



ASCIP

A California Public Agency

Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Programs

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as well as the neglect of minors. Child abuse is defined as:

- A physical injury which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child¹ by another person.
- Sexual abuse of a child, including both sexual assault and sexual exploitation.
- Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child.
- Unlawful corporal punishment or injury of a child.
- Negligent failure of a person having the care or custody of a child to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or supervision of a child where no physical injury to the child occurred.

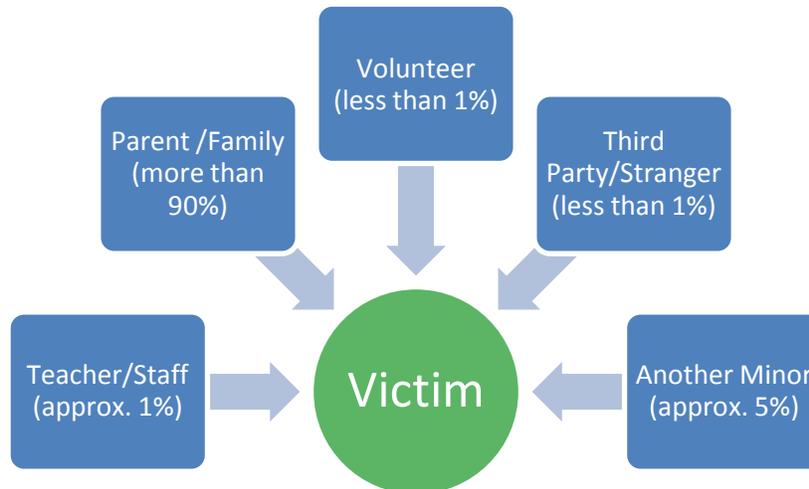
Child sexual abuse can include unwanted and unnecessary touching or fondling of minors; voyeurism; exposing minors to sexual acts or pornography; requests for or offers of sex to or from a minor; sexual exploitation of minors; lewdness or exposing private body parts to a minor; taking nude photographs of minors without proper consent or for illegal purposes; online enticement of minors; and other sexual acts to minors such as intercourse, penetration, rape, incest, and sodomy.

Both child abuse and child sexual abuse are serious crimes. Child abuse and neglect are national problems (see Child Maltreatment 2013 at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2013>). More than 3.2 million referrals alleging child abuse involving almost 679,000 unique victims were made in the United States in fiscal year 2013 with over 1,500 deaths related to child abuse in that year.

¹ In California, a child is a minor, any person under the age of eighteen years old (Penal Code Section 261.5).

Relationships Between Child Abusers and Victims²

Perpetrators of child abuse can be other children or adults. Adult perpetrators are usually parents or other family member, but they can also be other adults known by the victim, including teachers, coaches or other District employees or volunteers, or they can include District consultants and contractors, who are strangers to the victim.



Some signs that a child is experiencing violence or abuse are more obvious than others. And, of course, some “signals” are conditions—accidents, signs of poverty, etc. — unrelated to neglect or abuse.

The following page summarizes the typical signs and symptom of child abuse.

The following document can be used as a single page training tool to be customized by your district and distributed to staff.

² The relationship is unknown in approximately 8% of cases. **Parent/Family** was defined as parent, foster parent, legal guardian, other family, or unmarried partner of parent per *Appendix 1 Exhibit 5-C Perpetrators by Relationship to Victims, 2012* coding. **Volunteer** was defined as friend or neighbor. **Teacher/Staff** was defined as child care provider, other professional, or group home and residential facility staff. **Unknown** was defined as other and unknown.

Potential Signals of Child Abuse in Victims

General Abuse When the Victim is Any Age

- Poor nourishment or inadequate clothing.
- Consistent tiredness or sleepiness
- Repeated injuries such as bruises, welts, or burns, especially those where the shape of an object is visible (such as a cigarette burn or belt mark)
- Unexplained changes in personal hygiene or appearance
- Nightmares or other sleep problems
- Unexplained changes in school performance or attendance
- Unexplained fractures
- Unexplained extreme fears
- Sudden, unexplained behavior changes—*withdrawal, clinginess, swings in eating behaviors*
- Older child behaving like a younger child—*thumb-sucking, bedwetting*
- Specific fears of a person or place or a fear of going home
- Resistance to routines such as undressing, bathing, or toilet use
- Playing, writing, drawing, or acting out sexual or frightening imagery
- Refusal to talk about a secret that is kept with an adult or older child
- Unexplained, nonspecific ailments—*frequent stomach aches*
- New or adult words of a sexual nature
- Playing out sexual activities with toys, objects, or other children
- Special relationships with adults or older children that include gifts or secrets
- Self harmful activity—*drugs, alcohol, cutting, burning, promiscuity, running away*
- Death by means other than accident
- Unexplained physical symptoms—*bruises, especially in genital or oral areas, STDs, pregnancy*

