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[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → [Child Abuse](#)

## Child Abuse



### On this page

#### Basics

- [Summary](#)
- [Start Here](#)
- [Prevention and Risk Factors](#)

#### Learn More

- [Related Issues](#)
- [Specifics](#)

#### See, Play and Learn

- No links available

#### Research

- [Statistics and Research](#)
- [Clinical Trials](#)
- [Journal Articles](#)

#### Resources

- [Reference Desk](#)
- [Find an Expert](#)

#### For You

- [Children](#)
- [Teenagers](#)
- [Men](#)
- [Women](#)
- [Patient Handouts](#)



### MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- [Child neglect and emotional abuse](#)
- [Child physical abuse](#)
- [Munchausen syndrome by proxy](#)
- [Shaken baby syndrome](#)

### Related Health Topics

### Summary

Child abuse is doing something or failing to do something that results in harm to a child or puts a child at risk of harm. Child abuse can be physical, [sexual](#) or emotional. Neglect, or not providing for a child's needs, is also a form of abuse.

Most abused children suffer greater emotional than physical damage. An abused child may become depressed. He or she may withdraw, think of suicide or become violent. An older child may use drugs or alcohol, try to run away or abuse others.

Child abuse is a serious problem. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call the police or your local child welfare agency.

## Start Here

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- [Child Abuse and Neglect](#) (Children's Bureau)
- [Child Abuse: The Hidden Bruises](#)  
(American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [Understanding Child Trauma](#)  
(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [What Is Child Abuse and Neglect? Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms](#) (Children's Bureau) - **PDF**

## Prevention and Risk Factors

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- [Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect](#) (Children's Bureau)  
Also in [Spanish](#)


## Related Issues

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- [Questions and Answers about Memories of Childhood Abuse](#) (American Psychological Association)

## Specifics

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- [Abusive Head Trauma \(Shaken Baby Syndrome\)](#)  
(Nemours Foundation)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [Shaken Baby Syndrome](#)  
(American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)
- [Shaken Baby Syndrome](#)  
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)  
Also in [Spanish](#)

## Statistics and Research


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- [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)](#)  
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [CDC Vital Signs: Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)](#)  
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys](#)

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## Clinical Trials

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- [ClinicalTrials.gov: Child Abuse](#)  
 (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

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- [Article: Is adherence to dialectic behaviour therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder \(PTSD\)...](#)
- [Article: Does treatment specific-, disorder specific- or general therapeutic competence predict symptom...](#)
- [Article: A randomized controlled trial of Safer Kids - A program for...](#)
- [Child Abuse -- see more articles](#)

## Reference Desk

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- [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System Glossary \(Administration for Children and Families\) - PDF](#)

## Find an Expert

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- [Administration for Children and Families](#)
- [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#)

## Children

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- [Going to a Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or Therapist \(For Kids\)](#) (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [How to Handle Abuse](#) (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in [Spanish](#)

## Teenagers

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- [Abuse: What You Need to Know](#) (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [Going to a Therapist](#) (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [Youth and Teens Page](#) (National Runaway Safeline)

## Men

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- [Helping Yourself Heal: A Recovering Man's Guide to Coping with the Effects of Childhood Abuse](#)  
(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - [PDF](#)

## Women

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- [Helping Yourself Heal: A Recovering Woman's Guide to Coping with Childhood Abuse Issues](#)  
(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - **PDF**  
Also in [Spanish](#)

## Patient Handouts

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- [Child neglect and emotional abuse](#) (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [Child physical abuse](#) (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [Shaken baby syndrome](#) (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in [Spanish](#)

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