



**Mariam M. Bell**  
*Government Relations  
 Deputy Director of Operations*

1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036  
 Tel: (202) 659-9444 Fax: (202) 659-9440

**MEMPHIS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER**

**NANCY CHANDLER, ACSW**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1085 POPLAR AVENUE, P.O. BOX 42203, MEMPHIS, TN 38174-2203  
 PHONE 901-525-2377 FAX 901-526-6088



**Friends of Children**

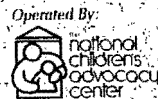
*A non-profit organization for the development  
 of a Child Advocacy Center in Anchorage*

**Ann A. Addington**  
 President

P.O. Box 110985 (907) 345-6566  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99511-0985 (907) 345-6619

*The National Training Program on  
 Effective Treatment Approaches in  
 Child Sexual Abuse*

**Kathleen A. Wells**  
 Project/Training Director



107 Lincoln Street  
 Huntsville, Alabama 35801  
 (205) 534-6868  
 1-800-239-9939

*Sponsored by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect*



**UCLA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE**

405 Hilgard Avenue  
 Los Angeles, California 90024-1452

**COLLEEN FRIEND, LCSW**  
 California Social Work Education Center  
 (CALSWEC)  
 247 Dodd Hall  
 (310) 206-6048  
 FAX: (310) 206-7564

Gil Garcetti • District Attorney • Los Angeles County

**B. KAY SHAFER**  
 Special Assistant



210 W. Temple Street  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 213 • 974 • 7743

9870

Childhelp USA



**Mariam M. Bell**  
*Government Relations*  
*Deputy Director of Operations*

1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 659-9444 Fax: (202) 659-9440

## Childhelp USA

Since 1959, Childhelp USA has been combating child abuse and neglect through a variety of programs and services.

- ☐ **Childhelp/IOF Foresters Hotline:**  
**1-800-4-A-CHILD - 1-800-2-A-CHILD (TDD)**  
The only national, toll-free crisis line exclusively for child abuse, the Hotline provides round-the-clock access to professional counselors. All counselors have a minimum of a masters degree in psychology or a related field; many hold doctorates. Many are bilingual or multi-lingual. The Hotline's life-saving work is entirely supported by gifts from concerned individuals and organizations; it receives no government funding.
- ☐ **Childhelp Villages and Group Homes:**  
Places where severely abused children can receive refuge and healing treatment and care. Childhelp's two villages are located in Beaumont, California and Culpeper County, Virginia.
- ☐ **Foster Family Evaluation and Training:**  
Helps ensure the best family situation for neglected or abused children.
- ☐ **Research and Education:**  
Childhelp works to eliminate child abuse and protect America's children through research and by offering educational materials to professionals and the public.

Combating Child Abuse through  
Treatment, Prevention and Research since 1959

*Founded by Sara O'Meara Sigholtz and Yvonne Lime Feddersen*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1993

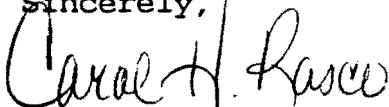
Ann A. Addington  
President  
Friends of Children  
P.O. Box 110985  
Anchorage, AK 99511-0985

Dear Ms. Addington:

I was delighted to meet you on Thursday at the Child Advocacy Centers' Legislative Breakfast. I was quite impressed with the level of dedication and commitment evident in that room and more importantly, what that means for children and their families in this country.

Please do not hesitate to stay in touch with me, above all, keep the faith as you continue your work in this critical field of service!

Sincerely,



Carol H. Rasco  
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1993

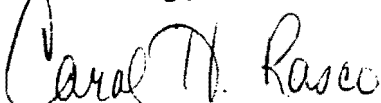
Nancy Chandler, ACSW  
Executive Director  
Memphis Child Advocacy Center  
1085 Poplar Avenue - P.O. Box 42203  
Memphis, TN 38174-2203

Dear Ms. Chandler:

I was delighted to meet you on Thursday at the Child Advocacy Centers' Legislative Breakfast. I was quite impressed with the level of dedication and commitment evident in that room and more importantly, what that means for children and their families in this country.

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Assistant to the President for  
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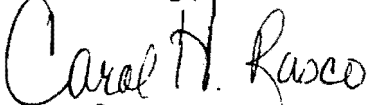
Kathleen A. Wells  
Project/Training Director  
The National Children's Advocacy Center  
107 Lincoln Street  
Huntsville, AL 35801

Dear Ms. Wells:

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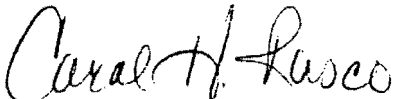
B. Kay Shafer  
Special Assistant  
Office of the District Attorney  
210 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Shafer:

I was delighted to meet you on Thursday at the Child Advocacy Centers' Legislative Breakfast. I was quite impressed with the level of dedication and commitment evident in that room and more importantly, what that means for children and their families in this country.

