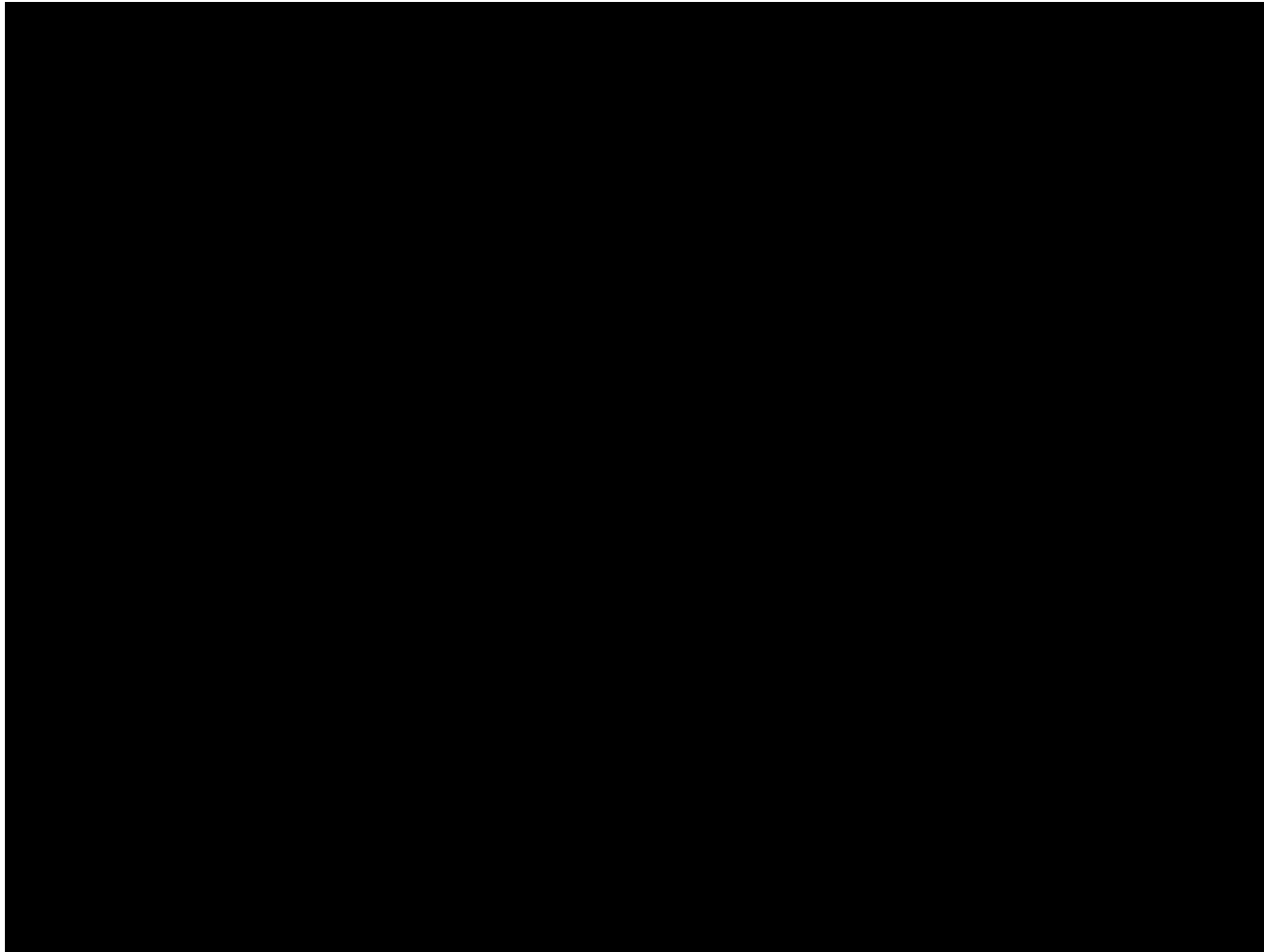


Shaken Baby Syndrome



Shaken Baby Syndrome



Child Abuse

Statistics, Types,
Prevention, & Reporting



Child Abuse in the U.S.



Child Abuse & Substance Abuse

- Nearly one-half of substantiated cases of child neglect and abuse are associated with parental alcohol or drug abuse.
- It is estimated that one in every four children in the United States (28 million) are living in a household with an alcoholic adult.
- Men and women serving time in the nation's prisons and jails report a higher incidence of abuse as children than the general populations.



In Utah . . .

