

# CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT





Child Trends, founded in 1979, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center dedicated to improving the lives of children and their families by conducting research and providing science-based information to the public and decision-makers.

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# Introduction

**This handbook is intended as a resource for journalists who cover child abuse and neglect cases and child welfare stories.** Its purpose is to provide quick and useful references to background and contextual information and to promote better understanding of the complex issues related to child welfare.

It is often difficult for the media to cover stories of child maltreatment. Cases may arise unexpectedly and require quick action to identify relevant sources and national experts. Reporters who are familiar with the complexities of child welfare and family courts may need a list of sources they can contact on short notice. Others may benefit from guidance about organizations and individuals who are knowledgeable about child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and prevention strategies and who can provide timely information quickly.

This material is designed not only to help journalists find resource materials but also to stimulate more thoughtful coverage of child abuse stories. A local case of child neglect may or may not call attention to the lack of resources to support families under stress. Controversies over the determination of custody rights for children may raise interest in promising practices that can help parents who are struggling with addiction, poverty, or their own history of maltreatment care for their children during difficult times. These types of stories may not offer front-page news, but opportunities to develop them may emerge when patterns of abuse occur within a community or when public attention is drawn to the complexities of families in crisis. Ongoing coverage when there is no crisis may help communities think through approaches to prevent abuse and neglect, or to address abuse and neglect more effectively.

More than 3 million reports of child abuse and neglect, concerning 5 million children, are received annually by state- or county-based child protective services agencies in the United States. In 2001, more than 903,000 children were found to be substantiated victims of child maltreatment. More than half of these children suffered from neglect (534,000, 59.2 percent, including medical neglect). The remaining children were victims of physical abuse (170,000, 19 percent), sexual abuse (almost 90,000, 10 percent), and emotional or psychological abuse (about 60,000, 7 percent).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2003) *Child Maltreatment 2001*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Nearly 550,000 children live with foster parents. Most of those children (more than 250,000, 48 percent) reside in formal foster care arrangements. About one-quarter (130,000, 24 percent) live with relatives under agency-supervised placements, also called kinship care.<sup>2</sup> The remaining children are placed in other residential settings, including group homes or pre-adoptive homes.

Only a handful of child abuse and neglect stories receive media attention. The stories that appear in print and broadcast media often involve sensational cases that have tragic elements of disturbing injuries or even death. These extreme cases are rare occurrences within the large volume of daily cases of substantiated or indicated maltreatment. More frequently, child abuse and neglect cases involve chronic conditions in which parents, facing issues of instability or impairment, are not able to provide basic nurturance and care for their children. Chronic poverty, unemployment, mental health disorders, substance abuse, homelessness, substandard housing, and community violence are all significant factors contributing to cases of abuse and neglect.



Incidents of child abuse and neglect can occur in many different types of social and economic settings. However, reported cases tend to cluster within certain geographic areas or neighborhoods that are marked by other signs of disadvantage, violence, and decay. Placing a child maltreatment story within the broader context of family life or a neighborhood situation can help illustrate both the presence — and the absence — of risk and protective factors that affect the lives of those who care for children. Follow-up or “take-out” stories provide useful opportunities to address contextual issues and describe data sources that can help inform readers about the underlying issues associated with abuse and neglect.

## *Child Abuse and Neglect*

In 2001, about 903,000 children in the United States were substantiated victims of abuse and neglect. Although the rates of victimization declined through the 1990s, to a low of 11.8 victims