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Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

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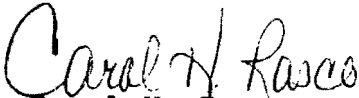
Mariam M. Bell  
Government Relations  
Deputy Director of Operations  
1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036

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WASHINGTON

October 8, 1993

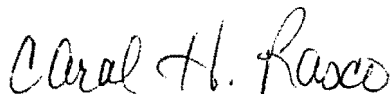
Colleen Friend, LCSW  
California Social Work Education Center  
247 Dodd Hall  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1452

Dear Ms. Friend:

I was delighted to meet you on Thursday at the Child Advocacy Centers' Legislative Breakfast. I was quite impressed with the level of dedication and commitment evident in that room and more importantly, what that means for children and their families in this country.

Please do not hesitate to stay in touch with me, above all, keep the faith as you continue your work in this critical field of service!

Sincerely,



Carol H. Rasco  
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1993

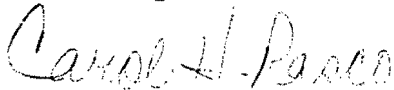
The Honorable Bud Cramer  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0105

Dear Congressman Cramer:

I am still thinking about all those wonderful people in the room at breakfast Thursday morning. You are to be highly commended for the organization you have created, and the individuals present are to be praised for the great work being done by them and their organizations for our vulnerable children and their families.

I wish you and the Network the very best as you continue your work, and I sincerely hope we can continue our dialogue.

Sincerely,



Carol H. Rasco  
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1993

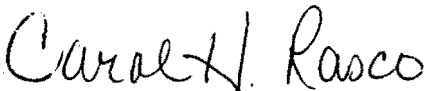
Mike Adcock  
Office of Congressman Bud Cramer  
1318 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0105

Dear Mike:

I am delighted we had the opportunity to meet on Thursday morning at the Network breakfast. Thank you for your time that day and your assistance.

I look forward to working with you all on this and other issues. I hope I will have the opportunity for an informal visit with the Board at some future date as you and I discussed.

Best wishes,



Carol H. Rasco  
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1993

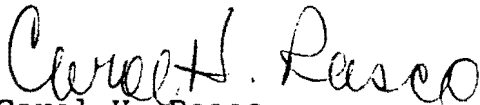
Stephanie Ortel  
Executive Assistant  
Office of Congressman Bud Cramer  
1318 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0105

Dear Stephanie:

Thank you for all your help in arranging my visit with the Network on Thursday morning, and for making me feel so very much at home upon my arrival. What an impressive and dedicated group of individuals present there!

I hope our paths will cross frequently within this city, and again thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Carol H. Rasco  
Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

Dear Congressman Cramer:

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Sincerely,

CHR

Roz:  
edit  
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small stationery  
personal signature

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Sincerely,

CHR

Dear Mike: (Mike Adcock in Rep. Cramer's office)

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Best wishes,

CHR

edit  
Print both small stationery  
pers signature

BUD CRAMER  
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

1218 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0105  
(202) 328-4801

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0105**

402 FRANKLIN STREET  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801  
(205) 551-0190

737 EAST AVALON AVENUE  
MUSCLE SHOALS, AL 35661  
(205) 381-3450

MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Box 688  
DECATUR, AL 35602  
(205) 355-8400

September 28, 1993

Ms. Rosalyn Miller  
Domestic Policy Council  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

*Hart # 216*  
*Sen.*  
*Office*  
*Bldg.*

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for being so responsive to Congressman Cramer's letter to Howard Paster regarding the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers' legislative conference on October 7th and 8th, 1993. We are delighted that Ms. Carol Rasco will be participating in the conference, and I am happy to provide you with additional information regarding our agenda.

As you may know, the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (NCAC) is a non-profit organization comprised of more than 150 programs modeled after the child abuse intervention and prevention program I founded in Huntsville, Alabama. The network provides training and technical assistance to help communities plan, establish, and improve Children's Advocacy Centers which maintain quality services for helping victims of child abuse.

This legislative conference is designed to give executive directors and board members of the Children's Advocacy Centers the opportunity to meet and learn from Members of Congress, department heads of government agencies which handle child welfare issues and directors of many national child advocate organizations.

