

Chapter 1 : Facts and Statistics - The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974 has further served the needs of abused children throughout the U.S. in many ways including: providing financial assistance to child abuse prevention and treatment programs; establishing a National Center on Child Abuse; and providing resources for research to prevent child abuse.

Every eight minutes , a child is sexually assaulted in the U. No matter what, the abuse was not your fault. What are the effects of child sexual abuse for adults? If you experienced sexual abuse as a child , you may encounter a range of short- and long-term effects that many survivors face. Adult survivors of child sexual abuse may have some of the following concerns that are specific to their experience: Guilt, shame, and blame. You might feel guilty about not having been able to stop the abuse, or even blame yourself if you experienced physical pleasure. It is important for you to understand that it was the person that hurt you that should be held accountableâ€”not you. As an adult, intimacy might be a struggle at times. Some survivors experience flashbacks or painful memories while engaging in sexual activity, even though it is consensual and on their own terms. Survivors may also struggle to set boundaries that help them feel safe in relationships. You may struggle with low self-esteem, which can be a result of the negative messages you received from your abuser s , and from having your personal safety violated or ignored. Low self-esteem can affect many different areas of your life such as your relationships, your career, and even your health. Why do I still feel this way? As an adult survivor, you have been living with these memories for a long time. Some survivors keep the abuse a secret for many years. They may have tried to tell an adult and met with resistance or felt there was no one they could trust. For these reasons and many others, the effects of sexual abuse can occur many years after the abuse has ended. Remember that there is no set timeline for dealing with and recovering from this experience. How should I react when someone tells me they were sexually abused? It can be difficult to hear that someone you care about suffered sexual abuse as a child. Learn more about how to respond to a survivor and self-care tips for friends and family. RAINN partners with 1in6 , an organization that helps men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experiences live healthier, happier lives. Check out their resources for family and friends to learn more about supporting a man who has experienced unwanted or abusive sexual experiences.

Chapter 2 : Signs, Symptoms & Side Effects of Physical & Sexual Abuse - Arkansas, AR - Ascent

Sexual child abuse is a type of maltreatment, violation, and exploitation that refers to the involvement of the child in sexual activity to provide sexual gratification or financial benefit to the perpetrator.

Effects Psychological effects Child sexual abuse can result in both short-term and long-term harm, including psychopathology in later life. The associations are expressed as odds ratios: Dissociation psychology and Posttraumatic stress disorder Child abuse, including sexual abuse, especially chronic abuse starting at early ages, has been found to be related to the development of high levels of dissociative symptoms, which includes amnesia for abuse memories. Their examination of a small sample of CSA-discordant twins also supported a causal link between child sexual abuse and adult psychopathology; the CSA-exposed subjects had a consistently higher risk for psychopathologic disorders than their CSA non-exposed twins. In severe cases, damage to internal organs may occur, which, in some cases, may cause death. Vaginitis has also been reported. Male and female victims were similarly affected. Incest Incest between a child or adolescent and a related adult is known as child incestuous abuse, [85] and has been identified as the most widespread form of child sexual abuse with a huge capacity to damage the young person. Commercial sexual exploitation of children Commercial sexual exploitation of children CSEC is defined by the Declaration of the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm in , as "sexual abuse by an adult accompanied by remuneration in cash or in kind to the child or third person s. CSEC is particularly a problem in developing countries of Asia. Children who received supportive responses following disclosure had less traumatic symptoms and were abused for a shorter period of time than children who did not receive support. Therefore, the parental caregiver teaches the child to mask his or her issues. A private environment away from suspected abusers is desired for interviewing and examining. Leading statements that can distort the story are avoided. As disclosing abuse can be distressing and sometimes even shameful, reassuring the child that he or she has done the right thing by telling and that they are not bad and that the abuse was not their fault helps in disclosing more information. Anatomically correct dolls are sometimes used to help explain what happened, although some researchers consider the dolls too explicit and overstimulating, which might contribute to non-abused children behaving with the dolls in one or more ways that suggest they were sexually abused. Age at the time of presentation Circumstances of presentation for treatment Co-morbid conditions The goal of treatment is not only to treat current mental health issues, and trauma related symptoms, but also to prevent future ones. Children and adolescents Children often present for treatment in one of several circumstances, including criminal investigations, custody battles, problematic behaviors, and referrals from child welfare agencies. Which course is used depends on a variety of factors that must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. For instance, treatment of young children generally requires strong parental involvement and can benefit from family therapy. Adolescents tend to be more independent; they can benefit from individual or group therapy. Summit, a medical doctor, defined the different stages the victims of child sexual abuse go through, called child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome. He suggested that children who are victims of sexual abuse display a range of symptoms that include secrecy, helplessness, entrapment, accommodation, delayed and conflicted disclosure and recantation. For instance, a person with a history of sexual abuse suffering from severe depression would be treated for depression. However, there is often an emphasis on cognitive restructuring due to the deep-seated nature of the trauma. Some newer techniques such as eye movement desensitization and reprocessing EMDR have been shown to be effective. When first presenting for treatment, the patient can be fully aware of their abuse as an event, but their appraisal of it is often distorted, such as believing that the event was unremarkable a form of isolation. Frequently, victims do not make the connection between their abuse and their present pathology. Prevention Child sexual abuse prevention programmes were developed in the United States of America during the s and originally delivered to children. Programmes delivered to parents were developed in the s and took the form of one-off meetings, two to three hours long. Offenders Demographics Offenders are more likely to be relatives or acquaintances of their victim than strangers. Groth and Birnbaum categorized child sexual offenders into two groups, "fixated"

