

Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect

How many children are abused?

In 2002, an estimated 1,800,000 referrals alleging child abuse or neglect were accepted by CPS agencies for investigation and assessment. The referrals included more than 3 million children, and of those, approximately 896,000 children were determined to be the victims of abuse or neglect.

More than 60% of child victims were neglected by their parents or other caregivers. Almost 20% were physically abused, 10% were sexually abused, and 7% were emotionally maltreated. In addition, almost 20% were associated with "other" types of maltreatment. A child could be a victim of more than one type of maltreatment.

Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of maltreatment. In 2002, an estimated 1,400 children died as a result of abuse or neglect. Approximately two-thirds of the victims were under the age of 4. Overall, the youngest children experience the highest rates of fatalities.

While numbers help provide us with a better sense of the magnitude of child abuse and neglect across the nation, even one child being abused or neglected is one child too many.

(Statistics from National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems, 2002)

The following websites provide additional detailed information about possible signs of abuse/neglect and what you can do if you suspect that a child has been the victim of abuse/neglect.

Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin
www.preventchildabusewi.org

WI Department of Health & Family Services
www.dhfs.state.wi.us

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information
<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/>



The first step in helping abused children is learning to recognize the symptoms of child abuse.

This pamphlet was prepared by the
Delinquency Prevention Council

For more information contact the Delinquency Prevention
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