



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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Child abuse and neglect (CAN) is any act of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver (e.g., clergy, coach, or teacher) that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. Acts of omission (child neglect) is the failure to provide for a child's basic physical, emotional, or educational needs or to protect a child from harm or potential harm.¹

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE UNITED STATES?

- In 2014, 1,546 children ages 0-17 years died in the United States as a result of CAN; 79 percent were killed by one or both of their parents. Most (71%) of these victims were less than 3 years old.²
- In 2014, there were an estimated 3.2 million referrals screened in for investigation for CAN to Child Protective Service (CPS) agencies across the United States.²
- In 2014, 702,000 children were identified to be victims of CAN. Seventy-five percent of these children suffered from neglect; 17 percent were victims of physical abuse, and 8 percent were sexual abuse victims.²
- The lifetime estimated cost of new fatal and non-fatal CAN cases in 2008 was \$124 billion. In 2010 dollars, the estimated average lifetime cost of CAN was \$210,012 per non-fatal victim; this includes \$32,648 in childhood health care costs; \$10,530 in adult medical costs; \$144,360 in productivity losses; \$7,728 in child welfare costs; \$6,747 in criminal justice costs; and \$7,999 in special education costs. The estimated average lifetime cost per death is \$1.3 million including \$14,100 in medical costs and \$1,258,800 in productivity losses.³

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MARYLAND?

- In 2014, there were an estimated 31,469 referrals screened in for investigation for CAN to CPS in Maryland.²
- Of the reports that were screened in, there were an estimated 15,762 substantiated or indicated victims of CAN in Maryland, a rate of 11.7 per 1,000 children (0-17 year olds).²
- In that same year, 11 children died in Maryland as a result of CAN.²
- According to the Maryland State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect (SCCAN) 2013 Annual Report, CAN in Maryland is conservatively estimated to cost over \$1.5 billion each year.⁴

HOW DO WE ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

- In 2016, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released, "Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities." A technical package is a collection of strategies that represent the best available evidence to prevent or reduce public health problems like violence. The package supports CDC's Essentials for Childhood framework and highlights strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect.⁵
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau provides funding to states and tribes to help them strengthen families and prevent CAN.⁶
- The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare provides online access to information about evidence-based child welfare practices. The effectiveness of these practices is supported by empirical research.⁷
- The Child Welfare Information Gateway connects child welfare and related professionals to comprehensive information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families.⁸

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Table 1: Summary of Strategies and Approaches to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

Approach/Program, Practice or Policy	CAN Perpetration	CAN Victimization	Risk Factor for CAN
STRATEGY: Strengthen economic supports to families			
Strengthening household financial security			
<i>Child Support Payments</i>		✓	✓
<i>Tax Credits</i>			✓
<i>State nutrition assistance programs</i>		✓	✓
<i>Assisted housing mobility</i>			✓
<i>Subsidized child care</i>		✓	✓
LEAD SECTORS¹: Business/Labor • Government (local, state, Federal)			
Family-friendly work policies			
<i>Livable wages</i>			✓
<i>Paid leave</i>		✓	✓
<i>Flexible and consistent schedules</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS¹: Business/Labor • Government (local, state, Federal)			
STRATEGY: Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting			
Public engagement and education campaigns			
<i>Breaking the Cycle</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS¹: Public Health			
Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment			
<i>Bans pertaining to home, school, other settings</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS¹: Government (local, state, Federal)			
STRATEGY: Provide quality care and education early in life			
Preschool enrichment with family engagement			
<i>Child Parent Centers</i>		✓	✓
<i>Early Head Start</i>		✓	✓
LEAD SECTORS¹: Social Services • Public Health			
Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation			
<i>Licensing and accreditation</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS¹: Business/Labor • Government (local, state, Federal)			

¹ This column refers to the lead sectors well positioned to bring leadership and resources to implementation efforts. For each strategy, there are many other sectors such as non-governmental organizations that are instrumental to prevention planning and implementing the specific programmatic activities.

* Table 1 is from the CDC's "Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities."

