

Child Maltreatment

Facts at a Glance

2014

Child Maltreatment

- In 2012, U.S. state and local child protective services (CPS) received an estimated 3.4 million referrals of children being abused or neglected.¹
 - CPS estimated that 686,000 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 11% were victims of other types of maltreatment, including emotional and threatened abuse, parent's drug/alcohol abuse, or lack of supervision.†
- CPS reports of child maltreatment may underestimate the true occurrence. A non-CPS study estimated that 1 in 4 U.S. children experience some form of child maltreatment in their lifetimes.²
- The total lifetime economic burden resulting from new cases of fatal and nonfatal child maltreatment in the United States is approximately \$124 billion.³

Deaths from Child Maltreatment

- In 2012, an estimated 1,640 children died from child maltreatment (rate of 2.2 per 100,000 children).¹
- Of the children who died from maltreatment in 2012, 70% experienced neglect and 44% experienced physical abuse either exclusively or in combination with another form of maltreatment.¹
- Of child maltreatment fatalities in 2012, 70% occurred among children younger than age 3.¹
- The fatality rate for boys was 2.5 per 100,000 and for girls was 1.9 per 100,000.¹
- The 2012 rates of death per 100,000 children was 4.7 for African Americans, 4.7 for Pacific Islanders, 2.2 for American Indian/Alaska Natives, 1.7 for Hispanics, 1.6 for non-Hispanic Whites, and 0.6 for Asians.¹

* *Unique count of victims.*

† *Each victim could be counted for multiple forms of maltreatment.*

Characteristics of Victims

- In 2012, 27% of victims were younger than 3 years, 20% of victims were age 3-5 years, with children younger than 1 year having the highest rate of victimization (21.9 per 1,000 children).¹
- The rates of victimization in 2012 were 8.7 per 1,000 children for boys and 9.5 per 1,000 children for girls.¹
- The 2012 rates of victimization per 1,000 children were 14.2 for African Americans, 12.4 for American Indian/Alaska Natives, 10.3 for Multiracial, 8.7 for Pacific Islanders, 8.4 for Hispanics, 8.0 for non-Hispanic Whites, and 1.7 for Asians.¹

Characteristics of Perpetrators

- Four-fifths (80.3%) of perpetrators were parents, 6.1 percent were relatives other than parents, and 4.2 percent were unmarried partners of parents.¹
- In 2012, 82% of perpetrators were between the ages of 18 and 44 years inclusive. Fewer than 3% of perpetrators were aged < 18 years; 19% were aged 18-24 years; 40% were aged 25-34 years; 23% were aged 35-44 years; 9% were aged 45-54 years; and 4% were aged 55-75.¹
- In 2012, 54% of perpetrators were women and 45% of perpetrators were men.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 2012 [online]. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office; 2012. Available from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2012.pdf>.
2. Finkelhor D, Turner HA, Ormond R, Hamby SL. Violence, crime, and abuse exposure in a national sample of children and youth: an update. *JAMA Pediatr* 2013; 167(7):614-621. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.42.
3. 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.