I am enclosing a copy of our agenda for both days, the invitation to our opening breakfast, and information on the network itself. We would be honored to have Ms. Rasco attend the breakfast and be recognized or say a few words (or even read a letter from the President), or to participate in our morning panel discussion from 10:00-11:45. Any part that she would like to play would be most appreciated. Of course, we would like to get a bio on her so that Congressman Cramer may properly introduce her.

*8:00-9:30*  
*9:00*

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know. Again, thank you for your help in arranging this.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Ortel*  
Stephanie Ortel  
Executive Assistant

*\* let's discuss.*

**NATIONAL NETWORK OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS  
ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC  
OCTOBER 7-8, 1993**

Wednesday, October 6th

Arrive in Washington  
Hotel Washington  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th Street

Thursday, October 7th - Capitol Hill

8:00 AM-9:30 AM Opening Breakfast  
216 Hart Senate Office Building

Hosted by Congressman Bud Cramer  
and other Members of Congress.

10:00 AM-11:45 AM Session I  
216 Hart Senate Office Building

"Federal Agencies: Current Initiatives to  
Fight Child Abuse and Neglect"  
\*Debra Stark, Administration on  
Children, Youth, and Families,  
Dept. of Health & Human Services  
\*Dave West, Juvenile Justice Planning  
Director, Department of Justice

12:00 PM-1:30 PM Lunch  
216 Hart Senate Office Building

Keynote Speaker

1:30 PM-3:00 PM Visit with your Members of Congress

3:00 PM-5:00 PM Session II  
216 Hart Senate Office Building

"How National Organizations Function:  
Organization, Education, and Survival"  
\*Della Hughes, National Network of  
Runaway Youth Services  
\*Mariam Bell, Childhelp USA  
\*Karabelle Pizzigatti, Child Welfare  
League

5:00 PM-6:30 PM Capitol Hill Reception  
The Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn House  
Office Building

Friday, October 8th - Hotel Washington

9:00 AM-10:00 AM Welcome/Briefing  
The Washington Room

Summary of Washington Agenda,  
Congressman Bud Cramer

10:15 AM-Noon National Network Committee Meetings

The Capitol Room-Long Range Planning  
Committee  
The Federal Room-Training Committee  
The Washington Room-Public Relations/  
Finance Committee  
The Council Room-Best Practices Revisions  
Ad Hoc Committee

Noon-1:30 PM Lunch  
Park View Room

Keynote Speaker

2:00 PM-4:00 PM National Network Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting



***Congressman Bud Cramer***

***Rep. Neil Abercrombie***

***Sen. Don Nickles***

***Rep. Pat Schroeder***

***Rep. Neal Smith***

***Rep. Vic Fazio***

***Rep. Bill Sarpalius***

***Rep. Marilyn Lloyd***

***Rep. Dick Durbin***

***Rep. Rosa DeLauro***

***Rep. Mike Andrews***

***Rep. Pete Peterson***

***Rep. Mike Kopetski***

***Rep. Marjorie Margolies-  
Mecvinsky***

***Rep. Tim Roemer***

**Invite you to breakfast with Members of  
the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.**

*These centers provide multi-disciplinary services to child abuse victims and their families. The members will discuss their programs and the work of the National Network.*

***Thursday, October 7th***

***8:00 AM - 9:30 AM***

***216 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.***

***R.S.V.P. (202) 225-4801***

# W e l c o m e

## To The National Network!

**T**he National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide training, technical assistance and networking opportunities to communities seeking to plan, establish and improve Children's Advocacy Centers.

Children's Advocacy Centers offer a new way of serving abused children through a comprehensive approach to services for victims and their families. These programs are designed by professionals and volunteers responding to the needs of their own communities. Children's Advocacy Centers stress coordination of investigation and intervention services by bringing together professionals and agencies as a multidisciplinary team to create a child-focused approach to child abuse cases. The goal is to ensure that children are not further revictimized by the very system designed to protect them.

In 1987, the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers was founded by Congressman Bud Cramer, then District Attorney of Madison County Alabama, in response to the needs of a growing number of facility-based child abuse intervention programs and the demand for guidance from grassroots organizations working with child victims. Today, the National Network is a membership organization providing services to Children's Advocacy Centers, multidisciplinary teams and professionals across the country.

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# Membership Information

The National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers offers membership to all programs and individuals involved in improving their community's response to child abuse. Three levels of membership provide many advantages for planning, establishing or improving a coordinated response to child sexual and/or physical abuse cases, and offer opportunities to support children's advocacy center programs.

