

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

• **NEGLECT**

A parent or caretaker allows the child to experience avoidable harm or fails to provide basic essentials for physical, social and emotional development.

• **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Non-accidental injury that may include severe beatings, burns, fractures, bruises, welts or other physical problems.

• **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child. Sexual abuse includes fondling, sodomy, child prostitution, incest and encouraging or forcing a child to participate in pornographic activities.

• **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Verbal abuse or other behavior that creates a negative emotional atmosphere for a child. May include rejecting, terrorizing, put downs, unreasonable demands, shameful forms of punishment or withholding emotional contact.



THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE

In Georgia...

There were **more than 85,000** incidents of child abuse and neglect reported in 2002.

In 2001, **nearly 100 children died** as a result of abuse or neglect.

Nearly 85% of child abuse cases occur in the child's home. In 2002, roughly **50%** of confirmed child abuse perpetrators were biological parents.

Throughout the Nation...

In the last decade of the millennium, the number of children reported as abused or neglected in the U.S. grew by **33%** - to **3.2 million a year**.

There were nearly **1.1 million** confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in the U.S. in 1999. That year, **1,396 children died** as the result of abuse or neglect.

For every federal dollar spent on treating child abuse, one penny is spent on prevention. The direct and indirect costs resulting from child abuse in this country are **\$94 billion a year**. That's the equivalent of **\$1,462 per year per U.S. family**.

An estimated **18,000 children** are permanently disabled each year as a result of abuse.

PREVENTION AS A SOLUTION

It Pays to Prevent...

It costs **\$9 billion** a year to care for the maltreatment of children. It would cost only **\$2.7 billion** to establish a universal voluntary home visitor prevention program.

It costs only **\$3** per child per year to teach violence prevention in the schools. It costs **\$35,675** per year to house a child in a Georgia youth detention center.

Healthy Families Georgia...

In 2002, **97%** of children in Healthy Families Georgia (HFG) families were fully immunized compared with Georgia's overall rate of **80%**.

More Good News: **98%** of families enrolled in Healthy Families Georgia are linked with a primary health care provider, **97%** had no confirmed CPS cases. Families enrolled in Healthy Families Georgia had a **28%** increase in self-sufficiency through enrollment in education and job training and a **12%** lower repeat teen pregnancy rate compared to the state average.



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