

# KARA

(KIDS AT RISK ASSOCIATION)



**By:- Mudit Jain, Patrick Joshua, Harichandana  
Chowdhary, Surendra Kunwar**

# Our Mission

Our mission is to protect and empower children by preventing abuse, ensuring their safety, and promoting their well-being. We strive to create a supportive and vigilant community where every child can grow up free from fear and harm. Through education, advocacy, and compassionate intervention, we aim to build a brighter, safer future for all children.



# Research Analysis: Pre-COVID vs. Post-COVID Impact on Child Abuse

Our research is divided into two key periods to understand the impact of societal changes on child abuse:

- **Pre-COVID Era (2015-2018):** Analyzing trends, causes, and prevention strategies before the global pandemic.
- **Post-COVID Era (2019-2022):** Examining how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the incidence and nature of child abuse, as well as the effectiveness of intervention measures.

For instance, one study showed that the prevalence of child maltreatment increased by 5.2 % in the US after the COVID-19 outbreak compared to before (Theodorou et al., 2022), whereas another study showed that the number of child maltreatment incidents in the U.S. decreased by 7.95 % during the COVID-19 pandemic ( ...

Dec 16, 2022



The Study for this was Conducted by National Library for Medicine.

In order to understand the Damage done we took it as a Basis for our Research.

Check this Article out Yourself:-

# Abuse by Gender (2015 - 2018)

The data from 2015 to 2018 shows a persistent and alarming increase in reported child abuse cases for both genders.

- **2015:** The year saw 110,000 reported cases for females and 109,000 for males. These figures represent a significant number of children experiencing abuse, highlighting the need for immediate attention and intervention.
- **2016:** The numbers rose slightly to 112,000 for females and 111,000 for males. This increase indicates that the issue is not only ongoing but potentially worsening, despite efforts to address it.
- **2017:** The trend continued with 115,000 cases for females and 113,000 for males. This consistent rise suggests that existing measures may not be sufficient, and there is a critical need to reevaluate and strengthen child protection strategies.
- **2018:** The highest numbers in this period were recorded, with 116,000 cases for females and 114,000 for males. This peak underscores the urgent necessity for comprehensive policies, community awareness, and robust support systems to protect vulnerable children.



# Story of Unsaved Children :

A 4-year-old, Teghan Skiba, was terrorized, tortured and tormented for 10 days in a shed behind her home by her mom's boyfriend, Jonathan Douglas Richardson. Teghan's mom was away during this time for training with the army reserves. When arrested, Richardson kept a smirk on his face and mocked officers by saying "what are y'all gonna do? Tie me down and cut me up?".

Teghan died three days after being admitted to the hospital.

Read the full news story here:

<http://www.wral.com/deputy-tortured-child-s-injuries-most-horri-fying-thing-i-ve-ever-seen-/13452150>



Sharon Glass and Michael Marshall were arrested in March of 2012 for abusing Marshall's 13-year-old son. This case of abuse includes locking the boy up in closets and zip tie him to his bed, starving him for days. Glass could get more than 100 years in prison and Marhsall is facing 20 to 40 years in prison.

Read the full story here:

<http://www.wesh.com/news/central-florida/brevard-county/trial-continues-for-woman-accused-of-starving-13yearold/23862158>