and "regressed". This study also showed that adult sexual orientation was not related to the sex of the victim targeted, e. They are divided as follows: Regressed " Typically has relationships with adults, but a stressor causes them to seek children as a substitute. Morally Indiscriminate " All-around sexual deviant, who may commit other sexual offenses unrelated to children. Preferential " has true sexual interest in children. Mysoped " Sadistic and violent, target strangers more often than acquaintances. Fixated " Little or no activity with own age, described as an "overgrown child". Causal factors Causal factors of child sex offenders are not known conclusively. The US Government Accountability Office concluded, "the existence of a cycle of sexual abuse was not established. Even the majority of studies found that most adult sex offenders said they had not been sexually abused during childhood, but studies varied in terms of their estimates of the percentage of such offenders who had been abused, from 0 to 79 percent. More recent prospective longitudinal research"studying children with documented cases of sexual abuse over time to determine what percentage become adult offenders"has demonstrated that the cycle of violence theory is not an adequate explanation for why people molest children. Pedophilia Pedophilia is a condition in which an adult or older adolescent is primarily or exclusively attracted to prepubescent children, whether the attraction is acted upon or not. In law enforcement , the term pedophile is sometimes used to describe those accused or convicted of child sexual abuse under sociolegal definitions of child including both prepubescent children and adolescents younger than the local age of consent ; [18] however, not all child sexual offenders are pedophiles and not all pedophiles engage in sexual abuse of children. Child-on-child sexual abuse When a prepubescent child is sexually abused by one or more other children or adolescent youths, and no adult is directly involved, it is defined as child-on-child sexual abuse. The definition includes any sexual activity between children that occurs without consent , without equality, or due to coercion , [] whether the offender uses physical force, threats, trickery or emotional manipulation to compel cooperation. When sexual abuse is perpetrated by one sibling upon another, it is known as " intersibling abuse ", a form of incest. Some of the treatments focus on attempting to change the sexual preference of pedophiles, while others focus on keeping pedophiles from committing child sexual abuse, or on keeping child sexual abusers from committing child sexual abuse again. Cognitive behavioral therapy CBT , for example, aims to reduce attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that may increase the likelihood of sexual offenses against children. Its content varies widely between therapists, but a typical program might involve training in self-control, social competence and empathy, and use cognitive restructuring to change views on sex with children. The most common form of this therapy is relapse prevention , where the patient is taught to identify and respond to potentially risky situations based on principles used for treating addictions. The rates of self-disclosed abuse for specific continents were as follows:

Chapter 3 : Child Abuse and Neglect: How to Spot the Signs and Make a Difference

In the U.S. alone, the number of adults who were sexually or physically abused as children is in the millions. According to the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, somewhere between 12 and 40 percent of our population are victims of some sort of sexual abuse. Twelve percent of girls.

This page focuses specifically on child sexual abuse and the warning signs that this crime may be occurring. What is child sexual abuse? Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor. A child cannot consent to any form of sexual activity, period. When a perpetrator engages with a child this way, they are committing a crime that can have lasting effects on the victim for years. Child sexual abuse does not need to include physical contact between a perpetrator and a child. Some forms of child sexual abuse include: The majority of perpetrators are someone the child or family knows. A perpetrator does not have to be an adult to harm a child. They can have any relationship to the child including an older sibling or playmate, family member, a teacher, a coach or instructor, a caretaker, or the parent of another child. Often an abuser will use their position of power over the victim to coerce or intimidate the child. They might tell the child that the activity is normal or that they enjoyed it. An abuser may make threats if the child refuses to participate or plans to tell another adult. How can I protect my child from sexual abuse? A big part of protecting your child is about creating a dialogue. Read more to learn about creating this dialogue and keeping your child safe. Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse What are the warning signs? Consider the following warning signs: Bleeding, bruises, or swelling in genital area Bloody, torn, or stained underclothes Difficulty walking or sitting Frequent urinary or yeast infections Pain, itching, or burning in genital area Behavioral signs: If you want to talk to someone anonymously, call the National Child Abuse Hotline at To speak with someone who is trained to help, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at

Chapter 4 : Interventions for Physically and Sexually Abused Children - Encyclopedia of Social Work

Consistent with Iowa Code (37), all University employees who in the course of employment receive information related to physical or sexual abuse of children must immediately report such information to the University of Iowa Police.

