

Child Maltreatment

Facts at a Glance

Spring 2008

Note: Some numbers have been rounded.

Child Maltreatment

- In 2006, U.S. state and local child protective services (CPS) investigated 3.6 million reports of children being abused or neglected.¹
 - CPS classified more than 900,000 (12.1 per 1,000) of these children as victims. Nearly three quarters of them had no history of prior victimization.
 - Sixty-four percent of the children were classified as victims of child neglect; 7 percent as victims of emotional abuse; 9 percent as victims of sexual abuse; and 16 percent as victims of physical abuse.
- A non-CPS study reported that 14 percent of U.S. children experienced some form of child maltreatment: 8 percent were victims of sexual abuse; 22 percent were victims of child neglect; 48 percent were victims of physical abuse; and 75 percent were victims of emotional abuse.²

Note: A child is counted each time she or he is a subject of a report, which means a child may be counted more than once as a victim of child maltreatment.

- In 2006, some children had higher rates of victimization:
 - African-American (19.8 per 1,000 children).
 - American Indian or Alaska Native (15.9 per 1,000 children).
 - Multiracial (15.4 per 1,000 children).¹
- Overall girls (52%) were at slightly higher risk than boys (48%) for all forms of child maltreatment.¹

- Female perpetrators, mostly mothers, are typically younger than male perpetrators, who are mostly fathers.¹
- More women (58%) than men (42%) are perpetrators of all forms of child maltreatment.¹

- In 2006, CPS reported the approximate rates of child maltreatment victims:
 - 24.4 per 1,000 for 0 to 1 year-olds;
 - 14.2 per 1,000 for 1 to 3 year-olds;
 - 13.5 per 1,000 for 4 to 7 year-olds;
 - 10.8 per 1,000 for 8 to 11 year-olds;
 - 10.2 per 1,000 for 12 to 15 year-olds; and
 - 6.3 per 1,000 for 16 to 17 year-olds.¹
- Non-CPS studies have reported higher rates of nonfatal child maltreatment cases, ranging from 4,300 to 4,900 per 100,000 children.^{2,3}

- In 2006, more than 1,500 children ages 0 to 17 died from abuse and neglect (rate of 2.04 per 100,000 children).¹
 - 78 percent or more deaths occurred among children younger than age 4; 12 percent among 4-7 year-olds; 5 percent among 8-11 year-olds; and 5 percent among 12-17 year-olds.
 - 43% of deaths were non-Hispanic White children.
 - 29% of deaths were African-American children.
 - 17% of deaths were Hispanic children.

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. *Child Maltreatment 2006* [Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2008] available at: <http://www.childwelfare.gov>.
2. Finkelhor, Ormrod, H, Turner, H, Hamby, S. The Victimization of Children and Youth: A Comprehensive National Survey. *Child Maltreatment* 2005; 10: 5-25.
3. Theodore, AD, Chang, JJ, Runyan, DK, Hunter, WM, Bangdewala, SI, Agans, R. Epidemiologic Features of the Physical and Sexual Maltreatment of Children in the Carolinas. *Pediatrics* 2005; 115: e330-e337.



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