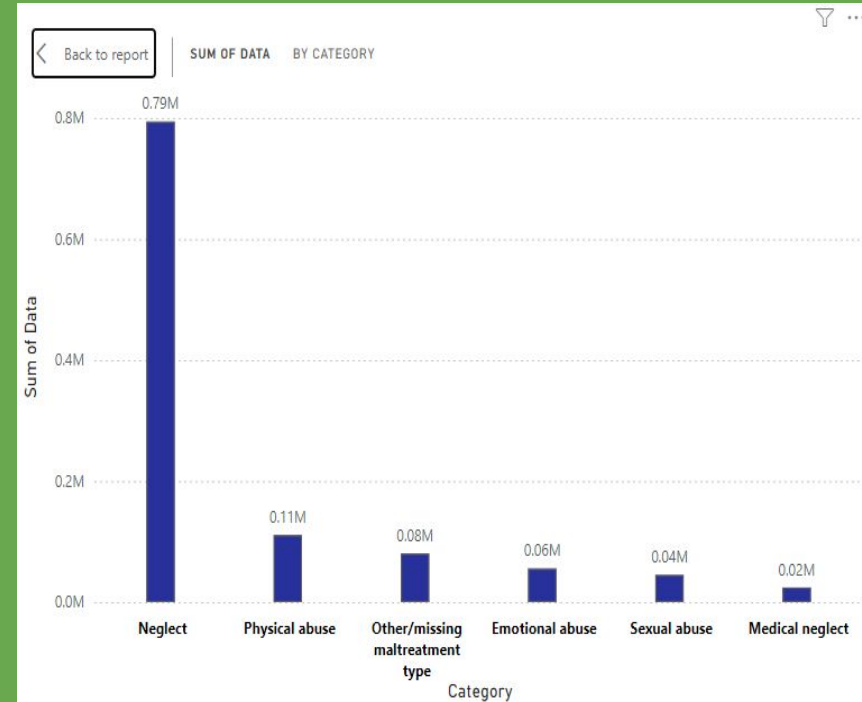
# Type of Abuse (2015 - 2018)

The graph illustrates the distribution of reported child abuse cases by category from 2015 to 2018. The data highlights various forms of abuse, showcasing the severity and prevalence of each type.

## Data Summary:

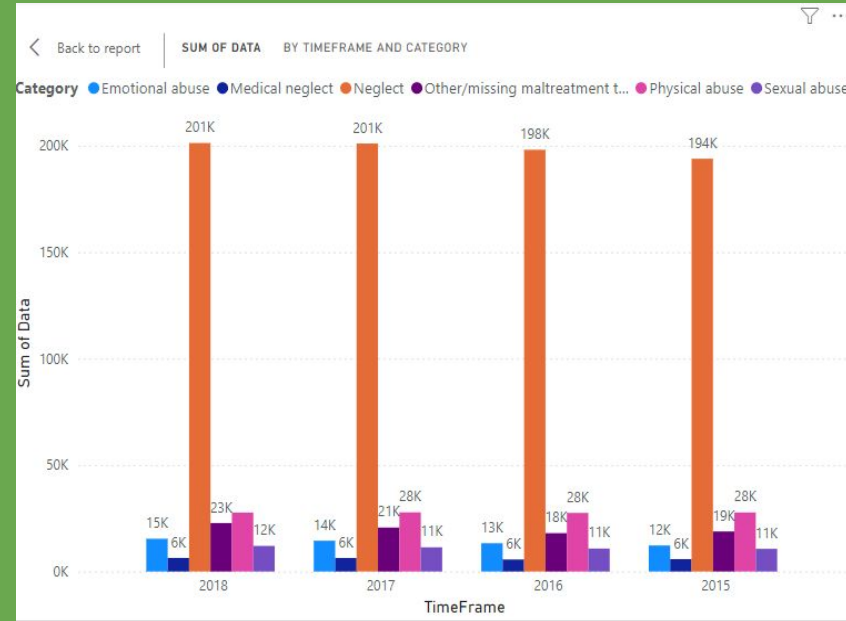
- **Neglect:** 0.79 million cases, indicating the most prevalent form of child abuse.
- **Physical Abuse:** 0.11 million cases.
- **Other/Missing Maltreatment Type:** 0.08 million cases.
- **Emotional Abuse:** 0.06 million cases.
- **Sexual Abuse:** 0.04 million cases.
- **Medical Neglect:** 0.02 million cases.