While physical abuse might be the most visible, other types of abuse, such as emotional abuse and neglect, also leave deep, lasting scars on kids. The earlier abused children get help, the greater chance they have to heal and break the cycle—rather than perpetuate it. What is child abuse and neglect? While physical abuse is shocking due to the marks it leaves, not all child abuse is as obvious. Regardless of the type of abuse, the result is serious emotional harm. But there is help available. By catching the problem as early as possible, both the child and the abuser can get the help they need. Myths and facts about child abuse and neglect Myth: Physical abuse is just one type of child abuse. Only bad people abuse their children. Not all abusive parents or guardians are intentionally harming their children. Others may be struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse problems. It crosses all racial, economic, and cultural lines. Sometimes, families who seem to have it all from the outside are hiding a different story behind closed doors. Most child abusers are strangers. While abuse by strangers does happen, most abusers are family members or others close to the family. Abused children always grow up to be abusers. It is true that abused children are more likely to repeat the cycle as adults, unconsciously repeating what they experienced as children. On the other hand, many adult survivors of child abuse have a strong motivation to protect their children against what they went through and become excellent parents. Effects of child abuse and neglect All types of abuse and neglect leave lasting scars. Lack of trust and relationship difficulties. Without this base, it is very difficult to learn to trust people or know who is trustworthy. This can lead to difficulty maintaining relationships in adulthood. Sexual abuse survivors, with the stigma and shame surrounding the abuse, often struggle with a feeling of being damaged. Abused children cannot express emotions safely. As a result, the emotions get stuffed down, coming out in unexpected ways. Adult survivors of child abuse can struggle with unexplained anxiety, depression, or anger. They may turn to alcohol or drugs to numb out the painful feelings. Recognizing the different types of child abuse Abusive behavior comes in many forms, but the common denominator is the emotional effect on the child. Whether the abuse is a slap, a harsh comment, stony silence, or not knowing if there will be dinner on the table, the end result is a child that feels unsafe, uncared for, and alone. Examples of emotional abuse include: Child neglect is not always easy to spot. Sometimes, a parent might become physically or mentally unable to care for a child, such as with a serious illness or injury, or untreated depression or anxiety. Other times, alcohol or drug abuse may seriously impair judgment and the ability to keep a child safe. Physical abuse involves physical harm or injury to the child. It may be the result of a deliberate attempt to hurt the child or excessive physical punishment. Many physically abusive parents insist that their actions are simply forms of discipline—ways to make children learn to behave. But there is a big difference between using physical punishment to discipline and physical abuse. In physical abuse, the following elements are present: The child never knows what is going to set the parent off. There are no clear boundaries or rules. The child is constantly walking on eggshells, never sure what behavior will trigger a physical assault. Lashing out in anger. Abusive parents act out of anger and the desire to assert control, not the motivation to lovingly teach the child. The angrier the parent, the more intense the abuse. Using fear to control behavior. Child sexual abuse is an especially complicated form of abuse because of its layers of guilt and shame. Exposing a child to sexual situations or material is sexually abusive, whether or not touching is involved. Sexually abused children are often tormented by shame and guilt. They may feel that they are responsible for the abuse or somehow brought it upon themselves. This can lead to self-loathing and sexual and relationship problems as they grow older. The shame of sexual abuse makes it very difficult for children to come forward. Because of these difficulties, false accusations of sexual abuse are not common, so if a child confides in you, take them seriously. Warning signs of child abuse and neglect Warning signs of emotional abuse: Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather Hygiene is consistently bad unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor Untreated illnesses and physical injuries Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations Is

frequently late or missing from school

Warning signs of sexual abuse in children: Even if the abused parent does their best to protect their children, domestic violence is still extremely damaging. Getting out is the best thing for protecting your children. Domestic Violence and Abuse: Recognizing the Signs and Getting Help

Alcohol and drug abuse. Parents who are drunk or high may be unable to care for their children, make good parenting decisions, or control often-dangerous impulses. Substance abuse can also lead to physical abuse. Parents who are suffering from depression, an anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, or another mental illness may have trouble taking care of themselves, much less their children. A mentally ill or traumatized parent may be distant and withdrawn from their children, or quick to anger without understanding why. Treatment for the caregiver means better care for the children. Lack of parenting skills. Some caregivers never learned the skills necessary for good parenting. Teen parents, for example, might have unrealistic expectations about how much care babies and small children need. Or parents who were themselves victims of child abuse may only know how to raise their children the way they were raised. Parenting classes, therapy, and caregiver support groups are great resources for learning better parenting skills. Stress and lack of support. Caring for a child with a disability, special needs, or difficult behaviors is also a challenge. If you grew up in a household where screaming and shouting or violence was the norm, you may not know any other way to raise your kids. Recognizing that you have a problem is the biggest step to getting help. The following are warning signs that you may be crossing the line into abuse: What starts as a swat on the backside may turn into multiple hits getting harder and harder. You may shake your child more and more and finally throw them down.