Specific, Sexual-Abuse Related Signals by Victim's Age

Age-inappropriate sexual behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

Preschoolers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of specific sex acts • Explicit sexual language • Adult-like sexual contact with other children
Elementary (Ages 6-12, pre-pubescent):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of specific sex acts • Explicit sexual language • Adult-like sexual contact • Public genital stimulation
Elementary (Ages 6-12, pubescent):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral/genital contact • Intercourse • Adult-like sexual contact • Public masturbation
Adolescents (Ages 13-17):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public masturbation • Sexual interest in younger children

Common Factors of Perpetrators (PASS), Even When the Perpetrator is Another Child

- POWER:** The suspected perpetrator uses tricks, bribes, threats, or physical force against the victim.
- ABILITY:** The suspected perpetrator has greater mental, emotional, or physical ability than the victim (e.g., disabled or developmentally delayed victims, typical adult/child dynamic).
- SIZE:** The suspected perpetrator is much older or larger than the abused child.
- STATUS:** The suspected perpetrator has more power than the abused child (adult, minor/babysitter, minor/club leader, minor/team captain, minor/bully).

APPENDIX 1

What Types of Abuse Occur?

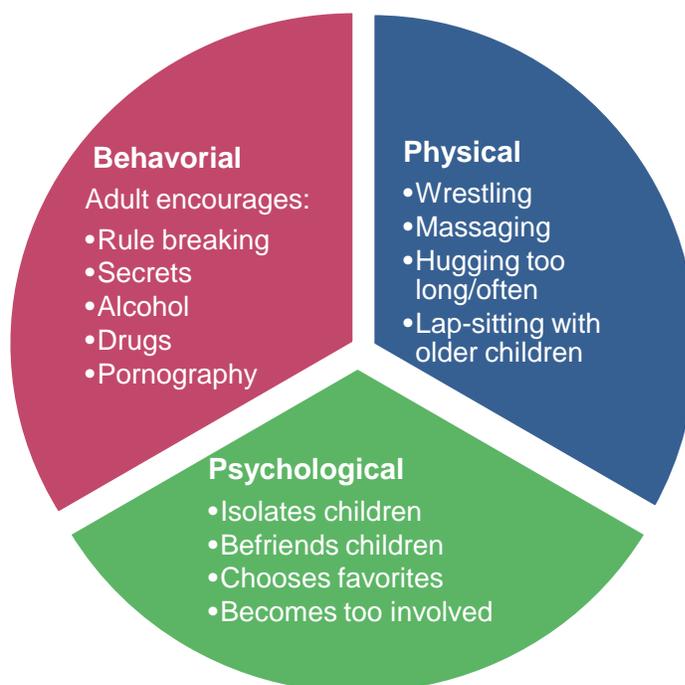
Exhibit 5–D Perpetrators by Maltreatment Type, 2011 (duplicated count)

Maltreatment Type	Duplicated Perpetrators	
	Number	Percent
SINGLE MALTREATMENT TYPE		
Medical Neglect	7,142	0.8
Neglect	539,647	61.0
Other	34,207	3.9
Physical Abuse	85,456	9.7
Psychological Abuse	30,210	3.4
Sexual Abuse	54,906	6.2
Unknown	115	0.0
MULTIPLE MALTREATMENT TYPES		
Two or More Maltreatment Types	133,320	15.1
Total	885,003	
Percent		100.0