**Analysis:** Neglect stands out as the most common form of abuse, with an overwhelming 0.79 million cases. This suggests a critical need to address factors contributing to neglect, such as socioeconomic challenges and parental education. Physical abuse, while significantly lower in numbers, still affects a substantial number of children, highlighting the importance of intervention and support systems.



# Child Abuse Categories by Year (2015-2018)

The data highlights the overwhelming prevalence of neglect in child abuse cases, consistently reaching around 200K annually. This points to a systemic issue where children's basic needs are not being met. Physical abuse remains alarmingly high, with 28K cases each year, underscoring the need for immediate intervention and prevention strategies. Emotional abuse, while lower in number, presents a persistent issue affecting children's mental health. Sexual abuse, though fewer in reported cases, represents severe violations that necessitate robust protective measures. The steady figures in other/missing maltreatment types and medical neglect suggest ongoing challenges in categorizing and addressing various forms of abuse. This pattern indicates a critical need for comprehensive child protection policies and increased awareness and support systems to safeguard children effectively.



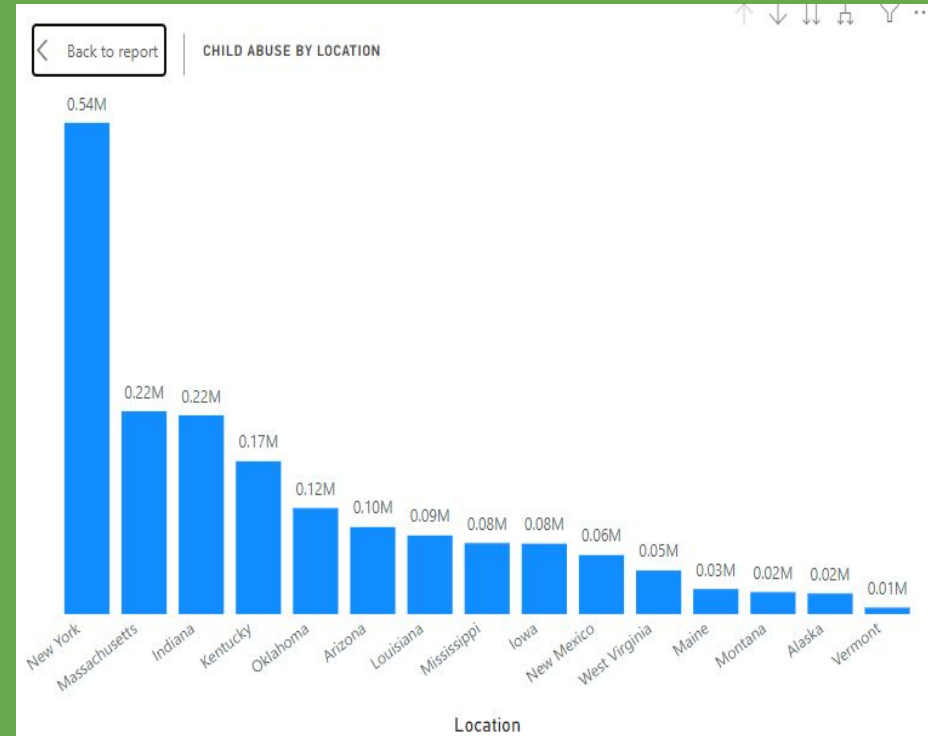


# Child Abuse By Location (2015 - 2018)

The data shows a stark geographical disparity in reported child abuse cases. New York stands out with an alarming 0.54 million cases, reflecting significant systemic issues in child protection. Indiana and Massachusetts also report high numbers, each at 0.22 million, suggesting similar challenges in these states.

States like Arizona (0.10M), Kentucky (0.17M), and Oklahoma (0.12M) also show substantial numbers, indicating widespread issues across various regions. In contrast, states like Alaska (0.02M), Montana (0.02M), and Vermont (0.01M) report fewer cases, though this could be due to underreporting rather than a lack of incidents.