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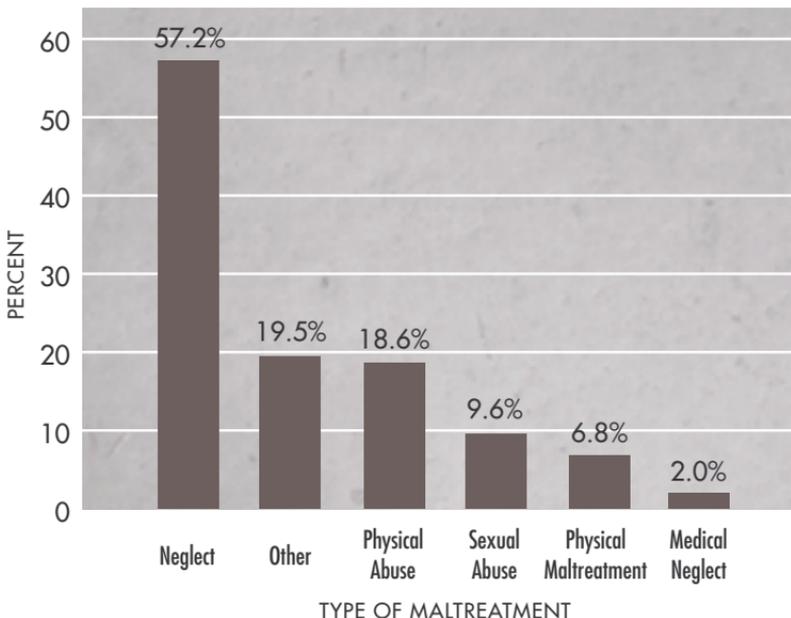
<sup>2</sup>National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. (2003, June). *Foster Care National Statistics*. Available online at: <http://nccanch.cf.hhs.gov/pubs/factsheets/foster.cfm>

per 1,000 children in 1999 (it increased slightly to 12.4 per 1,000 children in 2001), still each year nearly a million substantiated cases are documented. Reports of abuse and neglect are assessed by local child protection agencies, which use a variety of sources such as hot lines, school or medical reports, or calls from concerned neighbors or family members. More than 3 million such reports are made annually, although less than half of those reports are actually investigated by child protection agencies. Reports may not be accepted for investigation because they are the responsibility of other agencies, because of insufficient data or supporting evidence, because of agency workload, and for other reasons.

### ***Types of Abuse***

Four types of abuse and neglect are commonly recognized as forms of child maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological or emotional maltreatment. More than half of the substantiated cases involve victims of child neglect. Many cases of child maltreatment also involve multiple forms of abuse and neglect.

**Percentage of Victims by Maltreatment Type, 2001**

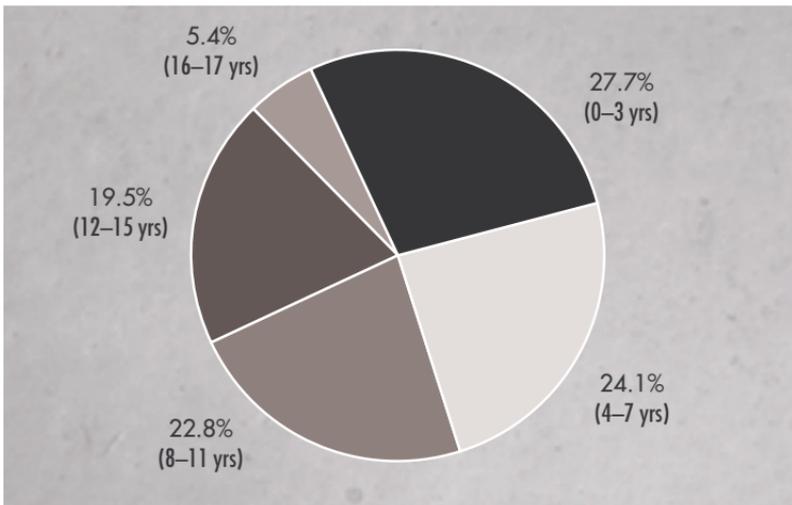


Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2003). *Child Maltreatment 2001*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## ***Demographic Characteristics of Victims***

Most victims of child maltreatment are very young. In 2001, about 28 percent of child maltreatment victims were aged 0–3 years, while 5.4 percent of victims were aged 16–17 years. The rate of victimization tends to decrease as age increases; this decrease has been the trend during the past 5 years. About an equal number of males (48 percent) and females (52 percent) are victims.

**Percentage Distribution of Maltreatment Victims by Age Group, 2001**



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2003). *Child Maltreatment 2001*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## ***Definitions of Child Maltreatment***

There is no single, universally applied definition of child maltreatment. Definitions of child abuse and neglect can be found in federal and state laws, medical protocols, social service agency regulations, and research studies. This URL leads to a search engine that indexes state-specific child maltreatment laws and definitions:<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/statespecific/index.cfm>

## RESOURCES ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### **Child Maltreatment Reports**

WEB: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cmreports.htm>

PHONE: 301.881.2590, x310 (Ying-Ying Yuan, Vice President, Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc.)

