

Child Maltreatment

Facts at a Glance

2010

Note: Some numbers have been rounded.

Child Maltreatment

- In 2008, U.S. state and local child protective services (CPS) received 3.3 million reports of children being abused or neglected.¹
 - CPS estimated that 772,000 (10.3 per 1,000) of children were victims of maltreatment. Approximately three quarters of them had no history of prior victimization.
 - Seventy-one percent of the children were classified as victims of child neglect; 16 percent as victims of physical abuse; 9 percent as victims of sexual abuse; and 7 percent as victims of emotional abuse.
- A non-CPS study estimated that 1 in 5 U.S. children experience some form of child maltreatment: approximately 1 percent were victims of sexual assault; 4 percent were victims of child neglect; 9 percent were victims of physical abuse; and 12 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.

Gender and Race Disparities among Children

- In 2008, some children had higher rates of victimization:
 - African-American (16.6 per 1,000 children).
 - American Indian or Alaska Native (13.9 per 1,000 children).
 - Multiracial (13.8 per 1,000 children).¹
- Overall, rates of victimization were slightly higher for girls (10.8 per 1,000 children) than boys (9.7 per 1,000 children).¹

Characteristics of Perpetrators

- Most children are maltreated by their parents versus other relatives or caregivers.¹
- Perpetrators are typically less than 39 years of age.¹
- Female perpetrators, mostly mothers, are typically younger than male perpetrators.¹

Nonfatal Cases of Child Maltreatment

- In 2008, CPS reported the approximate rates of child maltreatment victims:
 - 21.7 per 1,000 for infants less than 1 year old;
 - 12.9 per 1,000 for 1 year-olds;
 - 12.4 per 1,000 for 2 year-olds;
 - 11.7 per 1,000 for 3 year-olds;
 - 11.0 per 1,000 for 4 to 7 year-olds;
 - 9.2 per 1,000 for 8 to 11 year-olds;
 - 8.4 per 1,000 for 12 to 15 year-olds; and
 - 5.5 per 1,000 for 16 to 17 year-olds.¹
- Non-CPS studies have reported higher rates of nonfatal child maltreatment cases, ranging from 15 to 43 per 1,000 children.^{3,4}

Deaths from Child Maltreatment

- In 2008, an estimated 1,740 children ages 0 to 17 died from abuse and neglect (rate of 2.3 per 100,000 children).¹
 - 80 percent of deaths occurred among children younger than age 4; 10 percent among 4-7 year-olds; 4 percent among 8-11 year-olds; 4 percent among 12-15 year-olds; and 2 percent among 16-17 year-olds.
 - 39% of deaths were non-Hispanic White children.
 - 30% of deaths were African-American children.
 - 16% of deaths were Hispanic children.

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. *Child Maltreatment 2008* [Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010] available at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>.
2. Finkelhor D, Turner H, Ormond R, Hamby SL. Violence, abuse, and crime exposure in a national sample of children and youth. *Pediatrics* 2009; 124:1411-1423.
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: e331-e337.
4. Finkelhor D, Ormrod H, Turner H, Hamby S. The victimization of children and youth: a comprehensive national survey. *Child Maltreatment* 2005; 10: 5-25.



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