Each of these numbers represents a child enduring suffering, pain, and fear. The high numbers in states like New York and Indiana are a cry for help from thousands of children who are facing neglect and abuse daily. We must not overlook the lower numbers from states like Vermont and Montana, as they might mask unreported pain. This data calls for a unified, nationwide effort to protect our children, ensuring no child slips through the cracks of our care systems.





# Unreported Child Abuse Cases in the US

Child abuse is a significantly underreported issue in the United States. Research indicates that a substantial portion of child abuse cases remain undisclosed. It is estimated that for every reported case of child abuse, there are two additional cases that go unreported. This means that the actual incidence of child abuse is likely much higher than the official statistics suggest.



**3 out of 5 children never  
disclose their abuse.**



In 2021, the federal government reported that 8.1 out of every 1,000 children were found to be victims of abuse or neglect at least once. However, experts believe this number underrepresents the true scope of the problem due to unreported cases. Many incidents of abuse are not brought to light because they occur in private settings, and victims are often too young or too afraid to report them.

# Impact of Unreported Cases:

**Impact and Consequences:** The underreporting of child abuse has severe implications for the victims. Children who endure unreported abuse are at greater risk for long-term psychological, emotional, and physical consequences. These include developmental delays, mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression, and an increased likelihood of substance abuse and future victimization ([CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

## THE EFFECTS OF CHILD ABUSE

- 
- 1 Impaired brain development
  - 2 Poor physical health
  - 3 Psychological issues
  - 4 Relationship issues
  - 5 Substance abuse
  - 6 Behavioral issues
  - 7 Abusive to others



**Economic Burden:** The economic impact of child abuse, including both reported and unreported cases, is substantial. The total lifetime economic burden associated with child abuse and neglect was estimated to be about \$592 billion in 2018. This figure rivals the costs associated with major public health issues such as heart disease and diabetes ([CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

### Sources:

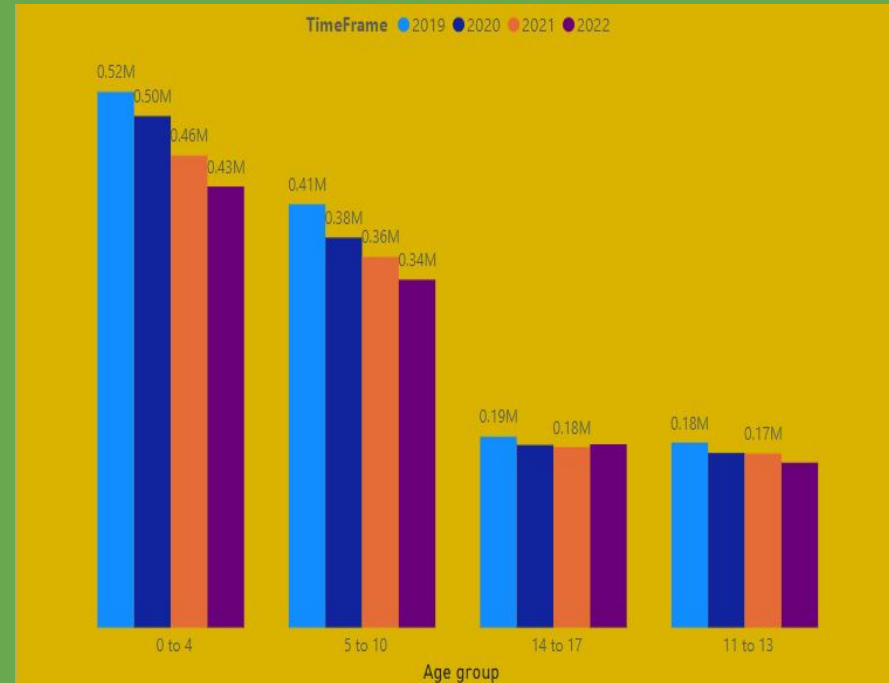
- CDC: [Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov)
- USAFacts: Child & Social Services Statistics and Data Trends