Published annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, these reports contain national- and state-level data on reports, victims, perpetrators, fatalities, and services. The annual reports are derived from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), which contains data collected and reported by states to the federal government. Though variations exist because of differences in state definitional and reporting standards and in data collection practices, the federal reports provide an authoritative source of national data on child abuse and neglect.

### **Child Trends DataBank**

WEB: <http://www.childtrends databank.org>

PHONE: 202.572.6052 (Brett Brown)

This is a continuously updated online resource providing information on more than 80 indicators of child and youth well-being. Child maltreatment is one of the indicators that the DataBank tracks. Also posted on the site is a data brief titled “Violence in the Lives of Children,” which includes a brief section on child abuse and neglect.

### ***Child Trends’ Guide to Effective Programs for Children and Youth***

WEB: <http://www.childtrends.org/Lifecourse/index>

PHONE: 202.572.6014 (Elizabeth Hair)

Based on extensive research by Child Trends, this electronic resource presents, in a user-friendly format, information on programs found to “work” to enhance children’s development. Because many of these programs seek to prevent threats to children’s well-being — and child abuse and neglect clearly pose such a threat — this guide may identify programs and approaches that can help prevent child abuse and neglect.

## Child Trends Research Brief

*The Multiple Dimensions of Child Abuse and Neglect:  
New Insights into an Old Problem* (May 2002)

WEB: <http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/ChildAbuseRB.pdf>

PHONE: 202.572.6042 (Richard Wertheimer)

### *Foster Care*

Children are removed temporarily or permanently from their parents if their caregivers cannot meet minimal standards of safety and care for the child. In 2001, an estimated 542,000 children were residing in foster care. About half of those children (48 percent) were placed in foster family homes (nonrelative), and

about one quarter (24 percent) lived in relative foster homes (also called kinship care). The remaining quarter lived in many different settings such as group homes or institutions (18 percent), pre-adoptive homes (4 percent), and other placement settings (6 percent). This distribution of placement settings has remained relatively unchanged since 1998.

These statistics refer only to the population of children who reside in formal foster care placements. In many situations, children who experience abuse and neglect may be placed with other family members, neighbors, or friends through informal caregiving arrangements. No state or national

data are available to describe the nature or prevalence of informal residential arrangements for children in out-of-home care, which may extend from a few days or weeks to many years.

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**“More editors as  
decision-makers  
need to be  
involved and  
(they) need this  
kind of inside  
information in  
their arsenal.”**

Rachel Jones  
Health Reporter, NPR

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## RESOURCES ON FOSTER CARE

### **Foster Care National Statistics**

WEB: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/factsheets/foster.cfm>

PHONE: 800.394.3366 (General number)

## **Demographics of Children in Foster Care**

WEB: <http://pewfostercare.org/research/docs/Demographics0903.pdf>

PHONE: 202.687.0697 (Gina Russo, Communications Director)

## **Kinship (Relative) Care**

WEB: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/900661.pdf>

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310893\\_snapshots3\\_no14.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310893_snapshots3_no14.pdf)

PHONE: 202.261.5709 (Latricia Gooden, public affairs)

202.261.5369 (Jennifer Ehrle, researcher)

202.261.5822 (Rob Geen, researcher)

## **Child Trends Research Briefs**

*Youth Who “Age Out” of Foster Care: Troubled Lives, Troubling Prospects* (December 2002)

WEB: <http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/FosterCareRB.pdf>

PHONE: 202.572.6042 (Richard Wertheimer)

*Children in Foster Homes: How Are They Faring?*  
(December 2003)

WEB: <http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/FosterhomesRB.pdf>

PHONE: 202.572.6044 (Sharon Vandivere)

## *Roadmap of the Child Welfare Process*

Navigating the child welfare system can be a major challenge. The following two documents outline what happens to children as they travel through the child welfare system. Flow charts, statistics, and references are provided.

