Child Abuse

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childabuse.html

Child abuse is doing something or failing to do something that results in harm to a child or puts a child at risk of harm. Child abuse can be physical, sexual or emotional. Neglect, or not providing for a child’s needs, is also a form of abuse.

Most abused children suffer greater emotional than physical damage. An abused child may become depressed. He or she may withdraw, think of suicide or become violent. An older child may use drugs or alcohol, try to run away or abuse others.

Child abuse is a serious problem. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call the police or your local child welfare agency.

Start Here
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/sp_signs.cfm]

Overviews

Latest News

Diagnosis/Symptoms
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/sp_signs.cfm]

Prevention/Screening
- Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/preventingcan.cfm] (Children's Bureau)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/preventingcan_sp.cfm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/supporting/resources/consejos.cfm]

Coping
Specific Conditions

- Abusive Head Trauma (Shaken Baby Syndrome) [http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/brain/shaken.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/medicos/shaken_espanol.htm] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastomos/sindrome_del_bebeca.html]
  Also available in Spanish

Related Issues

- Questions and Answers about Memories of Childhood Abuse

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Shaken Baby Syndrome
  [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Shaken+Baby+Syndrome%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Research

- Adverse Childhood Experiences Study [http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ace/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: AAP: Consider blood disorders as well as abuse as cause...

Dictionaries/Glossaries

- National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System Glossary
  [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/ncands/ncands98/glossary/glossary.htm] (Family and Youth Services Bureau)

Directories

- Adult Survivors of Child Abuse: Contact Information for Related Organizations
  [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/r_childabuse.htm]
- Child Abuse Reporting Numbers: Contact Information for Related Organizations
  [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/r_childabuse.htm]
**Organizations**
- Administration for Children and Families [http://www.acf.hhs.gov]
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry [http://www.aacap.org/]
- National Runaway Safeline [http://www.1800runaway.org/]

**Law and Policy**
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/spcpswork.cfm]
- Parental Drug Use as Child Abuse: Summary of State Laws [http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/drugexposed.cfm] (Children's Bureau)
- State Statutes Search [http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/] (Children's Bureau)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/whatiscan.cfm]

**Statistics**
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Reported by Adults [http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsACEs/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/Datos/EIA/]

**Children**
- Going to a Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or Therapist [http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion-going_to_therapist.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/kid/en_espanol/sentimientos/going_to_therapist_esp.html]
- How to Handle Abuse [http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/handle_abuse.html] (Nemours Foundation)

**Teenagers**
- Abuse [http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/families/family_abuse.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/mente/abuse_esp.html]
- Going to a Therapist [http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/mental_health/therapist.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/mente/therapist_esp.html]
- Youth and Teens Page [http://blog.1800runaway.org/] (National Runaway Safeline)

**Men**
Women

- Helping Yourself Heal: A Recovering Woman's Guide to Coping with Childhood Abuse Issues [Link](http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA12-4132/SMA12-4132.pdf) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - PDF
  Also available in Spanish [Link](http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA12-4133/SMA12-4133.pdf)

Patient Handouts

- Child abuse - physical [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001552.htm)
  Also available in Spanish [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001552.htm)
- Child neglect and psychological abuse [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007225.htm)
  Also available in Spanish [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/007225.htm)

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Child abuse - physical [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001552.htm)
- Child neglect and psychological abuse [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007225.htm)
- Munchausen syndrome by proxy [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001555.htm)

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Child Sexual Abuse [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childsexualabuse.html)

Child Abuse - Multiple Languages [Link](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/languages/childabuse.html)

Date last updated: 19 July 2013
Topic last reviewed: 16 October 2012