



**FILE COPY**

**THE FAMILY TREE**  
Where Parents Grow

## Facts on Child Abuse

Abuse and neglect has become one of the biggest threats to the lives of infants and small children in America.

- ◆ In the U.S., over 3 million kids were reported to CPS agencies as alleged victims of child maltreatment in 1997.
- ◆ Approximately 1,054,000 children were substantiated as victims of child abuse and neglect in 1997.
- ◆ More than 7,000 kids are abused or neglected every day in the U.S.
- ◆ Between 1995 and 1997, 44% of abused children died from neglect, 51% died from physical abuse and 5% died from multiple forms of maltreatment.
- ◆ There were 30,330 reports of abuse and neglect in Maryland in 1997.
- ◆ In Maryland, 42.1% of abuse results from neglect; 38.9% results from physical abuse and 16.1% results from sexual abuse.
- ◆ In the United States, 85% of deaths of children 5 years old and under are due to abuse or neglect.
- ◆ Only 5% of incidences of child abuse are ever reported.
- ◆ 77% of abused children are physically abused by their biological parents.
- ◆ 85% of abused children are abused by someone they know.
- ◆ Neglect represents the most common type of reported and substantiated form of maltreatment.
- ◆ Children under four years old are more likely to die from abuse or neglect than from motor vehicle accidents, fires, drowning, suffocation, choking or falls.
- ◆ Kids who have been neglected, abused and/or exposed to family violence are also at risk for displaying aggressive violent behavior.
- ◆ 90% of juvenile delinquents and convicts report being abused as children.
- ◆ 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- ◆ Children who were physically abused have an increased likelihood of arrest for females by 77%.
- ◆ Being abused or neglected in childhood increases the likelihood of arrest for females by 77%.
- ◆ Children in families with alcohol abuse are four times more likely to be maltreated; five times more likely to be physically neglected and ten times more likely to be emotionally neglected than children in non-alcohol abusing families.
- ◆ 50%-80% of child abuse cases involves substance abuse by the child's parents.
- ◆ Approximately 52% of victims of maltreatment are female; 48% are male.