### **“How Does the Child Welfare System Work?”**

WEB: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/factsheets/cpswork.cfm>

PHONE: 800.394.3366 (General number)

### **“A Child’s Journey through the Child Welfare System”**

WEB: <http://pewfostercare.org/docs/index.php?DocID=24>

PHONE: 202.687.0697 (Gina Russo, Communications Director)

## *Advocacy Organizations*

Many advocacy organizations are involved in examining both child welfare services and recommended reforms. Because Child Trends is a nonpartisan research organization, the following listing does not imply endorsement.

### **Children's Defense Fund**

WEB: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/>

PHONE: 202.628.8787 (General number)

This well-known private, nonprofit children's advocacy organization seeks to educate the nation about the mental, physical, spiritual, educational, and economic needs of children, especially poor children, minority children, and children with disabilities. It also strives to encourage preventive investments to ward off threats to children's well-being.

### **Children's Rights, Inc.**

WEB: <http://www.childrensrights.org/>

PHONE: 212.683.2210 (General number)

Children's Rights is a national organization that works to promote and protect the rights of abused and neglected children by pressuring "failing" foster care systems to reform their policies and operations. Toward this end, the group uses policy analysis, public education, and the power of the courts.

### **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)**

WEB: <http://www.cwla.org/>

PHONE: 202.942.0244 (Joyce Johnson)

CWLA is the nation's oldest child welfare organization. It is also the largest membership-based organization in the field, encompassing nearly 1,200 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist more than 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with services. CWLA seeks to engage the public in promoting the well-being of children, youth, and their families and protecting children and youth from harm.

## **Heritage Foundation**

WEB: <http://www.heritage.org/>

PHONE: 202.675.1761 (Media hotline)

This research and educational institution — or “think tank” — formulates and promotes conservative public policies, drawing on principles of free enterprise, limited government, a strong national defense, individual freedom, and traditional American values. Child abuse is one of the social issues that it has addressed through its publications, lectures, and congressional testimony.

## **National Coalition for Child Protection Reform (NCCPR)**

WEB: <http://www.nccpr.org/index.html>

PHONE: 703.212.2006 (General number)

As indicated by its name, this organization of professionals in the child welfare field advocates for systemic reform in the child welfare system. NCCPR focuses specifically on changing child abuse, foster care, and family preservation policies to make them more responsive to the needs of vulnerable children.

## **Prevent Child Abuse America**

WEB: <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/>

PHONE: 312.663.3520 (General number)

This private, nonprofit organization works to build awareness about how child abuse and neglect can be prevented and provides leadership to promote and implement local and national prevention efforts. It has chapters in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

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**“I can't wait to get this booklet so that I can keep it inside my valuable address/telephone number book in the top drawer of my desk.”**

Barbara White Stack  
Reporter  
*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

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## *Legal Issues*

Covering child welfare stories often leads reporters to ask legal questions. Legal issues are generally handled at the state or local level, and providing information on legal procedures and resources is beyond the scope of this publication. However, when seeking information from both public and private gatekeepers, keep in mind that privacy and confidentiality restrictions may apply to some data sources, but “no” is not always the answer. Several states allow child welfare officials to comment on specific cases under certain circumstances. The following two organizations provide information that can help you, as a journalist, to navigate the legal complexities of child welfare. In addition, under the Family Courts heading, we list a journalist with extensive experience in this area who can serve as a valuable resource.

### **American Bar Association (ABA) Center on Children and the Law**

WEB: <http://www.abanet.org/child/home.html>

PHONE: 312.988.6171 (In Chicago)

202.662.1090 (In Washington, D.C.)

(Both numbers are for the Media Relations Division)

This center, a program of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division, provides technical assistance, training, and research that address law and court-related topics affecting children. Among these topics are child abuse and neglect, and foster and kinship care.

### **National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information “Legal Issues and Laws”**

WEB: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/index.cfm>

PHONE: 800.394.3366 (General number)

This URL provides access to information on federal legislation, state statutes, and legal resources related to child welfare.

### **Family Courts**

PHONE: 412.263.1878 (for Barbara White Stack, a reporter who has navigated complex family court systems and has provided the information presented below.)