# Child Abuse by Age Group: Pre-COVID vs. Post-COVID(2019-2022)

The data shows a general decline in reported child abuse cases across all age groups from 2019 to 2022. The most significant decrease is seen in the youngest age group (0 to 4), where cases dropped from 0.52M in 2019 to 0.43M in 2022. Other age groups also experienced declines, with cases in the 5 to 10 age group reducing from 0.41M to 0.34M, and slight decreases in the 11 to 13 and 14 to 17 age groups. This overall downward trend could reflect a combination of factors, including enhanced intervention strategies, changes in reporting mechanisms during the pandemic, and possibly underreporting during periods of lockdown and reduced social interaction. The data underscores the need for continuous monitoring and support to protect vulnerable children effectively.

This downward trend could be attributed to several factors:

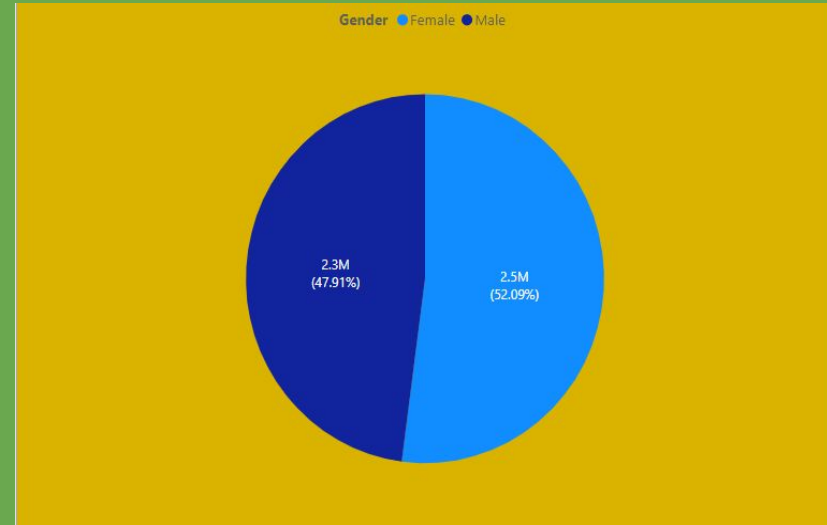
1. **Enhanced Intervention Strategies:** Increased efforts by child protection agencies and community programs to identify and address abuse early.
2. **Changes in Reporting Mechanisms:** The pandemic disrupted traditional reporting channels, such as schools and daycare centers, which may have led to underreporting during lockdowns and remote learning periods.
3. **Impact of Social Services:** Social services adapted to the pandemic, potentially leading to both improved intervention in some cases and challenges in others due to limited resources and access.
4. **Economic and Social Factors:** The pandemic-induced economic strain and social isolation may have influenced reporting and the actual incidence of abuse, with some families receiving more support and others facing greater challenges.



# Gender Distribution of Child Abuse Cases Post-COVID

The data shows a gender distribution of child abuse cases, with females representing 52.09% (2.5M cases) and males 47.91% (2.3M cases). This slight predominance of female cases suggests that girls are marginally more vulnerable to abuse compared to boys. This trend aligns with historical data, which consistently shows a similar distribution with a slight leaning towards higher reported cases among females.

The near-equal distribution highlights that both genders are significantly affected by abuse, necessitating comprehensive protective measures and support systems for all children. The figures underscore the importance of addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities and ensuring that both boys and girls receive adequate protection and support.

