



Get to Know the Numbers



- Wisconsin alone had **71,196** reports of child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment in 2021.
- Of these 71,196 children **22,427** were screened into CPS (Action was taken)
- Wisconsin had **22** child fatalities related to abuse, neglect, or maltreatment in 2021.
- The average caseload per social worker working for CPS in Wisconsin is **79** children (*Those are astronomical numbers for a single person to take on*)
- The average response time to substantial child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment is over **109** hours. (*Imagine what can happen over the course of 4+ days....*)

Hello, and happy Monday!

Did you know that April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month? Today I want to discuss how to identify abuse and how to report it. Additionally, I would like to highlight the prevention strategies we can all be aware of that reduce the cases of child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment. 1 in 7 children has experienced abuse or neglect in the past year. In all of those cases, it was preventable.

The four most common kinds of child abuse include the following:

- 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.
- Sexual abuse involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. It includes behaviors such as fondling, penetration, and exposing a child to other sexual activities.
- Emotional abuse refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Examples include name-calling, shaming, rejecting, withholding love, and threatening.
- Neglect is failing to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, access to medical care, and feeling validated and appropriately responded to.

"We owe our children - the most vulnerable citizens in any society- a life free from violence and fear"
-Nelson Mandela

Prevention Strategies



Strengthen economic supports to families

- Strengthening household financial security
- Family-friendly work policies



Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting

- Public engagement and enhancement campaigns
- Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment



Provide quality care and education early in life

- Preschool enrichment with family engagement
- Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation



Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development

- Early childhood home visitation
- Parenting skill and family relationship approaches



Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

- Enhanced primary care
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure
- Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence

How to Identify Child Abuse



[Click Here to Learn How to Report Abuse in WI](#)

Outcomes of Abuse

According to the CDC, the outcomes of child abuse are as follows: "Children who are abused and neglected may suffer immediate physical injuries such as cuts, bruises, or broken bones. They may also have emotional and psychological problems, such as anxiety or posttraumatic stress.

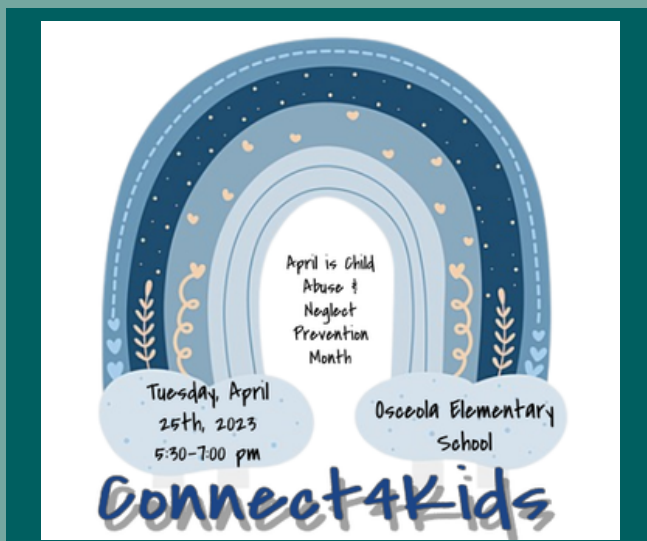
Over the long term, children who are abused or neglected are also at increased risk for experiencing future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities.

Chronic abuse may result in toxic stress, which can change brain development and increase the risk for problems like posttraumatic stress disorder and learning, attention, and memory difficulties."

What Can We Do?

Get involved with the young people in our community, take action, and report abuse and neglect when you see it.

Osceola Elementary School is hosting the 'Connect 4 Kids' Event on April 25th, 2023. We would love to see our educators there learning about prevention strategies and getting involved. For more information, reach out to Kristin Boileau or me (Abby).



Contact Your Mental Health Navigator:

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