

Community In Unity Creates Child Well-Being

Let's join hands and resources to protect our children from abuse and neglect



These are meant to help you share information about Child Abuse Prevention Month when asked by the media or members of your community. The following talking points are written in a way to provide basic messages about the most significant aspects of child abuse and neglect. Spread the word and let others know how they can get more involved in helping children and families!

TALKING POINTS:

- National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to raise awareness on the importance of providing a safe, stable, and loving environment for children to grow up in. This year's theme, 'Community in Unity', emphasizes the significant impact that can be made in a child's life when families and communities come together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Studies show that only 13% of children in the U.S. live in communities thought of as being highly supportive. We would like to see an increase in that number by encouraging families to find opportunities to become more involved in their neighborhoods. [Child Trends (2007). *Neighborhood Support Index*. Available at: <http://www.childtrends.org/?publications=neighborhood-support-index-fact-sheet>]
- Every year more than 3 million cases of child abuse are reported and many of these reports include multiple children.* Two of the major risk factors that often lead to child abuse and neglect are family isolation and stress. There are steps that everyone can take to lead the way in preventing child abuse and neglect in your family or community. We offer resources for (list prevention programs). [Child Help (2013). *Child Abuse Statistics*. Available at: <https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/>]
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have a significant impact on a child's future. ACEs include physical, emotional, and sexual child abuse, neglect, and parental stress or illness. Studies by Kaiser Permanente show that childhood trauma leads to the adult onset of chronic diseases, depression and other mental illness, violence and being a victim of violence. 46% of children in the United States have had at least one ACEs. In California, 33% of children are reported to have had ACEs.* Reducing the number of ACEs can drastically lower the risks of long-term health and wellness issues, allowing children to grow into healthy and productive adults. [Child Trends (2014). *Adverse Childhood Experiences: National and State Level Prevalence*. Available at: <http://www.childtrends.org/?publications=adverse-childhood-experiences-national-and-state-level-prevalence>]
- Whether the abuse is physical or emotional, it can be extremely harmful to a child's development. A part of abuse that isn't often referred to is neglect. Child neglect accounts for more than 62% of all child maltreatment cases.* Child neglect occurs when a parent or guardian fails to provide adequate care for a minor. As a community, it is important to provide support and resources for parents and guardians, so they may better care for their children. [American Humane Association (2007). *Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics*. Available at: <http://www.americanhumane.org/children/stop-child-abuse/fact-sheets/child-abuse-and-neglect-statistics.html>]
- The Protective Factors are often identified in healthy children and families. Parent resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, support, and children's social and emotional development all contribute to creating strong families. This approach helps reduce risk factors and promotes family well-being.
- Preventing child abuse is everyone's responsibility. [Organization Name] needs your help during Child Abuse Prevention Month. Help us spread awareness to others across California through Facebook and Twitter. Even though California is comprised of many different families, we are all part of one community. Together we can help stop child abuse and neglect. If your family or a family you know is struggling, you can find help and resources through (Organization Name).