**Full Membership** is offered to operational programs that meet the minimum membership standards. Full member programs are eligible for one free registration to attend the annual two-day training offered each spring on basic and advanced Children's Advocacy Center program issues. Full member programs are eligible to participate on committees, have voting privileges, use of the National Network logo, and are eligible for nomination to serve on the board of directors. Cost of full membership is a \$250 non-refundable initial application fee and \$150 annual dues. The first one hundred members of the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers shall be deemed charter members.

**Associate Membership** is available to all programs that have not yet achieved full membership standards, but have the ultimate goal of becoming full member programs. Associate members are eligible for one free registration to attend the annual two-day training offered each Spring on basic and advanced Children's Advocacy Center program issues and are eligible to participate on committees. Cost of associate membership is \$100 and annual dues are \$75.

**Support Membership** is offered to organizations and individuals who are interested in participating in National Network activities, but are not able to establish a fully operational Children's Advocacy Center. Cost of support membership is \$50 for an agency and \$25 for individual membership. annual dues are the same.

All members have access to our toll free telephone number to obtain technical assistance and are included in the National Network mailing list to receive our bi-monthly newsletter, important notifications of low-cost trainings, funding opportunities, future conferences and pending legislation.

For additional membership information, contact Donna Boone Johnson,  
National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers  
301 Randolph Avenue • Huntsville, Alabama  
(205) 536-6280

# Full Members

The following programs are Full Members  
of the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers:

The National Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.  
Muntville, Alabama

Child Advocacy Center  
Baltimore, Maryland

Present House  
Birmingham, Alabama

C.A.R.E. House  
Pontiac, Michigan

The Child Advocacy Center  
Gadsden, Alabama

Northeastern Children's Co-Op  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Child Advocacy Center, Inc.  
Mobile, Alabama

F.O.C.U.S.  
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Stuart House  
Santa Monica, California

Family Service, Inc.  
High Point, North Carolina

Pueblo Child Advocacy Center  
Pueblo, Colorado

Child Advocacy Center  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Georgia Center for Children, Inc.  
Decatur, Georgia

Child Abuse Network, Inc.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Children's Advocacy Centers of Hawaii  
Oahu, Kauai, East and West Hawaii

Children's Advocacy Center  
Madford, Oregon

The Children's Advocacy Center  
Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Children's Advocacy Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center  
Springfield, Illinois

Children's Advocacy Center  
Blountville, Tennessee

DuPage County Children's Sexual Abuse Center  
Wheaton, Illinois

Memphis Child Advocacy Center  
Memphis, Tennessee

Child and Family Advocacy Center  
Elkhart, Indiana

The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center  
Amarillo, Texas

Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center  
Gretna, Louisiana

The Children's Assessment Center  
Houston, Texas

Alamo Children's Advocacy Center  
San Antonio, Texas

Stephane Ortel

★ TOP PRIORITY ★  
★ ON TUESDAY ★

Call to accept for  
me at breakfast  
on Oct. 7. I need  
to make sure we  
get conference

literature like  
agenda & info  
about the organi-  
zation w/ contact  
name, #.

BUD CRAMER  
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

1318 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0105  
(202) 225-4801

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

403 FRANKLIN STREET  
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(205) 381-3450

MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Box 888  
DECATUR, AL 35602  
(205) 355-9400

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0105**  
September 23, 1993

Mr. Howard G. Paster  
Assistant To The President For  
Legislative Affairs  
White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. ~~Paster~~ <sup>Howard</sup>:

I would like to invite someone from the Clinton Administration to speak to the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers at their annual legislative conference here in Washington on October 7th and 8th, 1993. Over 100 child advocates who belong to the Network and who represent child abuse programs across the country will be on the Hill to meet with Members of Congress and hear from federal agencies who respond to child abuse and neglect.

I founded the first Child Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama when I was District Attorney. We now have over 150 centers across the country and several prospective sites in foreign countries. Janet Reno's Miami community was one of the first to embrace this multi-disciplinary approach and copy the Huntsville center. She continues to support our program, and I believe that it will now be a part of Justice Department policy.

The Clinton Administration has been outspoken in its effort to help children and families, and I believe that the National Network is an important, effective group with whom you should share these new initiatives. We would appreciate hearing from the appropriate person or people from the White House during a panel discussion from 10:00-12:00 on Thursday, October 7th or at your schedule's convenience during a breakfast or lunch on either the 7th or 8th.

Thank you, in advance, for your assistance with this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

*Bud*

Bud Cramer  
Member of Congress

BC:svo

*HOWARD -  
I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP YOU COULD  
GIVE US ON THIS.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1993

The Honorable Bud Cramer  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Bud:

Thank you for your letter of September 23. I am happy to try to help you find an appropriate Administration speaker for the legislative conference of the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.