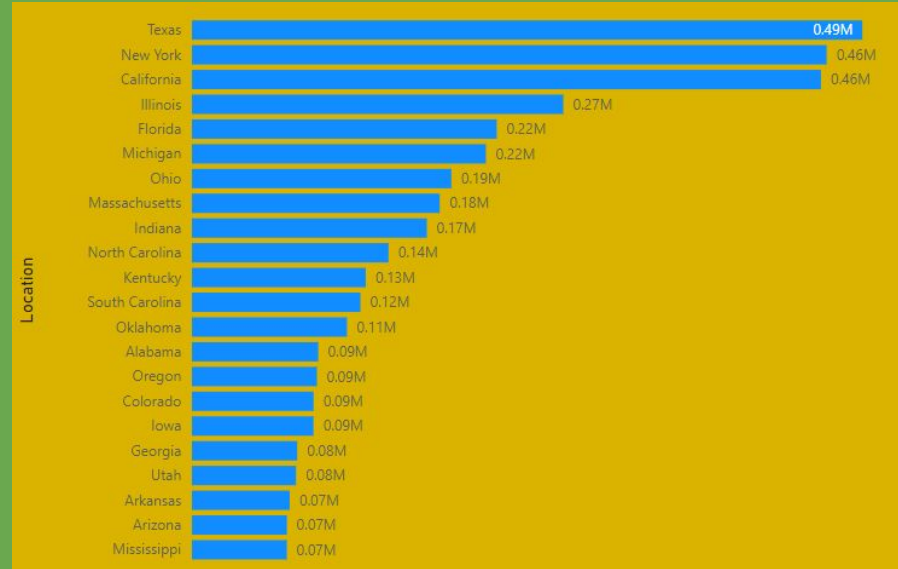


# Child Abuse Cases by Location Post-COVID

The data illustrates the distribution of child abuse cases across various states. Texas leads with the highest number of reported cases at 0.49M, followed closely by New York and California, each with 0.46M cases. Illinois and Florida also report significant numbers, with 0.27M and 0.22M cases respectively.

Michigan and Ohio each have 0.22M and 0.19M cases, while Massachusetts and Indiana report 0.18M and 0.17M cases. North Carolina and Kentucky follow with 0.14M and 0.13M cases, respectively. South Carolina has 0.12M cases, and Oklahoma reports 0.11M cases.

Other states with notable numbers include Alabama, Oregon, and Colorado, each with 0.09M cases, and Iowa with 0.09M cases as well. Georgia and Utah report 0.08M cases each, followed by Arkansas, Arizona, and Mississippi, each with 0.07M cases.



# Child Abuse Cases by Category Post-COVID

## Neglect:

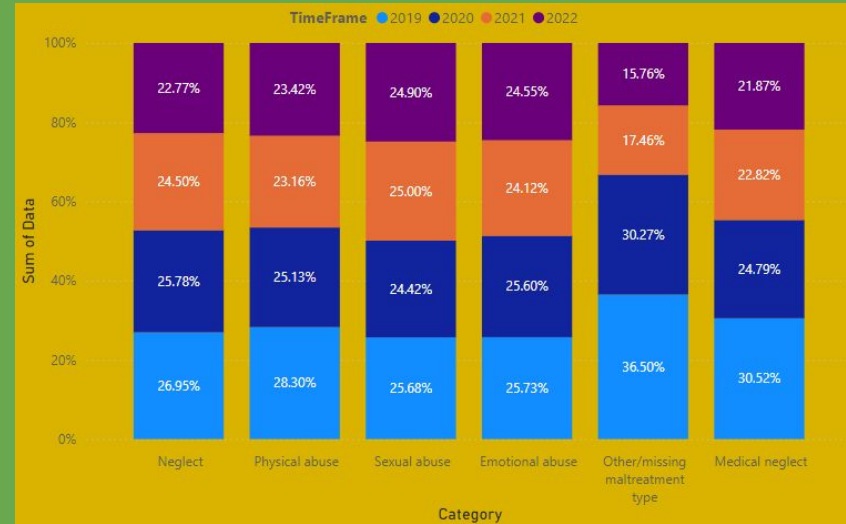
- The proportion of neglect cases slightly decreased from 26.95% in 2019 to 22.77% in 2022, indicating a possible improvement in addressing basic care and supervision issues.