E-MAIL: [bwhitestack@post-gazette.com](mailto:bwhitestack@post-gazette.com)



In practice, the following states allow reporters to be present at court hearings regarding abuse and neglect: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

This list is based on contact with court officials in every state, not just on legislative language or judicial proclamations. The language of some legislation suggests that the hearings are open, but as a matter of practice, they are not.

Some caveats exist, however. Arizona, Nevada, and Utah passed legislation in 2003 that permits reporters to cover some, but not all, hearings. In most cases, reporters can cover hearings in some counties, but not others within the state. In Ohio, there are conflicting appeals court decisions, one permitting access and one denying it. Some Ohio judges allow open hearings, while others do not. Hearings are open in Florida, with the exception of termination of parental rights proceedings. Illinois and New Mexico permit access to the media only, not to members of the public. Further, in New Mexico, reporters are forbidden to identify parents or children. In many states, some individual judges will grant access to hearings, but most will not.

In general, reporters should know their state's situation before trying to cover a hearing. In some cases, although hearings are supposed to be open, judges may use their discretion to close them. Reporters should know what their rights are and whether their newspapers will support them by filing an appeal to a decision to close a hearing in a state with an open hearings policy.

States that have adopted legislation to close child welfare hearings are: Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

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**"The Web sites are good tools to use, and I am grateful you are compiling them in one spot."**

Jack Kresnak  
Reporter, *Detroit Free Press*

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## *National or State Information*

### **Federal: Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR)**

WEB: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt/index.htm>

PHONE: None listed.

Reviews of state child welfare agencies are conducted and administered by the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. State programs are determined to be in substantial conformity with federal requirements on the basis of measurements of child outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being. (Such measurements are based on the requirements set forth in the Adoption and Safe Families Act).

### **Program Improvement Plans (PIPs)**

If the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services finds that states are not in substantial conformity in their Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR), those states must develop Program Improvement Plans (PIPs). All PIPs, once approved, are maintained electronically at the Clearinghouse and are available upon request at 800.394.3366 or [nccanch@caliber.com](mailto:nccanch@caliber.com). See also, *Improving the Performance and Outcomes of Child Welfare through State Program Improvement Plans (PIPs): The Real Opportunity of the Child and Family Services Review* for background information and for five state case studies.

WEB: [http://www.cssp.org/uploadFiles/2515\\_CSSP\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cssp.org/uploadFiles/2515_CSSP_FINAL.pdf)

PHONE: 202.371.1565 (General number for Center for the Study of Social Policy, or CSSP)

### **The 2003 Green Book**

WEB: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/dis/tables/sec11gb/>

(This URL links to Section 11: Child Protection, Foster Care, & Adoption Assistance.)

The 2003 publication of the House Committee on Ways and Means presents background information and statistics on major entitlement programs and major social programs. It is available at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Documents.asp?section=813>

## **State Human Service Agency Information and Links**

WEB: <http://www.aphsa.org/links/statecontacts.asp>

PHONE: 202.682.0100 (In Washington, D.C.)

## **NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSES**

### **National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (NCCAN)**

WEB: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/>

PHONE: 800.394.3366

### **NCCAN Resource Lists**

WEB: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/reslist/resource.cfm>

PHONE: 800.394.3366

### **National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare**

WEB: <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov>

PHONE: None listed.

### **National Adoption Information Clearinghouse**

WEB: <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>

EMAIL: [naic@caliber.com](mailto:naic@caliber.com)

PHONE: 703.352.3488 (In Virginia); 888.251.0075 (toll-free)

### **National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth**

WEB: <http://www.ncfy.com/>

PHONE: 301.608.8098 (In Maryland)

## *Other Useful Web Sites*

### **American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)**

WEB: <http://www.aphsa.org/>

PHONE: 202.682.0100, x288 (Carole Zimmerman, Deputy Executive Director of Communications)

APHSA is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization of individuals and agencies concerned with human services. Members include all state and many territorial human service agencies, more than 1,200 local agencies, and several thousand individuals who work in or otherwise have an interest in human service programs. APHSA educates the members of Congress, the media, and the broader public on what is happening in the states concerning welfare, child welfare, health care reform, and other issues involving families and the elderly.