I will refer your letter to Carol Rasco, the President's principal advisor on domestic policy, with the request that she have someone contact your office to make the arrangements for this conference. If you hear nothing by October 1, please let me know.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Howard Paster  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

cc: Carol Rasco



# FACT SHEET

AMERICAN  
 + HUMANE  
 ASSOCIATION  
 Children's Division

## AMERICA'S CHILDREN: HOW ARE THEY DOING? Fact Sheet #8

In 1992, it was estimated that 2,936,000 children were reported to public social service agencies for abuse and/or neglect. In many of these cases, there were no services that could be offered to a child and his or her family due to lack of resources available at the state, county and community level. The abuse and neglect of children is a reflection of many problems facing America's families and children, such as violence and drug abuse, inadequate educational resources, poverty and homelessness, and inadequate health care.

A number of major studies have been conducted since 1990 to compile a profile of America's children, and unfortunately, the current outlook for children in the United States is not optimistic.

Recent statistics on child abuse are as follows:

- 1992 reports of abuse and neglect represent an 132% increase in the last decade.
- Approximately 1,261 children died in 1992 as a result of abuse and/or neglect.
- The majority of states in 1992 cited substance abuse as a major presenting problem of families who were reported for abuse and/or neglect.
- At the end of FY1991, it was estimated that 429,000 children were in substitute care, such as foster care, residential care, group homes, etc., throughout the country. This represents an increase of 52.9% since 1986.

Violent crime is the ultimate abuse of our children:

- Every three hours, an American child dies as a result of violence involving guns. Since 1988, American teenage boys have been more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from all other natural causes combined.
- Over 12,000 teens, between the ages of 15-19, died as a result of accidents, suicides, or homicides in 1990.
- In 1990, twice the number of African-American teenagers were murdered as were killed in accidents.
- The juvenile violent crime rate increased by 48% between 1986 and 1991.
- In 1990, almost 1.9 million teenagers were the victims of violent crimes.

The lack of adequate health care also affects the well-being of children:

- America ranked 31st in 1991 in percentage of low birthweight babies, behind such countries as Turkey, Iran, and Romania.
- The U.S. ranked 20th in 1990 in infant mortality rates, with 9.2 babies out of every 1,000 live births dying in 1990.
- The United States ranks 17th in the world in childhood immunizations against polio, behind Romania, Mexico, Albania, and Pakistan. For every \$1 we fail to invest in childhood immunization today, it will cost us an estimated \$10-14 in medical treatment tomorrow.
- In 1991, it is estimated that 8.3 million children in America had no health care insurance at all, not even coverage under Medicaid.
- Teen pregnancy rates continue to rise, putting both the mother and child at-risk. Nine percent of all babies born in 1990 (approximately 360,645 babies) were born to single teen mothers. The rate of births to single teens increased 16% nationally between 1985 and 1990.
- It is estimated that one-fourth of all adolescents contract a sexually-transmitted disease before they graduate from high school and over 900 teens nationwide have now been diagnosed with AIDS.

-Continued-

**Educational services are also falling short of expectations for children:**

- It is estimated that as many as 35% of kindergarten-age children come to school unprepared to learn.
- Only 30% of all eligible children in the U.S. are able to participate in Head Start programs.
- Only 69% of all teens graduated from high school in 1990.

**Poverty and homelessness are pervasive problems that contribute to abuse and neglect of children:**

- In 1991, more than one in every five U.S. children, or 14.3 million children, under the age of 18, lived in poverty.
- Each year, an estimated 10,000 children die as a direct result of poverty.
- Children under the age of six living with single mothers are more likely to be poor than children with two parents, however, 40 % of poor children lived in two-parent families in 1990.
- It is estimated that 100,000 children go to sleep homeless each night in the U.S.

**Children who fall into the categories of runaways or throwaway children are usually victims of abuse or neglect:**

- According to a 1988 study, as many as 450,700 children were classified as runaways. These were children who ran away from either home or juvenile facilities.
- In the same study, it was estimated that there were 127,100 throwaway children in the U.S.-- a child who has been told to leave the household or who has been away from home and not allowed back, or a child who has been abandoned or a runaway whose caretaker or parent has made no effort to find the child.

In reviewing these indicators of the state of children in our nation, it is evident that we are facing a serious crisis when it comes to assigning value to our children. For too long, children have been relegated to second-class citizen status, and have had no voice in the policies supposedly made on their behalf.

We must look to provide each child with the basic opportunities in order to ensure that he or she has an equal chance at becoming a valued and productive member of our society.

American Humane is dedicated to ensuring that there are community systems of care for all children and families, and has been doing so for over a century. Our children are our future!

