**Child Maltreatment Risk Factors in Missouri**

The maltreatment of children is a serious concern in our communities. It not only threatens our children’s safety today but can have a lasting impact for the health and well-being of generations to come.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), a combination of individual, relational, community, and societal factors can be attributed to rates child abuse and neglect. These factors can include, but are not limited to stress, substance abuse, mental illness, unstable living situations, poverty, lack of parenting skills, single parenthood, or social isolation. It is also known that those who abuse children were often abused themselves. Although every risk factor will not necessarily lead to child maltreatment, each factor is associated with increased risk.

In this presentation we will examine substantiated investigations of child abuse/neglect for children under 18. We will also explore several identified risk factors over time and determine the circumstances in which these characteristics show significant correlation to abuse and neglect rates. We will begin our observations at the state level, followed by a deeper dive into regional data. The goal of this project is to identify opportunities for prevention and intervention services that can address risk factors of abuse and neglect and ultimately improve the lives of children and families across the state of Missouri.

Resource: Kids Count Data Center; www.datacenter.kidscount.org.

Content source: [Centers for Disease Contr www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/riskprotectivefactors.htmlol](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/riskprotectivefactors.html)

Child abuse and neglect

The maltreatment of children is a serious concern in our communities. It not only threatens our children’s safety today, but can have a lasting impact for the health and well-being of generations to come.

Although there are many identifiable risk-factors, this is an issue that crosses all socio-economic boundaries.

Research shows that child abuse and neglect can be attributed to factors such as stress, substance abuse, mental illness, unstable living situations, poverty, lack of parenting skills, single parenthood, or social isolation. Often those who abuse children were victims of child abuse themselves. Although every risk factor will not necessarily lead to child maltreatment, each factor is associated with increased risk. (CDC)

Prevention and intervention services are key to addressing child abuse risk factors. Programs that help parents achieve and maintain safe, stable environments now will improve the well-being of children for generations to come.

For my final project, I chose to examine Missouri child abuse and neglect data in relation to three risk factors to determine which has the greatest correlation to the reduction in child abuse and neglect over time.

In this project, child maltreatment is assessed in relation to parent characteristics, family factors, and community conditions. The three factors examined include Teen Pregnancy, Single Parenting, Poverty.

Content for the Graphs:

Parenting at a young age can be extremely stressful, the challenge often compounded by lack of income, education, and the skills needed to parent. Missouri teen pregnancy rates have dropped considerably since 1990 with help from public policy and private funding to support organizations dedicated to providing prevention and intervention services, particularly to at-risk youth. As support services became more accessible, the rates of teen pregnancy declined as did rates of child abuse and neglect.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/factors/parentcaregiver/teen/>

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The Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Federal Grant (CBCAP) was issued to Children’s Trust Fund - Missouri Foundation for Child Abuse Prevention following the enactment of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Amendments in 1996. This funding brought multiple providers together to address the needs of at-risk children and improve outcomes for Missouri families. <https://www.ctf4kids.org/program-partners/cbcap>

President Bill Clinton called out teen pregnancy as the “most serious social problem” in the United States. He asked the country to come together to reduce this statistic.

Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership promotes adolescent sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention by uniting Missouri through advocacy, collaboration, training, and public awareness. In 2010, TPPP became a statewide agency

In 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Population Affairs (OPA) established the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, mandated by Congress to fund comprehensive, medically accurate, and age appropriate programs to reduce teen pregnancy. With a budget of nearly $101 million per year, the program promotes abstinence, the use of contraception, and provides educational preparation for adulthood for at-risk youth.

<https://youth.gov/evidence-innovation/investing-evidence/teen-pregnancy-prevention-initiative>

<https://www.teenpregnancy-mo.org/about/our-story/>

opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp

Missouri Counties

<https://mcdc.missouri.edu/geography/reference/MO_Region_Codes.html>