How to Comfort Your Child You feel emotionally disconnected from your child. You just want to be left alone and for your child to be quiet. Meeting the daily needs of your child seems impossible. Other people have expressed concern. It may be easy to bristle at other people expressing concern. However, consider carefully what they have to say. Are the words coming from someone you normally respect and trust? Breaking the cycle of abuse

If you have a history of child abuse, having your own children can trigger strong memories and feelings that you may have repressed. But you can learn new ways to manage your emotions and break your old patterns. Help and support are available: Learn what is age appropriate and what is not. Having realistic expectations of what children can handle at certain ages will help you avoid frustration and anger at normal child behavior. For example, newborns are not going to sleep through the night without a peep, and toddlers are not going to be able to sit quietly for extended periods of time. Develop new parenting skills. Start by learning appropriate discipline techniques and how to set clear boundaries for your children. Parenting classes, books, and seminars are a way to get this information. You can also turn to other parents for tips and advice. Take care of yourself. Sleep deprivation, common in parents of young children, adds to moodiness and irritability—exactly what you are trying to avoid. Breaking the cycle of abuse can be very difficult if the patterns are strongly entrenched. Your children will thank you for it. Learn how you can get your emotions under control. If you were abused or neglected as a child, you may have an especially difficult time getting in touch with your range of emotions.

Chapter 5 : Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse | RAINN

treatment of child victims of sexual and physical abuse and their families. Many children are treated each year for mental health problems associated with abuse.

Aftereffects of Childhood Abuse Childhood abuse encompasses far more than bruises and broken bones. Physical child abuse can include serious physical problems and long-lasting scars, but the emotional effects of child abuse are far more serious. As the effects are more subtle, people may not even notice that a child is being abused. Child abuse occurs in every race, across all socioeconomic backgrounds, and across childhood ages. The earlier the abuse is stopped and treatment begun, the more resiliency the child learns and the better the outcome. Statistics Each year in the United States, over three million reports of child abuse are made involving more than 6 million children. On average, 4 to 7 children are lost to child abuse and neglect. While child abuse and neglect does occur in all types of families, certain children are at a greater risk in some types of situations. The risk factors for child abuse and neglect may include: Alcohol and drug use: Living with an addict is very hard on children and can often lead to neglect and abuse. Parents who are high are unable to care for their child appropriately, make proper parenting decisions, and control impulses. Substance abuse commonly leads to physical child abuse. Watching domestic violence can leave a lasting impression on children and constitutes emotional abuse. Even if the abused parent tries his or her best to protect their child from abuse, it is still a damaging situation. Some parents and caregivers never learned how to be a good parent, especially if they are younger or were the victim of abuse themselves. Parenting is a hard job at best especially when a parent or caregiver does not have the appropriate social support of friends, family, loved ones, or community resources. It can be especially stressful during financial hardships, marital strife, or job loss. Special needs or disabled children are especially challenging for stressed parents. Parents or caregivers suffering from untreated depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, or another mental illness may struggle to care for themselves, and their children often go uncared for. A parent who has untreated mental illness may be withdrawn, quick to anger, and abusive. There are a number of types of childhood, each of which leave lasting marks on the children who are affected. It may involve medical neglect or failure to provide a child with necessary medical or mental health treatment. Educational neglect may involve the failure to educate a child or attend to the needs of a special needs child. Physical child abuse involves non-accidental harm or injury to a child, sometimes as the result of punching, kicking, biting, beating, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting, burning, or otherwise harming a child. A child who is being physically abused knows that the abuse is unpredictable and is never certain what will set the abuser off. Emotional or psychological child abuse represents a pattern of behaviors that impede the emotional development or sense of self-worth of a child. This may take the form of constant criticism, threats, withholding love, support, or guidance. While emotional child abuse may be hard to prove, it is almost always present when other types of child maltreatment exist. Child sexual abuse involves activities by a caregiver or parent such as fondling, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or production of pornographic materials. This form of child abuse is riddled with guilt and shame; the emotional component of child sexual abuse is long-lasting and far-reaching as the child may feel as though he or she caused the abuse. If you feel that your child is in crisis, please call or go to the nearest emergency room immediately. Warning Signs of Child Abuse The earlier child abuse is caught, the better the chance a child has at a more successful treatment and recovery. Child abuse is not always obvious and can manifest in a wide variety of ways. Common signs of child abuse may include: Warning Signs of Child Neglect in Children: Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the season Consistently poor hygiene, unwashed hair, unbathed, notable body odor Untreated illnesses and physical injuries Frequently late or absent from school Frequently left unsupervised or left to play in unsafe conditions and environments Warning Signs of Child Neglect in the Adult: Caregiver or parent appears indifferent to child Behaves apathetically or depressed Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre way Is abusing drugs or alcohol Warning Signs of Physical Child Abuse in the Child: Frequent and unexplained injuries, bruises, welts, or cuts Hyper-vigilant, appearing to be on the lookout for trouble Injuries appear in a pattern, such as handprints