**SOURCES:**

1993 KIDS COUNT: State Profiles of Child Well-Being by the Center for the Study of Social Policy  
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 Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting and Fatalities: The Results of the 1992 Annual Fifty-State Survey by the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse  
 Five Million Children: 1992 Update by the National Center for Children in Poverty  
 Child Substitute Care Population Trends: VCIS Research Notes(8/92) by American Public Welfare Assoc.  
 Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Throwaway Children in America, May 1990, by David Finkelhor, Gerald Hotaling and Andrea Sedlak

**FOR INFORMATION ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHILDREN'S DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 303-792-9900 OR 1-800-227-4646.**

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## Answers to Most Frequently Asked Questions about Child Abuse and Neglect

### NUMBER OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS NATIONWIDE

- In 1991 an estimated 2.7 million children were reported for child abuse and neglect to child protective service (CPS) agencies in the United States. This figure represents a 6% increase over the number of reports filed in 1990. Experts attribute much of the recent increase in reporting to the increases in economic stress due to poverty, unemployment, and work concerns; greater public awareness of an willingness to report child maltreatment; and the effects of substance abuse (Daro & McCurdy, 1992).
- In 1986 approximately 27% of the children were reported for physical abuse, 16% for sexual abuse, 55% for neglect, and 8% for emotional maltreatment (AAPC, 1988). According to the 1991 survey, these percentages have remained fairly stable with physical abuse representing 25% of reports, sexual abuse 15%, neglect 48%, emotional maltreatment 6%, and other forms of child abuse, 10%.

### INCIDENCE OF CHILD MALTREATMENT IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

- In 1986 approximately 22.6 children per 1000 experienced abuse or neglect. Only half of these incidents were reported to CPS agencies (Sedlak, 1990). Currently, about 39 out of every 1000 children are reported as victims of child maltreatment.

### CHILD FATALITIES

- In 1991 an estimated 1,383 child abuse and neglect related fatalities were reported to CPS agencies. This represents a 10% increase over the number of fatalities reported in 1990. Since 1985, the number of reported child abuse fatalities has increased by more than 54%. Based on these numbers, an average of more than four victims of fatal child abuse and neglect are reported each day (Daro & McCurdy, 1992).
- In 1986 children reported for child abuse and neglect fatalities were much younger on average than children reported for maltreatment--2.6 versus 7.2 years of age (AAPC, 1988). In 1991 those states that kept this statistic reported that almost 80% of these children were less than five years old at the time of their deaths with 54% one year old or younger (Daro & McCurdy, 1992).

### CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- Studies of the general population of adults show that anywhere from 15% to 38% of females were sexually abused as children; the number of male victims is often cited at 10% (Finkelhor, 1986). Because many cases of sexual abuse go unreported, the actual number may be much higher.

### SEXUAL ABUSE IN DAY CARE

- A recent study of disclosed cases of child abuse in center-based day care revealed no especially high risk of sexual abuse for children sent to such a setting. While an average of 5.5 children per 10,000 enrolled in day care are sexually abused, an average of 8.9 children out of every 10,000 are abused in the home (Finkelhor, 1986).
- Based on information from 24 states, reports of abuse in day care and foster care each represented less than 1% of all reports in 1991 (Daro & McCurdy, 1992).

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CHILD ABUSE

- The link between substance abuse and child abuse has strengthened over the years. It is estimated that 9 to 10 million children under the age of 18 are directly affected by substance-abusing parents (Woodside, 1988). From a national perspective, at least 675,000 children are seriously mistreated annually by an alcoholic or drug-abusing caretaker.
- The national incidence for fetal alcohol syndrome is 1.9 per 1000 live births. Further, at least 1 in 10 or 375,000 babies born in the United States have been exposed to illegal drugs taken by their mother during pregnancy (Ogintz, 1988). The effects of having been exposed to either illegal drugs or alcohol prenatally include low birth weight, small head size, long-term medical complications, and increased incidence of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). In addition, exposed infants tend to be irritable, lethargic and difficult to console, which interferes with parent-child bonding and increases the likelihood of abuse or neglect.

### SOURCES

American Association for Protecting Children (AAPC). (1988) Highlights of Official Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting, 1986. Denver, CO: American Humane Association, Denver.

