

Child Abuse

MYTH

FACT

It won't happen to me or my friends; I live in an affluent part of the country.

Child abuse and neglect occur in all types of families, no matter the income, education, family size, race, religion, or any other trait.

I have to be physically affected to suffer the consequences of abuse or neglect.

Child abuse has far-reaching impacts; family dysfunctions, substance abuse, mental illness, or parental separation/divorce.

Strangers are more likely to abuse/neglect my child.

Over 90% of sexual offenders are someone the child knows and trusts.

The long-term effects of abuse or neglect are minimal.

Children who experience abuse or neglect are nine times more likely to be involved in criminal activity later in life. Furthermore, child abuse has been seen to physically alter DNA, affecting descendants.

Child Abuse has to be able to be seen.

Child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, or neglect. In fact, 25% of cases are emotional neglect or abuse which usually leave no hard evidence.

All children know when to speak up about abuse.

Not even close. Only one in ten children tell anyone.



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Teen Dating Violence

MYTH

FACT

Jealousy and possessiveness are signs of true love.

It is one of the most common early warning signs that a relationship will become abusive.

Relationship violence isn't really that serious.

The severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.

Alcohol and drugs cause a person to be abusive.

Many people who abuse their partner do not abuse alcohol or drugs, and many alcoholics/drug addicts do not abuse their partners.

Verbal or emotional abuse in a relationship is "no big deal."

Verbal and emotional abuse can have long-lasting effects, often longer lasting than the effects of physical abuse. Verbal abuse creates pain and trauma, and has been known to cause physical illness.

Abusers will stop the violence once they are married.

An abuser's suspiciousness and possessiveness is likely to increase along with an escalating rate of violence after marriage.

If a person stays in an abusive relationship, it must not really be that bad.

Victims stay with their abusive partners for a variety of reasons; confusion, loss of self-confidence, not recognizing the behavior as being abusive, or a belief the abuser will cause further harm to the victim or him/herself.



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