### **Board on Children, Youth, and Families (BOCYF)**

WEB: <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bocyf/>

PHONE: 202.334.1230 (In Washington, D.C.) (Rosemary Chalk, Director)

BOCYF is part of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine. It provides studies on a variety of policy-relevant issues related to the health and development of children, youth, and families by convening experts who weigh in on matters from the perspective of the behavioral, social, and health sciences.

### **Center for the Law and Social Policy (CLASP)**

WEB: <http://www.clasp.org/>

PHONE: 202.906.8013 (John Hutchins, Communications Director)

CLASP is a national nonprofit organization that provides technical assistance and conducts research, policy analysis, and advocacy on issues related to economic security for low-income families with children.

### **Child Welfare**

WEB: <http://www.childwelfare.com/>

PHONE: 213.743.2429. (In Los Angeles)

This gateway site provides information and links to state-based data sources on adoption, foster care, child protective service reports, and more.

### **Children and Family Research Center**

WEB: <http://cfrcwww.social.uiuc.edu/>

PHONE: 217.333.5837 (In Urbana-Champaign)  
312.641.2505, x34 (In Chicago) (Jess McDonald is a contact.)

The center conducts and supports research that contributes to keeping children safe, ensuring permanent homes for children, and supporting child and family well-being.

### **Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics**

WEB: <http://www.childstats.gov/>

PHONE: None listed.

This site provides access to federal and state statistics and reports on children and their families with information about population and family characteristics, economic security, education, health, behavior, and social environment.

### ***Future of Children***

WEB: <http://www.futureofchildren.org/>

PHONE: 650.917.7110

This site presents special issues of the journal on *Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect* (Volume 8, Number 1, Spring 1998), and on *Children, Families, and Foster Care* (Volume 13, Number 2, Fall 2003).

### **North American Resource Center for Child Welfare (NARCCW)**

WEB: <http://www.ihc-trainet.com/Pages/CCWP.html>

PHONE: 614.252.0725 (In Columbus, Ohio)

NARCCW is an education and research center with a mission to promote “best practices” through the formulation and dissemination of policy addressing the most important, difficult, and controversial practice issues and dilemmas in child welfare.

### **The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care**

WEB: <http://pewfostercare.org/>

PHONE: 202.687.0948 (In Washington, D.C.)

This two-year Commission is charged with making recommendations to improve federal foster care financing mechanisms and to improve court oversight of child welfare cases. A final report with recommendations is expected in 2004.

# *General Information on Children's Issues*

## **America's Children Report**

WEB: <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/>

PHONE: None listed

This report examines child well-being, including indicators of economic security, health status, education, behavior, and social environment.

## ***Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children and Youth***

WEB: <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/hsp/02trends/>

PHONE: None listed.

This volume presents the most recent and reliable estimates on more than 80 indicators of well-being. Its intent is to provide the policy community, the media, and all interested citizens with an accessible overview of data describing the condition of children in the United States.

## **Child Trends DataBank**

WEB: <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>

PHONE: 202.572.6052 (Brett Brown)

This site is a source of continually updated trend data on children in the following areas: health, social and emotional development, income, assets and work, education and skills, demographics, and family and community. In addition to national data, the site provides links to state and local data, when available.

## **KIDS COUNT**

WEB: <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/>

PHONE: 410.547.6600 (General number for Annie E. Casey Foundation; ask for KIDS COUNT project.)

KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. It tracks the status of children in the United States. At the national level, its principal activity is the publication of the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, which uses

“the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children state by state.” The Foundation also funds a national network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects to provide a more detailed county-by-county picture of the condition of children. The first national data book was published in 1990.

## *Sources for Enhancing Stories*

### **“Stakeholder” Organizations**

As with the section of this handbook on advocacy organizations, inclusion on this list is for information purposes and should not necessarily be taken as an endorsement by Child Trends.

**Adult Survivors Resource Listing**, from the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information.

WEB: [http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/reslist/rl\\_dsp.cfm?subjID=41](http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/reslist/rl_dsp.cfm?subjID=41)

PHONE: 800.394.3366 (General number)

The site provides contact information for a sampling of organizations that have information on adult survivors of child abuse.

