

Facts About Child Abuse and Neglect



Eight out of 10 abuse/neglect-related child deaths in Washington State could have been prevented. (*Washington State Childhood Injury Report*)

- Three million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States, but experts estimate that the actual number of incidents is three times greater than that. (*Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, "Child Maltreatment Report", 2003*)
- Direct costs associated with abuse and neglect, such as protective services and hospitalization, total more than \$24 billion each year nationally. (*Prevent Child Abuse America study*)
- Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic and educational level and across all ethnicities, cultures and religions. (*Childhelp*)
- One in three abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children. (*Childhelp*)
- About 16 to 18 percent of youth in 8th, 10th and 12th grades reported being physically abused by an adult at some point in their lives. (*Washington Healthy Youth Survey, 2002*)
- One out of every five Washington adults reports some history of childhood abuse, equivalent to an estimated 800,000 to 1 million adults in 2002. Only a portion of this abuse is reported to Child Protective Services. (*Washington State Childhood Injury Report, Washington State Dept. of Health Injury Prevention Program, 2004*)
- Abused children are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress, depression and other psychiatric disorders. They are also more likely to experience teen pregnancy and practice unsafe sex. (*National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse & Neglect Information, 2005*)
- Children who experience abuse and neglect are more likely to be arrested as juveniles and adults, and 30 percent more likely to commit violent crime. Of those in U.S. prisons, more than 14 percent of all men and nearly 37 percent of all women were abused as children. (*U.S. Dept. of Justice Reports*)
- As many as two-thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse report being abused as children. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse*)
- Four children die every day as a result of abuse; eight out of every 10 of them are under the age of 4. In 2005, more than one-third (41.2 %) of child maltreatment fatalities were associated with neglect alone. (*Source: Childhelp, national non-profit organization dedicated to treatment and prevention of child abuse*)

Children's Trust Foundation ■ 603 Stewart St., Suite 906 ■ Seattle, WA 98101
206-343-5911 ■ info@childrenstrust.org

www.childrenstrust.org