Child Abuse and Neglect in Georgia

Types of Abuse

**Physical Abuse**
The non-accidental physical injury of a child; the most visible and widely recognized form of child abuse.

**Sexual Abuse**
Exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child; including touching offences such as fondling and rape, and non-touching offences such as prostitution, indecent exposure.

**Psychological (Emotional) Abuse**
Excessive or aggressive behavior that places unreasonable demands on a child to perform above his or her capabilities; usually occurs as verbal abuse; includes rejection, terrorizing, shameful forms of punishment, withholding physical and emotional contact.

**Neglect**
Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision and failure to meet emotional or psychological needs; the most common form of child abuse.

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**Maltreatment by type in Georgia in 2011**

- Medical Neglect 1,015
- Neglect 12,336
- Physical Abuse 2,375
- Psychological Abuse 4,536
- Sexual Abuse 943
- Total Maltreatments 21,205*

- **76** children died due to maltreatment in Georgia in 2011.  
- The State of Georgia is ranked as number 37 for overall child-wellbeing. This ranking includes: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community.

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**National Child Maltreatment Facts 2011**

- In 2011, more than 3.1 million children were reported as suspected victims of maltreatment.
- Child Protective Services identified 681,000 children as victims of maltreatment in the United States in 2011.
- In 2011, a nationally estimated 1,570 children died from child abuse and neglect.
- Neglect was the most common form of maltreatment suffered by children in the United States and more children died as a result of neglect than abuse in 2011.

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*Children are often times victims of more than one type of abuse

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The estimated total of direct and indirect cost of child abuse and neglect is $80 Billion.

The estimated total of direct costs of child abuse and neglect for 2012 is more than $33 Billion.

- Acute Medical Treatment $2,907,592,094
- Mental Health Care $1,153,978,175
- Child Welfare Costs $29,237,770,193
- Law Enforcement $34,279,048

The estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect in Georgia in 2012 ranges from $2 Billion to $3 Billion.4

The estimated total of indirect costs of child abuse and neglect in 2012 is nearly $47 Billion.4

- Special Education $826,174,734
- Early Intervention $247,804,537
- Emergency/Transitional Housing $1,606,866,538
- Mental Health and Health Care $270,864,199
- Juvenile Delinquency $3,416,149,283
- Adult Criminal Justice System $32,724,767,699
- Lost Worker Productivity $7,834,164,589

Ways to Help

You have the facts, so how can you help? Here are a few simple ways to support statewide efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect:

- **Report** suspected child abuse or neglect to your local Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) or law enforcement. Contact DFCS at 404-651-9361 during business hours for local agency numbers, or after 5:00 p.m. reports can be received by calling 1-855-GA CHILD (422-4453) or visit http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/county-offices.
- **Volunteer** with a local child abuse prevention program in your community.
- **Support** intensive home-visiting programs—they are proven to reduce rates of abuse and neglect.
- **Help** us spread the word. Talk with members of your community about protective factors to reduce the risk of child abuse all over Georgia.

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