, sodomy, engaging a child in sexual activity, engaging a child in - or promoting a child's - sexual performance.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse includes parents' or caretakers' acts or omissions that cause or could cause serious conduct, cognitive, affective, or other mental disorders. For example, torture, close confinement or the constant use of verbally abusive language to harshly criticize and denigrate a child. It also includes emotional neglect - withholding physical and emotional contact to the detriment of the child's normal emotional development, and in extreme cases, physical development.

Some Causes

There are many reasons why some people have difficulty meeting the demands of parenting, including: immaturity and unrealistic expectations, unmet emotional needs, stresses of child care, economic crisis, lack of parenting knowledge, parent was maltreated as a child, and drug or alcohol problems.



Reports and numbers of children

In 2002, 66,686 New York State children were abused or neglected, 14 to 15 of every 1,000 children in the state*. The NYS Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, the Child Abuse Reporting Hotline, received 153,603 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, 33 reports for every 1,000 children in the State. Upon investigation, 44,251 (28.8 percent) were substantiated as situations of child abuse and neglect. (There are more child victims than reports, because more than one child is involved in some cases.) Compared to the prior year, the number the number of reports increased by 2.5 percent from 149,892, but the number of substantiated cases decreased by 2.3 percent from 45,298.

* The federal *Child Maltreatment 2002* report lists 79,049 child victims in New York State, which includes duplicate counts of some children.

Nationwide States' child protective services agencies investigated reports of suspected abuse and neglect of 3,193,000 children in 2002. Upon investigation, 896,000 children, or 28.1 percent, were found to be victims of abuse and neglect, a rate of 12.3 maltreatment victims for every 1,000 children in the U.S. population. It reflects a slight decrease in the number of child victims compared to the prior year when 903,089 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Between 1998 and 2002, the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the country decreased by 4.6 percent.

Types of maltreatment

Child neglect continues to comprise the largest portion of cases of child maltreatment. Of the 896,000 abused and neglected children in our country in 2002: 60 % were neglected, 19 % were physically abused, 10 % were sexually abused, 6 % were psychologically or emotionally maltreated, 19 % were victims of other types of maltreatment, for example abandonment, threats of harm, congenital drug addiction. A child may be the victim of more than one type of maltreatment, so the total is more than 100 percent.

Fatalities

In New York State in 2002, 68 children are known to have died as a result of child abuse and neglect, a fatality rate of 1.47 per 100,000 children

Nationwide in 2002, an estimated 1,400 children died as a result of child abuse or neglect, almost 2 (1.98) for every 100,000 children in the population. Children younger than 1 year old accounted for 41 percent of fatalities and 76 percent were younger than 4.

Sources of data: *Child Maltreatment 2002*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004. Posted on www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb. New York State 2002 MAPS and OCFS Connections Data as of 2/26/04.