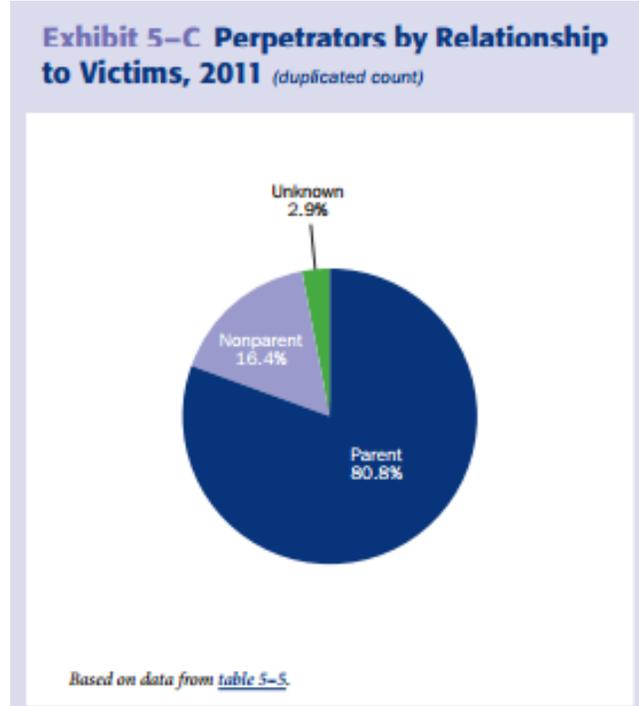
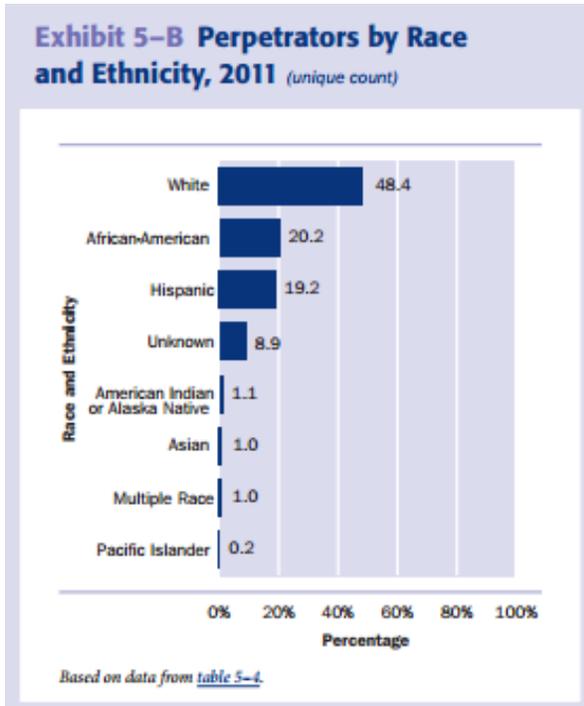
Based on data from 50 States.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2012). Child Maltreatment 2011. Available from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

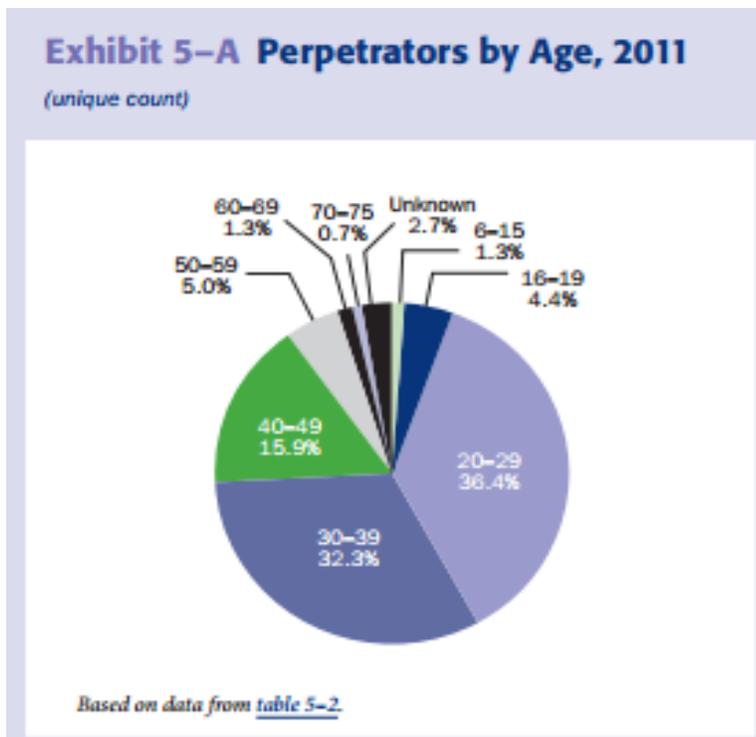
Questionable Adult Behaviors



Who are the Abusers?



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2012). Child Maltreatment 2011. Available from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.



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Target Negative Attitudes to Prevent Child Abuse

