



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

IN SAFE KEEPING

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING
THE FAMILY YMCA

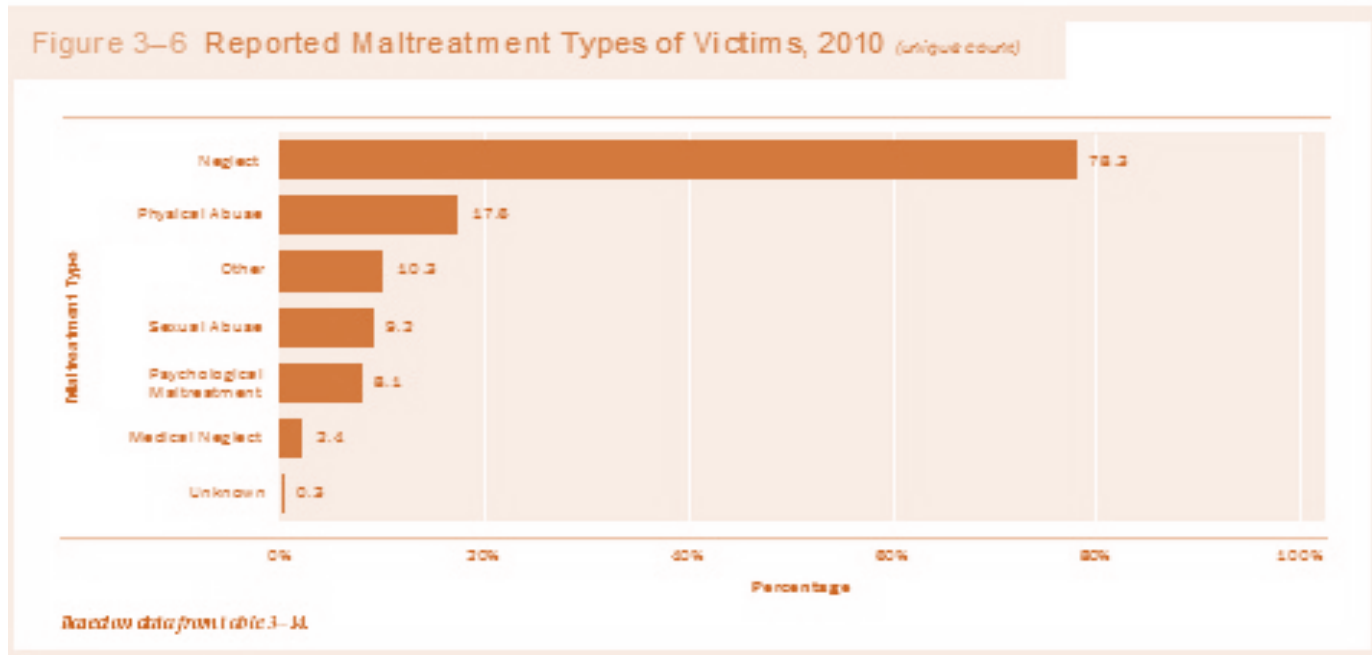


OBJECTIVES

1. PROTECT CHILDREN
2. PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ALLEGATIONS
 - Criminal and Civil charges
3. PROTECT THE Y; UNDERSTAND PHILOSOPHY AND Y POLICIES
4. YMCA'S CAN BE MAGNETS FOR PREDATORS
 - Numerous national instances of abuse at YMCAs
5. LEARN ABUSER CHARACTERISTICS
6. RECOGNIZE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS
7. LEARN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
8. HOW TO RESPOND TO DISCLOSURE

HOW PREVALENT IS CHILD ABUSE?

The US Department of Health & Human Services, based on REPORTED incidents, says it looks like this, 10 in 1000, or about 1 in 100:



However, according to “For Their Sake: Recognizing, Responding to and Reporting Child Abuse,” Becca Cowan Johnson, American Camping Association, 1992, page 5 (studies by Russell and Finkelhor):

1:3 females and 1:7 males have been abused as children

OVERVIEW

- Abuse occurs in all socio-economical instances; occurrences are greater in households under \$15K/year and single-parent homes
- Abuse occurs between adults and children
- Abuse occurs between children
- Abusers can be strangers, family members and acquaintances, staff and volunteers

Table 3–10 Victims by Perpetrator Relationship, 2010 (duplicate counts)

Perpetrator	Number	Duplicate Victims	Percent
PARENT			
Father	125,808		19.1
Father and Other	6,265		0.9
Mother	265,033		37.3
Mother and Other	29,597		3.6
Mother and Father	133,039		18.5
Total Parents	578,821		81.3
NONPARENT			
Child Daycare Provider	2,706		0.4
Rooster Parent (Female Relative)	446		0.1
Rooster Parent (Male Relative)	106		0.0
Rooster Parent (Nonrelative)	1,050		0.1
Rooster Parent (Unknown Relationship)	390		0.0
Friend and Neighbor	3,005		0.3
Legal Guardian (Female)	864		0.1
Legal Guardian (Male)	350		0.0
More than One Nonparental Perpetrator	7,131		1.0
Other Professional	869		0.1
Partner of Parent (Female)	1,940		0.3
Partner of Parent (Male)	15,993		2.3
Relative (Female)	11,625		1.6
Relative (Male)	10,091		1.4
Group Home Staff	1,133		0.2
Other	29,279		4.1
Total nonparents	95,757		13.4
UNKNOWN			
Unknown	37,928		5.3
Total Unknowns	37,928		5.3
Total	712,506		
Percent			100.0