## Physical Abuse:

- Cases of physical abuse saw a small decrease from 28.30% in 2019 to 23.42% in 2022. This may reflect increased awareness and intervention efforts to prevent physical violence against children.

## Sexual Abuse:

- The proportion of sexual abuse cases remained relatively stable, with a slight decrease from 25.68% in 2019 to 24.90% in 2022, suggesting ongoing challenges in preventing and addressing this severe form of abuse.



# Child Abuse Cases by Category Post-COVID

## Emotional Abuse:

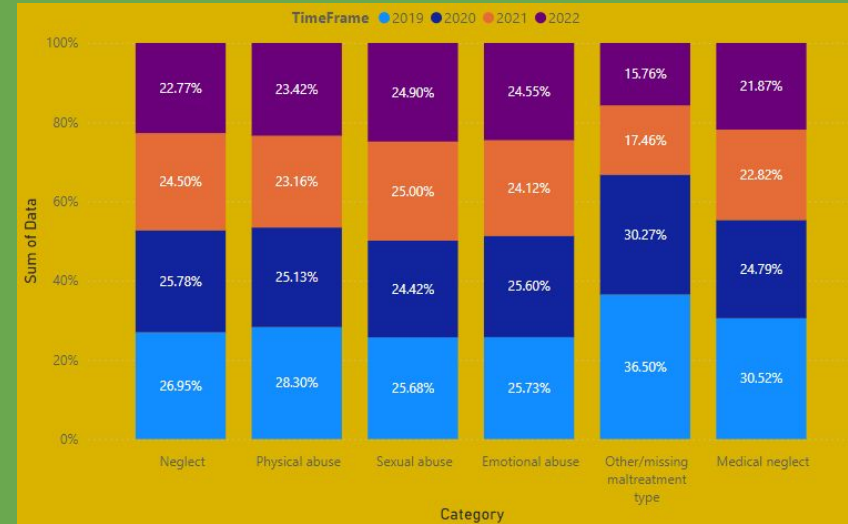
- Emotional abuse cases showed minor fluctuations, with a slight decrease from 25.73% in 2019 to 24.55% in 2022. This underscores the persistent need for mental health support and interventions for children.

## Other/Missing Maltreatment Type:

- This category saw an increase from 36.50% in 2019 to 15.76% in 2022, which might indicate improved classification and reporting of abuse cases, leading to better data accuracy.

## Medical Neglect:

- The proportion of medical neglect cases decreased from 30.52% in 2019 to 21.87% in 2022. This could reflect better access to healthcare and more effective medical interventions for children during this period.





# Effects on Child Abuse Before and After Covid

## Emotional and Psychological Impact:

**Before COVID-19:** Children experiencing abuse often faced long-term emotional and psychological effects, including anxiety, depression, and PTSD. The consistent environment of school and social interactions sometimes provided a partial buffer.

**Example:** A study conducted by the CDC in 2018 showed that children who experienced abuse were more likely to develop mental health disorders, affecting their academic performance and social interactions.

## Physical Health Consequences:

**Before COVID-19:** Physical abuse often resulted in immediate injuries like bruises and broken bones, and long-term health issues such as chronic pain and somatic symptoms.

**Example:** The 2019 National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) report highlighted that physically abused children had higher rates of hospitalization due to injuries related to abuse.

## Educational Disruption:

**Before COVID-19:** Abuse often led to frequent school absences, poor academic performance, and higher dropout rates. However, schools provided a stable environment and access to supportive adults who could intervene.

**Example:** Research by the National Center for Education Statistics indicated that abused children were more likely to have lower academic achievement and engagement.

# Effects on Child Abuse Before and After Covid

## **Increased Emotional and Psychological Trauma:**

**After COVID-19:** The pandemic exacerbated emotional and psychological trauma due to increased isolation, anxiety about the virus, and disruptions in daily routines.