Child shies away from touch Child flinches at sudden movements Child is afraid to return home Child wears clothing to cover up injuries, such as long pants on a summer day Warning Signs of Physical Child Abuse in the Adult:

Chapter 6 : Child abuse - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic

These include (1) definitions of child physical and sexual abuse, (2) prevalence and incidence of physical and sexual abuse, (3) reporting physical and sexual abuse, (4) investigation and assessment of reports of physical and sexual abuse, and (5) interventions to assist physically and sexually abused children.

Physical abuse[edit] Among professionals and the general public, people often do not agree on what behaviors constitute physical abuse of a child. This includes hitting, beating, kicking, shaking, biting, strangling, scalding, burning, poisoning and suffocating. Much physical violence against children in the home is inflicted with the object of punishing. The psychologist Alice Miller , noted for her books on child abuse, took the view that humiliations, spankings and beatings, slaps in the face, etc. Physical abuse in childhood has also been linked to homelessness in adulthood. Child sexual abuse and child-on-child sexual abuse Child sexual abuse CSA is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation. Psychological abuse There are multiple definitions of child psychological abuse: Emotional abuse can result in abnormal or disrupted attachment development , a tendency for victims to blame themselves self-blame for the abuse, learned helplessness , and overly passive behavior. Neglected children may experience delays in physical and psychosocial development, possibly resulting in psychopathology and impaired neuropsychological functions including executive function , attention , processing speed , language, memory and social skills. Such children are not likely to view caregivers as being a source of safety, and instead typically show an increase in aggressive and hyperactive behaviors which may disrupt healthy or secure attachment with their adopted parents. These children have apparently learned to adapt to an abusive and inconsistent caregiver by becoming cautiously self-reliant, and are often described as glib, manipulative and disingenuous in their interactions with others as they move through childhood. Effects[edit] Child abuse can result in immediate adverse physical effects but it is also strongly associated with developmental problems [51] and with many chronic physical and psychological effects, including subsequent ill-health, including higher rates of chronic conditions, high-risk health behaviors and shortened lifespan. Children who are constantly ignored, shamed, terrorized or humiliated suffer at least as much, if not more, than if they are physically assaulted. Many abused children experience ongoing difficulties with trust, social withdrawal, trouble in school, and forming relationships. RAD is defined as markedly disturbed and developmentally inappropriate social relatedness, that usually begins before the age of 5 years. The long-term impact of emotional abuse has not been studied widely, but recent studies have begun to document its long-term consequences. Research has shown that children exposed to domestic violence increases the chances of experienced behavioral and emotional problems depression, irritability, anxiety, academic problems, and problems in language development. Rib fractures in an infant secondary to child abuse The immediate physical effects of abuse or neglect can be relatively minor bruises or cuts or severe broken bones, hemorrhage, or even death. In some cases the physical effects are temporary; however, the pain and suffering they cause a child should not be discounted. Rib fractures may be seen with physical abuse, and if present may increase suspicion of abuse, but are found in a small minority of children with maltreatment-related injuries. Child abuse and neglect have been shown, in some cases, to cause important regions of the brain to fail to form or grow properly, resulting in impaired development. In addition to possible immediate adverse physical effects, household dysfunction and childhood maltreatment are strongly associated with many chronic physical and psychological effects, including subsequent ill-health in childhood, [71] adolescence [72] and adulthood, with higher rates of chronic conditions, high-risk health behaviors and shortened lifespan. The initial phase of the study was conducted in San Diego, California from to The Adverse Childhood Experiences ACE study, in which some 17, middle-aged, middle-class and mostly employed residents of the state of California participated, suggests that childhood maltreatment and household dysfunction contribute to the development “ decades later ” of the chronic diseases that are the most common causes of death and disability in the United States. The study examined the long-term effects of maltreatment and household dysfunction during childhood, including: A strong relationship was seen between the number of adverse

