

# **Child Abuse 101: Indicators of Child Abuse & Neglect**

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## **Reporting Abuse or Neglect**

To report child abuse or neglect, call Child Protection Services (CPS) at  
**1-800-800-6665**

### **Indiana Child Abuse Reports**

- Typically there are approximately 200,000+ reports in Indiana annually
- Approximately 25,000-30,000 are substantiated
- Neglect is substantiated the most often 70% to 80% of the time

### **Child Maltreatment Facilities**

- Approximately 1,800 children die nationally from maltreatment (apprx. 5 children per day)
- In Calendar Year 2018, 65 child fatalities were substantiated for abuse or neglect.
- More than 80% are 3 years old and under
- Many more “preventable” deaths

### **“Typical” Characteristics of Fatalities**

- Young children
- Both boys and girls were equally targeted with physical abuse, but more boys died from neglect
- Perpetrators were more often **natural parents**
- Perpetrators are not always the young, single parent as is often portrayed

### **Factors Contributing to Child Maltreatment**

- The Abuser
- The Child
- Stress/Precipitating factors

### **Characteristics of Maltreatment**

- Substance abuse
- Insufficient income
- Unemployment
- Lack of knowledge/parenting skills
- Family or marital discord/violent relationships
- Many “lack supervision/care” types, e.g. drowning, not being in a car seat, unsafe sleep, guns.

### **Characteristics of the Child**

- No special characteristic
- Physically, developmentally or emotionally disabled
- Special child in the family system

### **Potential Additional Stressors**

- Socially isolated
- Addictions to processes
- Abuse/neglected as a child
- Unmet mental/emotional health issue
- Unstable/overcrowded living conditions

### **What is Child Abuse?**

- “...the child/s physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to injury by the act or omission of the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian
- Evidence that illegal manufacture of a drug or controlled substance is occurring on property where a child resides creates a rebuttable presumption that the child’s physical or mental health is seriously endangered.

### **Neglect**

...The child’s physical or mental health is seriously impaired or seriously endangered as a result of the inability, refusal or neglect of the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education or supervision.

### **Indicators of Neglect include:**

- Flat, bald spots on the infant’s head

- Poor hygiene/unhealthy
- Torn, dirty or inappropriate clothing for the weather
- Developmental lags
- Underweight

### **Potential Behavioral Signs of Neglect**

- Dull, listless
- Begging/stealing/hoarding food
- Constant fatigue
- Alcohol or drug use
- Reports of being left alone, abandoned

### **Common Accidental Injuries**

- Facial scratches on babies from long fingernails
- Superficial injuries to the bony prominences
- Forehead and shin bruises

### **Typical Sites of Inflicted Injury**

- Face
- Torso, back
- Neck
- Buttocks, thighs