

Child Maltreatment

Facts at a Glance

2012

Child Maltreatment

- In 2010, U.S. state and local child protective services (CPS) received an estimated 3.3 million reports of children (43.8 per 1,000) being abused or neglected.¹
 - CPS estimated that 695,000 children (9.2 per 1,000) were victims of maltreatment.
 - Of the child victims, 78% were victims of neglect; 18% of physical abuse; 9% of sexual abuse; and 8% of emotional abuse.
- CPS reports of child maltreatment may underestimate the true occurrence. Non-CPS studies estimate that 1 in 5 U.S. children experience some form of child maltreatment in their lifetimes and that rates range from 15 to 43 per 1,000 children.²⁻⁴
- Between 1990 and 2010, CPS-reported rates of sexual violence declined 62%, physical abuse declined 56%, and neglect declined 10%.⁵
- The total lifetime economic burden resulting from new cases of fatal and nonfatal child maltreatment in the United States is approximately \$124 billion.⁶

Deaths from Child Maltreatment

- In 2010, an estimated 1,560 children died from child maltreatment (rate of 2.1 per 100,000 children).¹
- Of the children who died from maltreatment in 2010, 40.8% experienced multiple maltreatment types, 32.6% experienced neglect only, and 22.9% experienced physical abuse only.¹
- Of child maltreatment fatalities in 2010, 79.4% occurred among children younger than age 4; 11.1% among 4-7 year-olds; 3.6% among 8-11 year-olds; 3.8% among 12-15 year-olds; and 1.8% among 16-17 year-olds.¹
- The fatality rate for boys was 2.5 per 100,000 and for girls was 1.7 per 100,000.¹
- The 2010 rates of death per 100,000 children was 3.9 for African Americans, 1.9 for American Indian/Alaska Natives, 1.9 for Hispanics, 1.7 for non-Hispanic Whites, and 0.6 for Asians.¹

Characteristics of Victims

- In 2010, 34% of victims were younger than 4 years, with children younger than 1 year having the highest rate of victimization (20.6 per 1,000 children).¹
- The rates of victimization in 2010 were 8.7 per 1,000 children for boys and 9.7 per 1,000 children for girls.¹
- The 2010 rates of victimization per 1,000 children were 14.6 for African Americans, 11 for American Indian/Alaska Natives, 10.9 for Pacific Islanders, 8.8 for Hispanics, 7.8 for non-Hispanic Whites, and 1.9 for Asians.¹
- Approximately three quarters of victims in 2010 had no prior victimization for each year from 2006-2010.¹

Characteristics of Perpetrators

- Most 2010 victims were maltreated by a parent (81.2%). Other perpetrators included relatives other than parents (6.1%), unmarried partners of parents (4.4%), and other unrelated adults (3.8%).¹
- In 2010, 6% of perpetrations were aged \leq 19 years; 36.3% were aged 20-29 years; 31.8% were aged 30-39 years; 16.1% were aged 40-49 years; and 4.9% were aged 50-59 years.¹
- Two-fifths (45.2%) of perpetrators in 2010 were men, and 53.6% were women.¹

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. Child Maltreatment 2010. Washington, DC: Department of Health and Human Services; 2011. Available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10/index.htm.
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.
5. Finkelhor D, Jones L, Shattuck A. Updated Trends in Child Maltreatment, 2010. Durham, NH. Crimes against Children Research Center, 2011. Available from www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV203_Updated%20trends%202010%20FINAL_12-19-11.pdf.
6. Fang X, Brown DS, Florence CS, Mercy JA. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 2012; 36:156-165.