experiences including physical and sexual abuse in childhood and self-reports of cigarette smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, attempted suicide, sexual promiscuity and sexually transmitted diseases in later life. Furthermore, people who reported higher numbers of negative experiences in childhood were much more likely to exhibit multiple health-risk behaviours, which the study suggested were adopted as coping devices. Similarly, the more adverse childhood experiences reported, the more likely the person was to have heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, skeletal fractures, liver disease and poor health as an adult. Maltreatment and other adverse childhood experiences may thus be among the basic factors that underlie health risks, illness and death, and could be identified by routine screening of all patients. Although the ACE study and its findings relate to a specific population within the United States, it is reasonable to assume that similar trends might be found in countries with different levels of economic and social development. Rates of depression are twice as high. Other risk behaviors are even higher. It has been discovered that childhood abuse can lead to the addiction of drugs and alcohol in adolescence and adult life. Studies show that any type of abuse experienced in childhood can cause neurological changes making an individual more prone to addictive tendencies. A significant study examined court cases of children who had experienced sexual and physical abuse along with neglect. The study found that a large sum of the children who were abused are now currently addicted to alcohol. This case study outlines how addiction is a significant effect of childhood abuse. Some reportedly suffer from some type of chronic head, abdominal, pelvic, or muscular pain with no identifiable reason. According to Georges Menahem, the French sociologist who found out these correlations by studying health inequalities, these relationships show that inequalities in illness and suffering are not only social. Health inequality also has its origins in the family, where it is associated with the degrees of lasting affective problems lack of affection, parental discord, the prolonged absence of a parent, or a serious illness affecting either the mother or father that individuals report having experienced in childhood. These problems may include: There is also a slight tendency for children who have been abused to become child abusers themselves. Treatment is greatly important for abused children. Such children have been termed dandelion children, as inspired from the way that dandelions seem to prosper irrespective of soil, sun, drought, or rain. Causes[edit] Child abuse is a complex phenomenon with multiple causes. At the individual level, such factors include age, sex, and personal history, while at the level of society, factors contributing to child maltreatment include cultural norms encouraging harsh physical punishment of children, economic inequality, and the lack of social safety nets. He writes, "the roots of child abuse lie not in parental psycho-pathology or in socio-environmental stress though their influences cannot be discounted but in a sick culture which denigrates and depersonalizes, which reduces children to property, to sexual objects so that they become the legitimate victims of both adult violence and lust". Parents who physically abuse their spouses are more likely than others to physically abuse their children. A questionnaire on child abuse was adapted and used to collect data in this study. Participants comprised a sample of 31 pupils with disabilities 15 children with vision impairment and 16 children with hearing impairment selected from special schools in Botswana. The study found that the majority of participants were involved in doing domestic chores. They were also sexually, physically and emotionally abused by their teachers. This study showed that children with disabilities were vulnerable to child abuse in their schools. This study specifically found relationships between alcohol and physical abuse, and between cocaine and sexual abuse. Inner anger turns to outer frustration. Acquisitive crimes to pay for the chemicals are inevitable if the victim is unable to find employment. It gave the example of a father who had never been the primary care-taker of the children. Now that the father was in that role, the children began to come in with injuries.

Chapter 7 : Child abuse - Wikipedia

Effects of child abuse and neglect. All types of abuse and neglect leave lasting scars. Some of these scars might be physical, but emotional scarring has long lasting effects throughout life, damaging a child's sense of self, their future relationships, and ability to function at home, at work and at school.

