

# National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April

is dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse.

Approximately **1.9 million** children received prevention services in 2024. About **1 in 7** children experienced, child abuse and neglect in the last year.

## How big is the problem?

Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are **5 times higher** for children in families with low socioeconomic status compared to children in families with higher socioeconomic status.

## Most Common Type?

Neglect is the most common form of maltreatment, accounting for roughly 75–79% of cases.



**Physical abuse** is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.

**Emotional abuse** refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Examples include name-calling, shaming, rejection, withholding love, and threatening.

Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care.





## Potential Indicators of Child Abuse

### Neglect:

- Poor hygiene
- Malnourish or hunger
- Poor school attendance

### Emotional Abuse:

- Low self- esteem
- Regression in behavior
- Sudden changes in behavior or personality

### Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained injuries
- Fear of adults or physical contact

### Psychological Abuse:

- Belittling the child
- Isolation
- Threats of harm or abandonment

## Duty to Report Suspected Child Abuse in the State of Texas

Texas law requires anyone with knowledge of suspected child abuse or neglect to **\*\*report it to the appropriate authorities.** **This mandatory reporting applies to all individuals.** Those who work for an agency or facility licensed or certified by the state and have contact with children as a result of their normal duties, such as teachers, nurses, doctors, and day-care employees, must report the abuse or neglect within 48 hours.

**\*\*The report may be made to any local or state law enforcement agency; or the Department of Family and Protective Services.**



## THE EFFECTS OF CHILD ABUSE

- 1 Impaired brain development
- 2 Poor physical health
- 3 Psychological issues
- 4 Relationship issues
- 5 Substance abuse
- 6 Behavioral issues
- 7 Abusive to others