**Example:** A study by JAMA Pediatrics in 2021 reported a rise in anxiety and depression among children during the pandemic, with abused children experiencing heightened levels of distress.

## **Worsened Physical Health Outcomes:**

**After COVID-19:** Physical health outcomes worsened as children had less access to medical care and were more isolated from teachers and doctors who could spot signs of abuse.

**Example:** The American Academy of Pediatrics noted an increase in severe cases of child abuse coming to hospitals, as minor injuries often went unreported and untreated during lockdowns.

## **Educational Challenges:**

**After COVID-19:** School closures and remote learning disrupted the education of many children, with abused children facing even greater challenges due to lack of a safe space and access to supportive resources.

**Example:** A 2021 report by UNESCO highlighted that abused children struggled significantly with remote learning, exacerbating educational inequalities.

## **Heightened Behavioral Problems:**

**After COVID-19:** Behavioral problems escalated due to prolonged stress, uncertainty, and lack of social interactions. Increased family stress also led to more conflict and aggressive behavior.

**Example:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that children reported increased behavioral issues such as aggression and defiance during the pandemic.

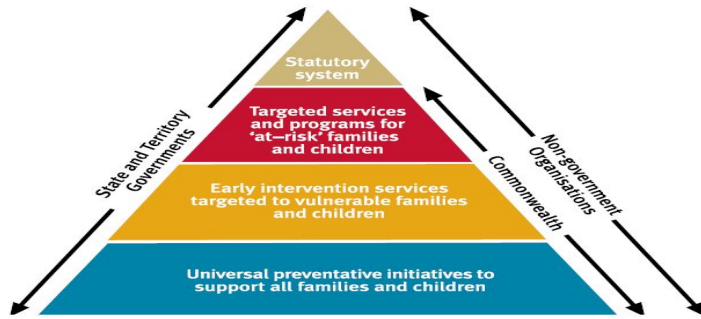
# Solutions to Stop Child Abuse

## Education and Awareness:

- **Solution:** Implement comprehensive education programs in schools and communities to raise awareness about child abuse, its signs, and the importance of reporting.
- **Example:** The "Darkness to Light" organization runs the "Stewards of Children" program, which educates adults on how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. This program has successfully trained over 1.8 million adults.



Figure 1 – A system for protecting children



## Strong Legal Framework:

**Solution:** Strengthen child protection laws and ensure stringent enforcement. Implement mandatory reporting laws for professionals working with children.

**Example:** In Australia, the introduction of mandatory reporting laws has significantly increased the identification and intervention in child abuse cases. These laws require professionals like teachers and doctors to report suspected child abuse, leading to early intervention.

# Solution to Stop Child Abuse

## Support Services for Families:

**Solution:** Provide comprehensive support services for families at risk, including counseling, financial assistance, and parenting programs.

**Example:** The Nurse-Family Partnership in the United States offers home visits by registered nurses to low-income, first-time mothers. This program has shown to reduce child abuse and neglect by providing support and education to new parents.



## Child Advocacy Centers (CACs):

**Solution:** Establish and support Child Advocacy Centers, which provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to child abuse cases.

**Example:** The National Children's Advocacy Center in Alabama serves as a model for over 1,000 CACs across the United States. These centers offer a child-friendly environment where law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy professionals can collaborate on child abuse cases.

### Community Involvement:

**Solution:** Foster a community culture where protecting children is a shared responsibility. Encourage community members to be vigilant and report suspected abuse.

**Example:** In the UK, the "NSPCC Helpline" allows adults to voice concerns about a child. The helpline has helped safeguard countless children by providing a confidential way for community members to report suspected abuse.



### Therapeutic Interventions:

- **Solution:** Provide access to therapeutic services for children who have experienced abuse, including trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (TF-CBT).
- **Example:** The "Safe Horizon" program in New York offers TF-CBT and other services to children and families affected by violence. Their holistic approach helps children heal and recover from their traumatic experiences.