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Table 1: Summary of Strategies and Approaches to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect, *Continued*

Approach/Program, Practice or Policy	CAN Perpetration	CAN Victimization	Risk Factor for CAN
STRATEGY: Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development			
Early childhood home visitation			
<i>Nurse Family Partnership</i>	✓		✓
<i>Durham Connects</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS: Public Health • Health Care			
Parenting skill and family relationship approaches			
<i>Adults and Children Together Against Violence: Parents Raising Safe Kids (ACT)</i>	✓		✓
<i>Incredible Years</i>			✓
<i>Safe Care</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS: Public Health • Social Services			
STRATEGY: Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk			
Enhanced primary care			
<i>Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)</i>	✓		✓
LEAD SECTORS: Public Health • Health Care			
Behavioral parent training programs			
<i>Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)</i>	✓		✓
<i>Safe Care</i>	✓		✓
<i>Incredible Years</i>			✓
LEAD SECTORS: Public Health • Social Services			
Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure			
<i>Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)</i>	N/A ²	N/A ²	✓
LEAD SECTORS: Public Health • Social Services • Justice			
Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence			
<i>Children with Problematic Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment Program: School-age Program</i>			✓
<i>Multi-systemic Therapy (MST)</i>	✓		✓
LEAD SECTORS: Public Health • Social Services • Justice			

¹ This column refers to the lead sectors well positioned to bring leadership and resources to implementation efforts. For each strategy, there are many other sectors such as non-governmental organizations that are instrumental to prevention planning and implementing the specific programmatic activities.

² Program was designed to address the harms of abuse and neglect (e.g., PTSD, depression)

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Child Abuse Medical Provider (CHAMP) Program network is a group of medical professionals (physicians and nurses), specially trained in the area of CAN. They provide training and support to medical professionals, consultation to CPS, law enforcement, state's attorney's offices, pediatricians and other professionals, and develop policies and practice guidelines to improve the systems' response to children and families with concerns of possible abuse or neglect. <http://phpa.dhbmh.maryland.gov/mch/Pages/MDChamp.aspx>
- Child Protective Services (CPS) is a specific social service provided by the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to assist children believed to be neglected or abused by parents or other adults having permanent or temporary care or custody, or parental responsibility. <http://dhr.maryland.gov/child-protective-services/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-or-neglect/local-offices/>
- Maryland's Resource for Mandated Reporters is a website with valuable information about mandatory reporting laws and how to make a report if CAN is suspected. The website also offers online mandatory reporter training. <https://www.reportabusemd.com>
- The Maryland Courts webpage provides information about how the state may intervene in the parent child relationship for the purpose of protecting the child. This does not include information on potential criminal consequences for acts of CAN. <http://www.courts.state.md.us/legalhelp/childabuseneglect.html>
- Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) CESAR at the University of Maryland, College Park invites you to find approximately 9,000 health, social service and criminal justice resource programs in Maryland. The Maryland Community Services Locator can provide you with service information, maps, and driving directions to programs. <http://www.mdcsll.org/search.html>
- The 2016 Prevention Resource Guide: Building Community, Building Hope was created primarily to support community-based child abuse prevention professionals who work to prevent CAN and promote well-being. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/guide.pdf>
- The Choosing Healthy Options In Caring for Everyone Safely (C.H.O.I.C.E.S.) Poster Campaign. C.H.O.I.C.E.S.' mission is to acknowledge the joys of caring for others and address the stressors that can accompany the role of caregiver. The poster campaign has been designed to identify, educate, support, and refer those in challenging relationships, especially in the role of caregiver for a family member. <http://www.nasw-md.org/?page=100&terms=%22child+and+abuse%22>
- Children's Safety Network is dedicated to working with state, territorial and community Maternal & Child Health and Injury & Violence prevention programs to create an environment where all children and youth are safe and healthy. We work with states and territories to infuse knowledge, expertise, and leadership to reduce injury, hospitalization, disability and death for all children and youth. Our goal is to equip states to strengthen their capacity, utilize data and implement effective strategies to create injury and violence free environments. <https://www.childrensafetynetwork.org/injury-topics/child-maltreatment>

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