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(NCPA; 1992)

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families**

**FACT SHEET\***

**MILLIONS OF YOUNG CHILDREN ABUSED EACH YEAR**

- In 1990, there were more than 2.5 million reports of child abuse, an increase of more than 30% since 1985 and 100% since 1980. (National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse [NCPA], 1991)\*\*
- Estimates of national child abuse and neglect substantiation rates vary from 35% to 53%. In 1987, there were 700,000 substantiated cases, up from more than 400,000 cases in 1980. (American Association for Protecting Children, 1991)
- A 1990 state survey of child maltreatment indicated that 27% of reported abuse cases were due to physical abuse, 46% to neglect, 15% to sexual abuse, and 13% to emotional maltreatment or other (abandonment and dependency). (NCPA, 1991)
- In 26 of the responding states, an average of 95% of the victims knew their perpetrators. Less than 2% of reported abuse cases took place in a foster care or child care setting. (NCPA, 1991)

**CHILD ABUSE INCREASINGLY CLAIMS THE LIVES OF VERY YOUNG CHILDREN**

- In 1990, an estimated 1,211 children from 39 states died from abuse or neglect, a 38% increase nationwide since 1985. Almost 90% of children who died as a result of abuse or neglect were under age 5; 53% were infants under age one. (NCPA, 1991)
- Homicide as a cause of children's death in the Western world is almost uniquely a U.S. phenomenon. In the U.S., homicide is the leading cause of death from injury before age one. Among boys ages 1 to 4, the homicide rate (2.6 deaths per 100,000 children) is more than twice the highest rate in Europe (1.2 in Belgium). (Miller, 1991)

**WITH LIMITED PREVENTION RESOURCES, SYSTEMS OVERWHELMED; OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS SOAR**

- From the start of 1986 to the end of 1991, there was a 49% increase in out-of-home placements, from 273,000 to 407,000. In 1988, minority children constituted 46% of those placed out-of-home. (American Public Welfare Association, 1991)
- Between 25% and 50% of all child abuse fatalities occur in families that are known to the local child protection agency. (Martinez, 1986)
- Federal funding for foster care increased almost 600% between 1981 and 1991, while funds for prevention rose only 78%. (Department of Health and Human Services, 1991)

<sup>1</sup>"Substantiated case" implies a degree of certainty that a child involved is at risk and, in many states, that some level of intervention is warranted in the child's behalf.

- In 1990, nearly six out of ten states experienced a decrease or no change in funding for child protection services. (NCPCA, 1991)

### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE FUEL THE CHILD ABUSE CRISIS**

- In a 50-state survey of child services personnel, 55% of the respondents stated that substance abuse was a primary cause for the increase in child abuse. (NCPCA, 1991)
- According to a 1990 Pennsylvania study of parents who neglected their children, 30% stated that someone in their home had a drug or alcohol problem in the last three years; 28% of the parents had been assessed as having substance abuse problems at the time of intake. (National Resource Center on Family Based Services [NRC], 1990)
- In a 1989 study of African-American children in foster care, drug abuse was listed as a contributing factor in 36% of the placements. (National Black Child Development Institute, 1989)

### **LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF ABUSE IMPEDE ADULT WELL-BEING**

- In one study, 67% of alcoholic women reported that they had been victims of sexual abuse during childhood compared with 28% of matched controls. (Miller, et al., 1987)
- In a recent Pennsylvania survey of chronically neglectful parents, 31.5% reported that they had been "beaten hard" as a child. (NRC, 1990)

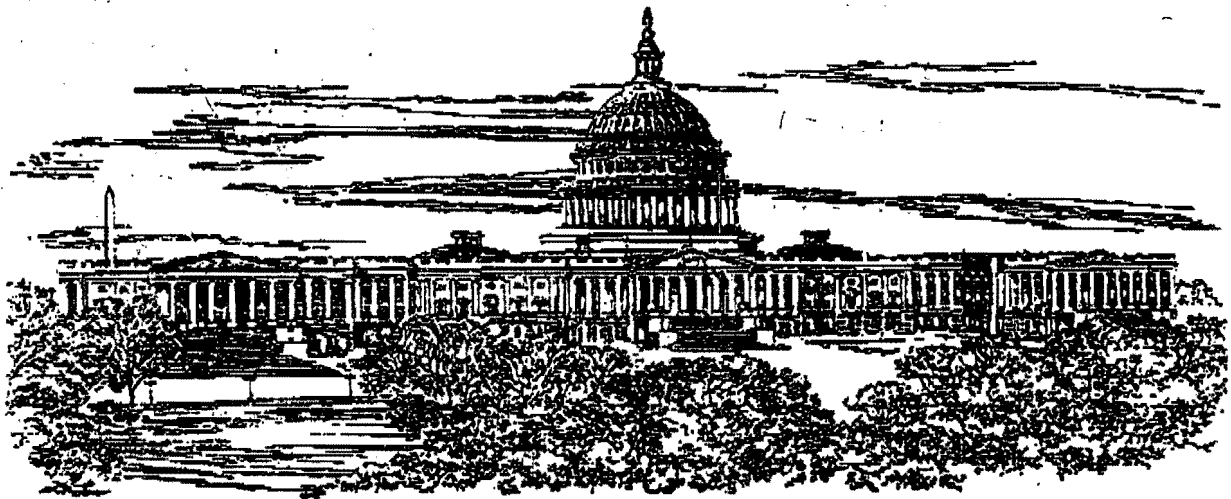
### **PREVENTION WORKS AND SAVES MONEY**