Under the terms of the applicable license agreement governing use of the Encyclopedia of Social Work accessed online, an authorized individual user may print out a PDF of a single article for personal use, only for details see Privacy Policy and Legal Notice. In order to play this role, they need knowledge about the nature of the problem: Social workers have three major roles to play: Moreover, the body of knowledge about how these children can be helped is primarily limited to the developed world. Topics relevant to the social work response to child physical and sexual abuse will be covered. These include 1 definitions of child physical and sexual abuse, 2 prevalence and incidence of physical and sexual abuse, 3 reporting physical and sexual abuse, 4 investigation and assessment of reports of physical and sexual abuse, and 5 interventions to assist physically and sexually abused children. Definitions are found in both criminal and child protection statutes. Signs of physical abuse include the following: Specific types of sexual abuse are the following: Studies of sexual abuse may vary in which types are included in the definition, broader definitions including non-contact behavior. If someone other than the caregiver abuses the child, this may become a child protection matter if the caregiver was negligent and permitted the assault. In practice, however, extra-familial sexual abuse is handled by law enforcement as a crime. Prevalence and Incidence of Child Physical and Sexual Abuse In this section, sources of information about the prevalence and incidence of physical and sexual abuse will be cited. Prevalence refers to the percentage or number of individuals who experienced physical or sexual abuse during childhood. Incidence refers to reports of physical or sexual abuse during a time frame, typically a year. Sources of Information There are several sources of data related to the prevalence and incidence of physical and sexual abuse. There are two main sources of information about the prevalence of physical abuse, research using the Conflict Tactics Scale e. Sexual abuse prevalence data derive from studies of adults and college students who report sexual abuse during childhood Finkelhor, ; Russell, Although there are two primary sources of prevalence data for physical abuse, there are far more studies of sexual abuse survivors than of physical abuse survivors e. Prevalence of Child Physical Abuse Prevalence rates for physical abuse vary depending upon whether the offender, that is, the parent, or the adult, who experienced physical abuse as a child, is asked about these acts. Parents report markedly lower rates than adults queried about their experiences as children. Moreover, the CTS has been used around the world, with literally scores of studies using it as a measure of interpersonal violence Straus, The CTS has been used to gather data about domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and physical abuse experienced by respondents during childhood. To assess for corporal punishment and child abuse, the Parent-Child CTS asks adult respondents to indicate tactics they have used to resolve conflicts with a child, methods ranging from appropriate, nonviolent strategies to violent and potentially lethal strategies. Methods that are considered abusive include the following: Briere and Elliott solicited information about physical and sexual abuse from a geographically stratified, random sample of 1, adults in the general population, and obtained a response rate of Of the respondents, Using a different methodology Goldberg and Freyd report similar results. Prevalence of Sexual Abuse Using a broader definition that included non-contact behavior, David Finkelhor, a pioneer in the study of child sexual abuse, was the first researcher to alert professionals and the public to the pervasiveness of child sexual abuse. His initial research, which was both his doctoral dissertation and his first book Finkelhor, , was a study of students at six New England colleges and universities. Using a paper-and-pencil survey of undergraduate students, Finkelhor found that Her first article appeared in This study involved a representative sample of women in the San Francisco area and employed face-to-face interviews, using as interviewers matched for gender and age with the respondents. Trends in Incidence of Child Maltreatment Beginning in , annual national statistics have been gathered on reports of child physical abuse and neglect. National statistics demonstrate a dramatic increase in reports from , cases or 10 per 1, children in , to the late s when over 3 million children were

reported or 47 per 1, children Faller, Rates of reports continue to increase each year. In , the most recent year for which data are available, there were 3. As reporting rates have increased, substantiation rates have decreased. In , of the 3. Of the screened-in reports, approximately one-fifth were substantiated, or , children. Victims are approximately equally likely to be male or female. In addition, because there have been four such surveys, rates of maltreatment and substantiation can be compared over time. NIS 4 involved counties in which there were child protection agencies. NIS includes two standards, a harm standard severe maltreatment and a broader endangerment standard. Because CAPTA definitions include both actual abuse and risk for abuse, both of these standards are relevant. NIS 4 estimated that 1. According to the endangerment standard, close to 3., children were maltreated during â€” Sedlak et al. The first three NIS studies found no differences in patterns of maltreatment by race. However, NIS 4 found that rates of sexual and physical abuse for African American children according to the harm standard were higher than those for White children Sedlak et al. Child Maltreatment reports that Although Child Maltreatment does not provide a breakdown of perpetrator relationship by type of maltreatment, practice indicates these unmarried partners are more likely to commit physical and sexual abuse than neglect. In terms of offender gender, A child can be physically abused outside of the family, for example, in a school setting or in a recreational setting. Under-identification of sexually abused children in national statistics poses a much larger problem. Incidence of Child Sexual Abuse According to Child Maltreatment, , the proportion of children who were victims of sexual abuse was 8. In , the first year of aggregated reports, only 6, cases of sexual abuse were reported, a rate of. By , this figure had climbed to , cases, a rate of This number is 2. Reporting Child Maltreatment The first way that social workers can help physically and sexually abused children is by reporting cases to child protective services when there is reasonable cause to suspect or believe a child has been abused. In almost all 50 U. Social workers need not be certain of abuse to justify a report. Moreover, both federal and state statutes provide protections for persons who report in good faith and penalties for professionals who fail to report Child Welfare Information Gateway, a. And child protection caseworkers are not allowed to reveal the identity of the reporting person during the course of the investigation. These are all legitimate concerns. That said, unless social workers are employed by the child welfare system, they are not in a position to provide child safety from abuse. Child protection workers are, as are law enforcement officials and the courts. Physical abuse indicators include the following: Non-accidental injury sites include the face, the neck, the upper arms, ears, genitals, and buttocks Reece, Similarly, bite marks and burns without plausible explanation are red flags Reece, Finally, if a child discloses physically abusive acts by a caregiver, regardless of the presence of physical signs, that disclosure should trigger a report. Sexual abuse rarely results in physical findings Alexander, Research indicates that children rarely make false allegations of sexual abuse Faller, Sexual behavior needs to be evaluated in terms of the behaviors that are high probability for sexual abuse Child Sexual Behavior Inventory, ; Friedrich, Concerning behaviors include inviting others to engage in sexual activity, engaging in digital, anal, or vaginal penetration, and engaging in oral sexual acts. These concerning behaviors may be with self, other children, adults, or pets Faller, Advanced sexual knowledge may be a sign of sexual abuse in young children. Such knowledge includes knowledge about the mechanics of vaginal, oral, and anal intercourse. Of particular concern is sensori-motor knowledge, for example. Especially today, with the easy access to Internet materials about sexual activity, possible sources of sexual knowledge and sexual behaviors, other than sexual abuse, need to be assessed when considering a report. Although social workers may play important roles in evaluating both physical and sexual abuse, they are more likely to have a central role in sexual abuse cases. In this section, differences between investigative and assessment roles and two strategies specific to gathering information about the likelihood of abuse and its effects will be described. Investigation of Child Physical and Sexual Abuse Social workers and other professionals employed as child protection and child welfare caseworkers are key professionals in investigation of allegations of physical and sexual abuse. In this endeavor, they work closely with other professionals Child Welfare Information Gateway, Typically, the other professionals are health care providers who conduct the physical examinations of children who may have been abused; and law enforcement professionals, whose role is to determine if a crime has been committed. In addition, increasingly, Child Advocacy Centers are hiring social workers as forensic interviewers. Child Advocacy Centers provide a