### **National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)**

WEB: <http://www.nbcdi.org>

PHONE: 202.833.2220 (In Washington, D.C.)

TOLL-FREE: 800.556.2234

NBCDI is a nonprofit organization that provides and supports programs, workshops, and resources for African American children, their families, and communities. In keeping with its mission to improve and protect the lives of children, the organization focuses particular attention on the areas of early health and education, health, elementary and secondary education, child welfare, and parenting.

## **National Foster Parent Association (NFPA)**

WEB: <http://www.nfpainc.org>

PHONE: 253.853.4000 (In the state of Washington)

TOLL-FREE: 800.557.5238

NFPA provides support for and advocacy on behalf of the nation's foster parents and brings together foster parents and representatives from agencies and communities who are concerned with improving the foster care system and enhancing the lives of children and families. The organization also provides information on how to become a foster parent.

## **National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)**

WEB: <http://www.nicwa.org>

PHONE: 503.222.4044 (In Oregon)

NICWA is a national, private nonprofit organization that develops, provides, and disseminates information on American Indian child welfare and efforts to improve the well-being of American Indian children and their families. The organization's services include facilitating child abuse prevention efforts in tribal communities.

## **Parents Anonymous® Inc.**

WEB: <http://www.parentsanonymous.org>

PHONE: 909.621.6184 (In California)

Parents Anonymous® Inc. is a national child abuse prevention organization. It may be best known for the parent support groups that it sponsors, which seek to strengthen families and to improve outcomes for children who may be at risk for child abuse.

## **Stop It Now!**

WEB: <http://www.stopitnow.org>

PHONE: 413.268.3096 (In Massachusetts)

TOLL-FREE: 188.8PR.VENT

Stop It Now! is a nonprofit organization that seeks "to help end the sexual abuse of children within our generation." Accordingly, the organization has launched a campaign to encourage sex abusers or potential abusers to seek help and to get family members of abusers or potential abusers to confront inappropriate sexual conduct within their families.

## **“Media Friendly” Experts**

**Doug Besharov**, *Director, Welfare Reform Academy, University of Maryland School of Public Affairs, and Senior Scholar, American Enterprise Institute.*

WEB: <http://www.puaf.umd.edu/faculty/people/besharovm.html>

PHONE: 301.405.6341 (In Maryland)

**Rosemary Chalk**, *Director, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, The National Academies.*

WEB: <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bocyf/>

PHONE: 202.334.1230 (In Washington, D.C.)

**James Craigen**, *Chair, Social Service Management, Community Organization, and Social Welfare, Howard University School of Social Work*

WEB: <http://www.socialwork.howard.edu/SW/Administration.htm>

PHONE: 202.866.7424 (In Washington, D.C.)

**Carol Emig**, *Executive Director, The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care*

WEB: <http://pewfostercare.org/>

PHONE: 202.687.0948 (In Washington, D.C.)

**David Finkelhor**, *Director, Crimes Against Children Research Center and Professor, University of New Hampshire*

WEB: <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/>

PHONE: 603.862.2761 (In New Hampshire)

**Richard Gelles**, *Dean, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania*

WEB: <http://www.ssw.upenn.edu/>

PHONE: 215.898.5541 (In Philadelphia)

**Gary Melton**, *Professor and Director, Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, Clemson University*

WEB: <http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/ifnl/index.htm>

PHONE: 864.656.6271 (In South Carolina)

**Susan Notkin**, *Director, The Center for the Study of Community Partnerships in Child Welfare*

WEB: <http://www.cssp.org/center/index.html>

PHONE: 212.979.2369 (In New York City)

**Carol Wilson Spigner**, *Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania*

WEB: <http://www.ssw.upenn.edu/>

PHONE: 215.898.2507 (In Philadelphia)

## ***Media Handbook Contributors***

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Kathy Slobogin, *CNN Presents*

Cheryl Wetzstein, *Washington Times*





4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 350

Washington, DC 20008

Phone 202-572-6000

Fax 202-362-8420

[www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)

[www.childtrendsdatabank.org](http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org)