

The month of April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child Abuse:

Definition – “Child abuse means a physical injury which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person.” (Pen. Code 111656.6) The Law defines child abuse as: (1) Physical abuse, (2) Physical neglect, (3) Sexual abuse and (4) Emotional abuse.

Problem – In 2002, the California Department of Social Services estimated that 376,290 referrals for investigation of child abuse and neglect involving 707,707 children were handled by child welfare service agencies. According to a 2000 audit by the California Department of Health Services, approximately 115 children died in the state as a result of child abuse and neglect.

Nationally, children younger than one year accounted for nearly one-half of child abuse and neglect deaths in 2000. Each year, more than 3 million children are reported as abused or neglected to child protective agencies in the United States. Prevent Child Abuse-America, one of the nation’s leading child abuse prevention organizations, estimates the total direct and indirect cost of child abuse and neglect is approximately \$94,076,882,227 per year.

The information on this page was taken from *California Attorney General’s Crime and Violence Prevention* Web site, SafeState.org. You may order a *Child Abuse Prevention Handbook* or download it from the Web site.

California Attorney General’s Crime and Violence Prevention Center
1300 I Street, Suite 1120, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-7863
www.Safestate.org