
Recognizing Child Abuse

CARRIE JOSEPH
PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER





MISSION & VISION

Journey Center for Safety and Healing provides services that foster safety and healing to those affected by domestic violence and child abuse and prevents abuse through education, advocacy, and systemic change.

We envision a community where safety and well-being are achieved by empowering people to find a path toward healthy, thriving relationships.

CHILD MALTREATMENT STATISTICS

- On average, approximately **3.5 million reports of maltreatment** are made to Child Protective Services throughout the country
- Each year, approximately **3–4 million children between the ages of 3–17 are at risk of exposure** to domestic violence each year.
- In a survey of 6,000 American families, **50% of the homes where men assaulted their female partner they also abused** their children.

The Children's Bureau at HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published the 28th edition of the Child Maltreatment Report, which analyzes data collected by state child protective services (CPS) agencies. The report is based on fiscal year 2017 data, which is the latest data available.

A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

IN THE US
OVER 46 MILLION KIDS
EXPERIENCE TRAUMA AND
VIOLENCE - MORE THAN
THE POPULATION OF
FLORIDA, NEW YORK, &
WISCONSIN COMBINED.

#DefendingChildhood

**DEFENDING
CHILDHOOD**
PROTECT HEAL THRIVE

FORMS OF ABUSE & NEGLECT

- **Neglect** *Acts of omission*

Child-rearing practices which are essentially inadequate or dangerous.

Neglect is the failure to act on behalf of the child

- **Physical Abuse** *Acts of commission*

The non accidental injury of a child by the parent or caregiver

The unintentional result of physical punishment or physically aggressive treatment of a child.

- **Sexual Abuse** *Acts of commission*

Any act of a sexual nature upon or with a child for the sexual gratification of the perpetrator or a third party, including any one who allowed or encouraged it

- **Psychological Abuse** *Acts of commission*

Acts which interfere with the psychological and social development of a child. A single incident can be abusive, but generally is a chronic pattern that cause damage over time.

IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

- **Constant stress affects normal brain development**
 - Excessive stress or trauma experiences creates a chemical release
 - Continuous releases of cortisol and adrenalin affect healthy brain development. Chemical releases can affect:
 - Ability to conduct abstract & concrete thinking emotional reactivity, memory, motor regulation & attachments
 - Fight or Flight responses

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

- **A scary, dangerous, violent, or life threatening event that happens to a child**
- **Children can be affected by a single event of violence or by repeated patterns of abuse**

EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

Emotional

- Inability to bond with adults or caregivers
- Inability to trust;
- Increased anger or fear

Behavioral

- Hyperactivity
- Aggressive/impulsive behaviors
- Academic difficulties
- Oppositional Defiance

Psychological

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Attachment disorders
- disassociation

IMPACTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- **Increased stress levels in the home**
 - Limited resources and activities for children
- **Accessibility to support systems**
 - Limited contact with natural supports
 - Less opportunities for spontaneous discussions

TRENDS IN SERVICE

- **Child Advocacy Center**

- Younger children in emergency rooms with more severe cases
- Less sexual assault examinations

- **Call consistency**

- Initial decrease in calls to Child Abuse Hotline

- **Less interaction with children**

- Telehealth – change in dynamic of session
- Loss of traditional opportunities to interact with children

Increasing educational opportunities for parents, caregivers and those working with children

IF A CHILD DISCLOSES.....

- **Listen** to what is being told to you
- **Reassure** the child that they have done the right thing by telling you
- Keep your **own feelings** under control
- Use the child's **own vocabulary**
- Tell the **truth**
- Be **specific**
- **Assess** the child's immediate safety
- Try to **help** the child regain control

UTILIZE YOUR RESOURCES

- **To make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect contact:**
 - Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services
 - 216-696-KIDS (5437)
- **For questions or other information contact:**
 - **National Child Abuse 24 Hour Hotline**
 - 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453)
- **Journey Center for Safety and Healing**
 - 216.391.4357 (HELP)

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Safety

- 24-Hour Helpline
- Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter
- Justice System Advocacy
- Safe & Sound Visitation Center
- Latina Domestic Violence Project

Healing

- Trauma Therapy
- Support Groups

Breaking Cycles

- Domestic Violence Education Classes
- Prevention & Education Programs
- Professional Trainings
- Systems Change Advocacy

Call or Text

216.391.4357 (HELP)

Live Chat

[Journeyneo.org](https://www.journeyneo.org)

QUESTIONS



"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE DIFFERENCE YOU
CAN MAKE IN THE
LIVES OF OTHERS.
STEP FORWARD,
REACH OUT
AND HELP.

- Pablo





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