

## The Cost of the Cycle of Child Abuse/Neglect

### Background:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Child Maltreatment*, 2004

U.S.		AR
73,089,769	Child population	1,547,260
3 Million	Reports to child abuse hotline	675,550
770,297	Substantiated Reports	7,160
872,088	Number of victims	7,344
1,387	Fatalities	12*

\*no standard for child death investigations in AR

27 % of women and 16 % of men report being abused during childhood.

*Finkelhor, et al. Child Abuse and Neglect, 1990*

Two-thirds of sex offenders in prisons were victimized as a child.

<http://www.prevent-abuse-now.com/stats.htm>

### Risks to the Child Victims:

**Immediate disability** from physical injury, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, psychological trauma.....

**Long-term disability** from delays in normal development, handicaps after physical injury, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health disorders.....

**Socio-behavioral problems** such as delinquency, criminality, substance abuse, interpersonal violence, high risk sexual behavior, teen pregnancy, perpetrating abuse.....

### Adult Health Problems ARE Linked to Adverse Childhood Experiences:

People who experience 4 or more "adverse childhood experiences" have:

1. 4-12 times increase in health risks of alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide attempts.
2. 2-4 times increase in smoking, poor self-rated health, having sexually transmitted diseases and more than 50 sexual partners.
3. 1.5 times increase in physical inactivity and obesity.

*Felitti, et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 1998.*

**Costs to the system:**

**Short-term:**

1. Children hospitalized with a diagnosis of child abuse/neglect average \$10,000 more per hospitalization, have twice the number of co-morbidities, are 9 times as likely to die during hospitalization, and are more likely to be covered by state Medicaid coverage compared to other hospitalized children.

*Rovi, et al. American Journal of Public Health, 2004*

2. Newborns born to mothers who use illegal drugs during pregnancy stay an average of 7 days longer at a cost of \$7,731 more than infants not exposed to drugs.

*Joyce, et al. Health Serv Res, 1995*

**Long-term (cumulative):**

**Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States:**

1. **Direct costs** of hospitalization, chronic health problems, mental health care treatment, child welfare expenses, law enforcement, judicial = **\$24.4 Billion**

**Indirect costs** of special education needs, mental and health care of victims as adults, juvenile delinquency, lost production to society, adult criminality = **\$69.7 Billion**

**Total costs to U.S. in 2001 = \$94.1 Billion**

(U.S. population = 295.7 Million people)

*Prevent Child Abuse America, 2001*

[http://member.preventchildabuse.org/site/DocServer/cost\\_analysis.pdf?docID=144](http://member.preventchildabuse.org/site/DocServer/cost_analysis.pdf?docID=144)

**Cost for AR proportion of population = \$856 Million**

(AR population = 2.7 Million people)

2. **The Michigan Experience** (population of 9.9 Million people)

Low birth weight babies	\$255.9 M
Medical treatment of child abuse	\$4.98 M
Costs of "potential life lost" from fatal child abuse	\$45.8 M
Special education costs for child abuse victims	\$6.46 M
Child welfare expenses	\$37.9 M
Foster Care	\$74 M
Juvenile Justice	\$207 M
Adult criminality of child abuse victims	\$174.65 M
Psychological problems of child abuse victims	\$16 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$823 M</b>

<http://www.msu.edu/user/bob/cost.html>

**\*\*Costs are difficult to calculate, but undoubtedly significant. Every system must decide if they will spend REACTIVELY to the problem after it happens, or PROACTIVELY on risk factors/causes in an attempt to keep the long-term effects and costs on the system minimized instead of maximized.**

*Karen Farst, MD: UAMS, Department of Pediatrics, Center for Children at Risk*

### Child Services Questionnaire

This is a brief survey questionnaire to gather information about initial services for children suspected of being abused or neglected. We are not asking for any identifying information, so your response is anonymous and confidential. Your response to this survey is very valuable in providing information essential to the provision or modification of services to the most vulnerable members of our society.

Age \_\_\_\_\_, years of experience on (a) this police force \_\_\_\_\_, and (b) on any police force \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_, marital status \_\_\_\_\_, how many children do you have \_\_\_\_\_

Education in years \_\_\_\_\_, rank on the police force \_\_\_\_\_, job title \_\_\_\_\_

For how many years on the police force have you dealt with calls on abuse and neglect (a) of children \_\_\_\_\_; (b) of adults \_\_\_\_\_.

**The following questions deal only with children** (the more details you provide, the better information we have for providing and remedying services for children)

1. During this year, about how many child abuse or neglect calls have you been on (a) this month \_\_\_\_\_; (b) during May \_\_\_\_\_; (c) during April \_\_\_\_\_ (d) during March \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1a. How many of these calls required referral for investigation by the state police (a) during this month \_\_\_\_\_, (b) during May \_\_\_\_\_, (c) during April \_\_\_\_\_, (d) during March \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1b. Of these referrals to state police, how many were on weekends (a) this month \_\_\_\_\_; (b) during May \_\_\_\_\_; (c) during April \_\_\_\_\_; (d) during March \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you experienced problems in contacting the state police for referrals regarding child abuse or neglect \_\_\_\_\_yes; \_\_\_\_\_no
  - 2a. If yes, how many times (a) this month \_\_\_\_\_; (b) during May \_\_\_\_\_; (c) during April \_\_\_\_\_; (d) during March \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many times have you experienced **each** of these problems with state police immediately responding to child abuse or neglect calls since March, 2006 \_\_\_\_\_ I have had **NO** problems

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weekends</b>
a. did not answer the phone	_____	_____
b. left voice message, but no one called back	_____	_____
c. no one could help me	_____	_____
d. left message with someone, but no one got back to me	_____	_____
e. long delay in response	_____	_____
f. no one seemed to take the referral seriously enough	_____	_____
g. no one seemed to really understand what to do	_____	_____
please explain your response to g in detail _____		

What other problems have you had in making child abuse or neglect referrals to state police (please present detailed information) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you experienced problems with the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) regarding child abuse or neglect \_\_\_\_yes; \_\_\_\_no\_\_\_\_;
- 2a. If yes, how many times (a) this month\_\_\_\_; (b) during May\_\_\_\_; (c) during April\_\_\_\_; (d) during March\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many times have you experienced **each** of these problems with DHHS responding to child abuse or neglect cases since March, 200  
\_\_\_\_\_ I have had **NO problems**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weekends</b>
a. did not answer the phone	_____	_____
b. left voice message, but no one called back	_____	_____
c. no one could help me	_____	_____
d. left message with someone, but no one got back to me	_____	_____
e. long delay in response	_____	_____
f. no one seemed to take the referral seriously enough	_____	_____
g. no one seemed to really understand to what to do	_____	_____

please explain your response to g in detail \_\_\_\_\_

What other problems have you had in making child abuse or neglect referral to DHHS (please present detailed information) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think should be done to remedy the **each** problem you have identified with referrals to the state police (please present as much detail as possible) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think should be done to remedy the **each** problem you **have** identified with the Department of Health (please present as much detail as possible) \_\_\_\_\_

About how many times in the past year have you or other officers had to take a child to your home or find another temporary care-giver \_\_\_\_\_; why did you have to do this (explain problem with DHHS or State Police Hotline) \_\_\_\_\_

How long was the child in this situation \_\_\_\_\_; was it during the week, or on the weekend \_\_\_\_\_

What are the key problems with child abuse and neglect referrals to the state police and DHHS?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_