child-friendly environment where the child is interviewed by a skilled professional, and other professionals with investigatory and case management duties child protection workers, police, and prosecutors observe the interview or review a video of it. The usual goals of the child welfare investigative process are to determine if child abuse has occurred and, if so, whether the child is safe or there is future risk to the child. In addition, if the case is substantiated, the investigation will lead to a case management plan for the child and the family Faller, in press. Assessment of Physically and Sexually Abused Children Social workers in voluntary agencies, in group practices, and in independent practice may work under contract with child welfare agencies or in other capacities on assessments. Often physically and sexually children and their families are referred by the child welfare agency to professionals in the community for evaluations. As already noted, the majority of sexual abuse involves offenders who are not part of the family Bolen, In these circumstances, caregivers may seek assessments of sexually abused children, and law enforcement may refer children to assessment providers. In conducting assessments, social workers and other professionals may address the questions of whether abuse has occurred and child safety, but they are more likely to address the psychological impact of the abuse on the child and make specific treatment recommendations Faller, in press. In addition, social workers and other mental health professionals may be asked by the child welfare system and the courts to assess parents, both offenders and non-offenders, whose children have been abused. Best Practices for Investigation and Assessment Customary social work assessment methods are appropriate for evaluating situations of physical and sexual abuse. In addition, there are best practices that are unique to investigation and assessment of child abuse. These are forensic interviews of children and the use of abuse-specific standardized measures. Whether social workers are child protection investigators or working in other capacities, the core of the evaluative process is interviewing the child. There are numerous guidelines and protocols for conducting these interviews Faller, ; Newlin et al.

Chapter 8 : Child abuse - physical: MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia

Physical child abuse occurs when a child is purposely physically injured or put at risk of harm by another person. Sexual abuse. Sexual child abuse is any sexual activity with a child, such as fondling, oral-genital contact, intercourse, exploitation or exposure to child pornography.

Signs of physical abuse in a child include: Sudden change in behavior or school performance Alertness, watching for something bad to happen Acting out behavior Leaving home early, going home late, and not wanting to go home Fear when approached by adults Other signs include unexplained injuries or a strange explanation of injuries, such as: Black eyes Broken bones that cannot be explained. Recognize when a child might be abused. Get early help for abused children. If you think a child is being abused, contact a health care provider, the police, or child protective services in your city, country or state. Call for any child in immediate danger because of abuse or neglect. Crisis counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Interpreters are available to help in languages. The counselor on the phone can help you figure out what steps to take next. All calls are anonymous and confidential. Abused children can be seriously hurt. Children may also have emotional problems. Counseling and support groups are available for children and for abusive parents who want to get help. There are state and other government departments or agencies that are responsible for the protection of children younger than age 18. Child protection agencies usually make a decision whether the child should go into foster care or can return home. Child protection agencies generally make every effort to reunite families when possible. The system varies from state to state, but usually involves a family court or a court that handles child abuse cases. Concepts and Clinical Practice. Dubowitz H, Lane WG. Abused and neglected children. Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics. Child abuse and neglect. Updated December 29, 2010. Accessed January 9, 2011.

Chapter 9 : Child sexual abuse - Wikipedia

The great majority of sexually abused children do not have any abnormal physical findings. The proper determination and documentation of physical findings and their interpretation based on current scientific knowledge are essential for the protection of abused children. Sexually abused children can.