- Over 37,218 complaints of child abuse and neglect are made each year.
- Last year, approximately 20,596 complaints were investigated, and 8,163 were found to have some merit.
- The most common complaints involve children who witness domestic violence and children who are sexually abused.
- Neglect accounts for 38.5 percent of children in custody.
- Substance abuse was a factor in 56 percent of children placed in foster care.



$$CHILD + CARE\ GIVER + STRESS = CHILD\ ABUSE$$

- **Coping threshold**
 - Ability to deal with stress on any given day
- Stressors can trigger child abuse; however, just because one of these stressors is present, does not mean that the child will be abused.



Stressors

- The stress associated with a child that demands a lot of time and effort
- *Abused as a child*
 - 25-35% abuse their own children, compared to 5% of parents who were not abused as children
- *Single parent*
- *Spouse is gone much of the time*



Stressors

- *Divorce*
- *Alcohol or other drugs*
- *Isolation*
 - Lives away from family, neighbors, or friends who could provide help with frustrations and some of the responsibilities of parenting.
- *Emotional immaturity*
- *Postpartum depression*
- *Low self-esteem*
 - Parent does not feel capable of parenting



Stressors

- *Unrealistic expectations*
 - Does not realize that a child cannot be toilet trained by 12 months, that children are normally messy, that two- year-olds say no just because they are two-year-olds
- *Stress of unemployment*
 - When unemployment rates go up, child abuse rates also go up
- *Financial stress*
 - 25% of those with insufficient incomes abuse their children in some way—48% are neglectful
- *Mental illness*
 - While many think this must surely be the case of people who would abuse children, this category accounts for 10-25% of child abusers



Types of Child Abuse

- Neglect – 63%
- Physical – 19%
- Sexual – 10%
- Emotional – 8%



Neglect

- Failure of parents or caretakers to provide needed age appropriate care including:
 - Food, clothing, shelter, protection from harm, and supervision appropriate to the child's development, hygiene, and medical care.



Indicators of Neglect

- Constant hunger—Begging or stealing food
- Poor hygiene
- Excessive sleepiness
- Lack of appropriate supervision
- Unattended physical problems or medical needs
- Abandonment
- Inappropriate clothing for weather conditions.



Physical Abuse

- Non-accidental injury of a child that leaves marks, scars, bruises, or broken bones.



Physical Abuse

- Unexplained bruises, burns, human bites, broken bones, missing hair, scratches
- Behavioral extremes (aggressive or withdrawn)
- Wary of physical contact with adults
- Frightened of parents
- Afraid to go home
- Layered clothing.



Sexual Abuse

- Any inappropriate sexual exposure or touch by an adult to a child or an older child to a younger child.
 - This includes, but is not limited to: fondling, sexual intercourse, sexual assault, rape, date rape, incest, child prostitution, exposure, and pornography.
 - It does not matter whether the victim was forced or tricked into any of the above, it is considered sexual abuse by the state of Utah.



Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Bruises or bleeding in rectal/genital area
- Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Drop in school performance/decline in school interest
- Unwilling to change for gym or participate in physical activities
- Promiscuous or seductive behavior
- Abrupt change in personality
- Sleep disturbances
- Regressive behavior (i.e., bed wetting).



Prevention

- *Never discipline when your angry*
- *Participate in your child's activities and get to know your child's friends.*
- *Never leave your child unattended.*
- *Teach your child the difference between "good touches," "bad touches" and "confusing touches."*
- *When your child tells you he or she doesn't want to be with someone, this could be a red flag. Listen to them and believe what they say.*
- *Be aware of changes in your child's behavior or attitude, and inquire into it*



Prevention

- *Teach your child what to do if you and your child become separated while away from home.*
- *Teach your child the correct names of his/her private body parts.*
- *Be alert for any talk that reveals premature sexual understanding.*
- *Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child.*
- *Make certain your child's school or day care center will release him/her only to you or someone you officially designate*



Reporting Abuse

- The actual incidence of abuse and neglect is estimated to be three times greater than the number reported to authorities.
- Child abuse is reported on average every 10 seconds.
- Nine in 10 Americans polled regard child abuse as a serious problem, yet only 1 in 3 reported abuse when confronted with an actual situation.



Reporting Abuse

- *Be open and understanding.*
- *Don't try to conduct an investigation, yourself.*
- *If the child tells you of the sexual abuse immediately after it occurred, DO NOT bathe the child, or wash or change his or her clothes.*
- *Let the child talk as much as he or she wishes.*
- *Understand that the child is probably having mixed feelings.*
- *Believe the child.*
- *Explain what you will do next to help them.*



Reporting

- Report the abuse.
 - Children's Justice Center (sexual abuse only)
370-8554
 - Local Police
 - Division of Child and Family Services, Daytime
374-7005, after-hours-376-8261.
- **UNDER UTAH LAW, EVERYONE HAS A LEGAL OBLIGATION TO REPORT SUSPICION OR KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD ABUSE!!!!**