TYPES OF ABUSE

1. PHYSICAL

- Bodily harm
- Bullying
- Withholding food, rest, water

2. EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Verbal assault endangers mental health and emotional development
- Humiliation

3. NEGLECT

- Failure to provide food, clothing, supervision, medical care
- Not ensuring safety, letting a game get too rough, or go too long

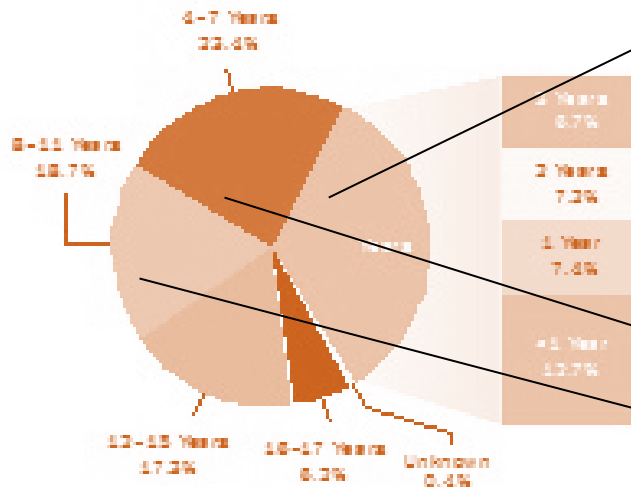
4. SEXUAL ABUSE

- Visual
- Physical

Which is most common? What age?

VICTIMS BY AGE

Figure 3–4 Victims by Age, 2010 (unique count)



Data was taken from Table 3-11

< 1 year = 12.7%
 1 year = 7.4 %
 2 years = 7.2%
 3 years = 6.7%

 34%

4-7 years = 23.4%
 8-11 years = 18.7%
 12-15 years = 17.3%
 16-17 years = 6.2%

Y PHILOSOPHY AND POLICIES

- Screening before hiring; background/reference checks
- Preventative Measures
 - Training/educate staff, parents, volunteers, teach children personal safety and assertiveness
- Control access to children
 - Sign-in and out
 - No out-of-program contact, no rides, no sleepovers, no gifts except to all
- Adherence to YMCA Code of Conduct
- Discipline
 - Positive reinforcement
 - Cut horseplay, bullying, teasing, exclusion games
 - Do not allow dangerous games to continue
- No-one-to-one contact between (children and adults)
- Always have a witness, ask last parent to stay
- No changing in front of children, stand watch over children who must change and have a witness

Y PHILOSOPHY AND POLICIES, 2

- Touching policy
 - Grandma standard: if you'd feel uncomfortable explaining to grandmother walking into the room, stop situation
 - Bathing-suit rule: no touching where suit would cover
 - Age appropriate: should be in response to need of child, not adult.
 - Inappropriate touching: caress, kiss, piggyback rides, back rubs, wrestling or roughhousing; playing mercy or "Uncle"; carrying child on hip unless 2 or under, shoulder rides, spider swing, handing on your body; playing airplane.
 - Child-initiated: 8 and under, brief warm responsive hugs ok
 - Gentle limits: 8 and under, brief hand-holding. If child plops down on lap encourage child to sit next to you, or return to another activity
 - Ensure you have a witness if child needs help with restroom or soiled clothing, leave door open, ask for assistance
- All allegations are taken seriously: suspended until cleared
- Suspicious of abuse mandates report to supervisory and state

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Signs of Physical Abuse

- Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school
- Seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver

Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury
- Describes the child as "evil," or in some other very negative way
- Uses harsh physical discipline with the child
- Has a history of abuse as a child

Signs of Neglect

- Frequently absent from school
- Begs or steals food or money
- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses
- Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States that there is no one at home to provide care

Consider the possibility of neglect when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Appears to be indifferent to the child
- Seems apathetic or depressed
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner
- Is abusing alcohol or other drugs

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS, 2

Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Difficulty walking or sitting;
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities
- Reports nightmares or bedwetting; Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex
- Is secretive and isolated
- Is jealous or controlling with family members

Signs of Emotional Maltreatment

- Extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity, or aggression; Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example); Is delayed in physical or emotional development
- Has attempted suicide; Reports a lack of attachment to the parent

Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the parent or other adult caregiver:

- Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child
- Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child's problems
- Overtly rejects the child

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

DISCLOSURE

- Indirect hints; “my friend”; disclosure with strings attached
- Separate child but keep in public view; be supportive, listen
- Confidentiality is critical for ALL involved
- Intentional act or innocent accused, mandatory “Incident” report to Y supervisor
- Suspected adult-child abuse in family is reported to state agency: NM 1-855-333-7233
- Adult-child out of family, and child-child is investigated by local police. Parent dictates calling authorities in child-child incidents.

... Group Discussions



THANK YOU

The Family YMCA
505 662 3100
www.laymca.org