

Child Maltreatment

Facts At A Glance

Summer 2007

Note: Some numbers have been rounded.

Child Maltreatment

- In 2005, U.S. state and local child protective services (CPS) investigated 3.6 million children in the United States who were reported to be abused or neglected¹.
 - 899,000 (1,210 per 100,000 children) of these children were classified by CPS as victims. Three quarters of them had no history of prior victimization.*
 - 63% of the children were classified as victims of child neglect, 7% as victims of emotional abuse, 9% as victims of sexual abuse, 17% as victims of physical abuse.
- A non-CPS study reported that 14% of U.S. children experienced some form of child maltreatment: 8% were victims of sexual abuse, 22% were victims of child neglect, 48% were victims of physical abuse, and 75% were victims of emotional abuse².

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.

Gender and Race Disparities in Children¹

- In 2005, some children had higher rates of victimization:
 - African-American (1,950 per 100,000 children).
 - American Indian or Alaska Native (1,650 per 100,000 children).
 - Pacific Islander (1,610 per 100,000 children).
- Overall girls (51%) were at slightly higher risk than boys (47%) for all forms of child maltreatment.

Characteristics of Perpetrators¹

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

* The increase of approximately 20,000 victims in 2005, as compared to 2004, is largely due to the inclusion of data from Alaska and Puerto Rico.

Nonfatal Cases of Child Maltreatment

- In 2005, CPS reported the approximate rates of children who were victims of child maltreatment¹.
 - 1,650 per 100,000 for 0 to 3 years;
 - 1,350 per 100,000 for 4 to 7 years;
 - 1,090 per 100,000 for 8 to 11 years;
 - 1,020 per 100,000 for 12 to 15 years; and
 - 620 per 100,000 for 16 to 17 years.
- 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}.

Deaths from Child Maltreatment

- In 2005, 1460 children from 0 to 17 years old died because of child abuse and neglect, (rate of 1.96 per 100,000 children)¹.
 - 77% or more deaths occurred in children younger than age 4; 13% were ages 4-7; 4% were ages 8-11; and 6% were ages 12-17.
 - 44% of deaths were non-Hispanic White children.
 - 26% of deaths were African-American children.
 - 19% of deaths were Hispanic children.

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. *Child Maltreatment 2005* [Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2007] available at: <http://www.childwelfare.gov>. The reports are based on data from state child welfare and health departments and fatality review boards.
2. Finkelhor, Ormrod, H, Turner, H, Hamby, S. The Victimization of Children and Youth: A Comprehensive National Survey. *Child Maltreatment 2005*; 10: 5-25. This was a national population-based survey based on children's self-reports or caregiver self-reports.
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. This was a population-based survey conducted in the Carolinas based on self-reports from mothers.



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