- In FY 89-90, Hawaii's statewide home visitation program reached 1,829 families at an estimated cost of \$2,200 per family (may include more than one child). In contrast, the average cost of one child in protective services is \$12,602 per year. There were virtually no reports of child abuse and neglect among participating families, and child abuse reports statewide declined more than 35% from 1987-1990. (Hawaii Department of Health, 1991; NCPCA, 1991)
- In Oregon, 10% of all children in families with teen parents (900) were abused. If these families had been served by the Oregon Children's Trust Fund Teen Programs, which include home visiting, parenting classes, and support groups, it is projected that only 2% would have been abused or neglected. From 1989-90, the total number of child abuse reports in the state fell 5%. (Oregon Children's Trust Fund, 1991)
- In Iowa, those counties which had crisis nurseries experienced a 13% decline in child abuse reports while reports remained constant in counties without the nurseries. Crisis nurseries provide temporary care for children when they are at-risk of abuse or neglect and are open 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. (Horn, 1991).

<sup>2</sup> Out of home placements include family foster care, group homes, child care facilities, and emergency shelter care.

\*Prepared for the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families Hearing, "Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention in the 1990s: Keeping Old Promises, Meeting New Demands," Denver, CO, September 15, 1991.

\*\*For a copy of NCPCA's annual 50-state survey, "Current Trends...", contact NCPCA, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL, 60604 (312/663-3520)



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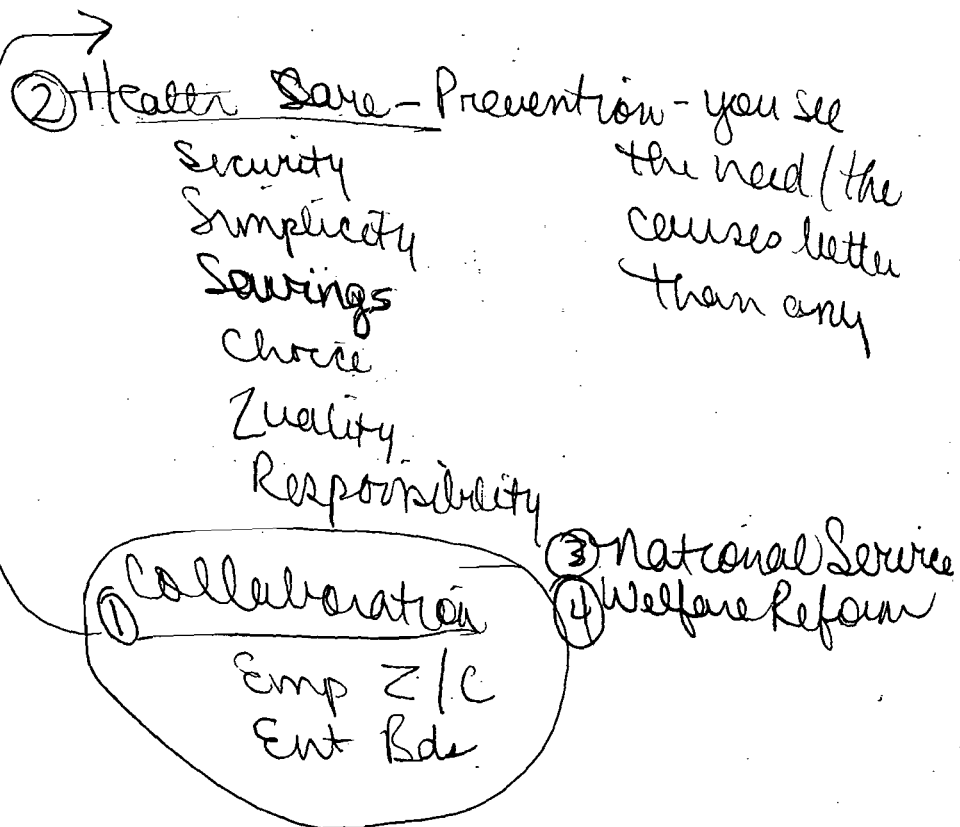
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you've tried  
Services - leadership at top  
underlying premise