

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



CHILD ABUSE CAN BE FATAL

Each day in the US, more than 3 children die as a result of child abuse in the home.

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System reported an estimated 1,300 child fatalities in 2001.

In 2001 children younger than 1 year accounted for 41% of fatalities, while children younger than 6 years accounted for 85% of fatalities.

In 2001, male children accounted for 56% of fatalities and female children accounted for 44% of fatalities.

Almost all child fatalities (93% in 2001) are associated with physical abuse or neglect, as opposed to other types of child maltreatment.

In 2001, one or both parents were involved in 83% of child abuse or neglect fatalities.

The rate of infant homicide reached a 30-year high in 2000.

OFFENDERS

In 2001 81% of victims were abused by a parent.

Among child rape victims less than 12 years of age, 90% of the children knew the offender.

Forty percent of the offenders who sexually assaulted children under age 6 were juveniles (under the age of 18). Seventy-one percent were under 35 years of age.

VICTIMS

In 2001 half of all child abuse victims were White (50.2%); a quarter (25.0%) were African American; and a sixth (14.5%) were Hispanic. Native Americans and Alaska Natives accounted for 2% of victims, and Asian-Pacific Islanders accounted for 1.3% of victims.

One of every seven victims of sexual assault reported to law enforcement agencies were under age six.

EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

Boys who witness violence against their mothers are ten times more likely to abuse their female partners as adults, than boys raised in nonviolent homes.

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EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN (continued)

Children from homes where domestic violence occurs are physically or sexually abused or seriously neglected at a rate 15 times higher than the national average. Between 50 % and 75% of male batterers also abuse their children. 40% of suspected child abuse also includes a history of domestic violence in the child's family.

Women are 8 times more likely to hurt their children when they are being abused than when they are safe from violence.

Children from violent homes have higher risks of drug and alcohol abuse and juvenile delinquency.

63% of boys, ages 11 to 20, arrested for homicide, have killed their mother's assaulter.

70% of men in court-ordered treatment for domestic violence witnessed it as a child.