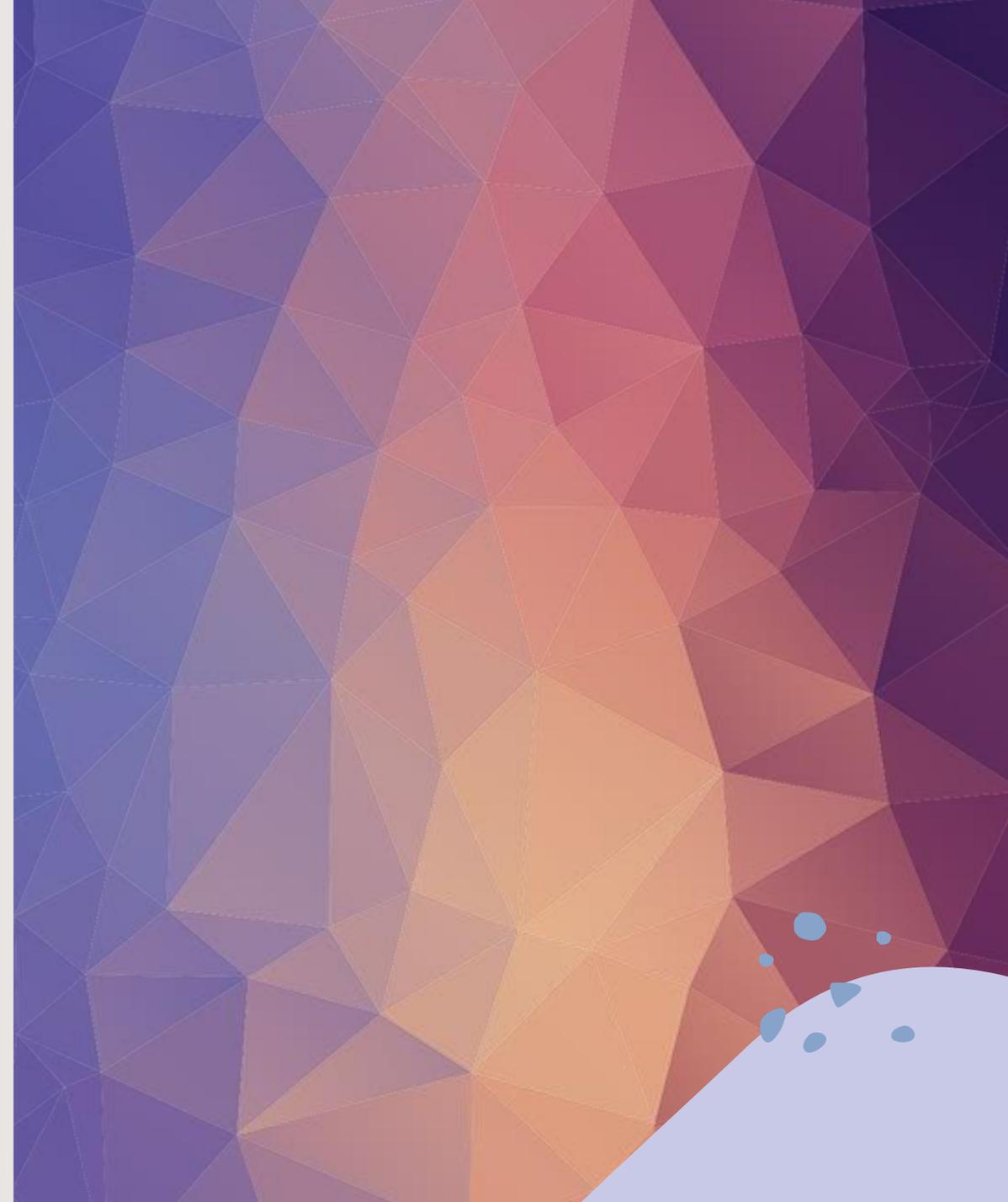


Maltreatment of Minors



Maltreatment of Minors Introduction

Who would you consider to be a minor and vulnerable to maltreatment?



All children 17 and younger are minors. All minors are considered vulnerable to maltreatment.

How big is the problem of child maltreatment?





Child Abuse and Neglect Definition:

1. Any act or series of acts of **commission** or **omission** by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role that results in harm, potential harm, or threat of harm to a child.
2. A preventable act.

Acts of Commission Definition: words or overt actions that cause harm, potential harm, or threat of harm, even if harm to a child is not the intended consequence.

Some Examples Include:

Physical
Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Psychological
Abuse

Act of Omission Definition: Failure to provide basic needs or protect from harm or potential harm.

Some Examples Include:

Physical
Neglect

Emotional
Neglect

Medical &
Dental
Neglect

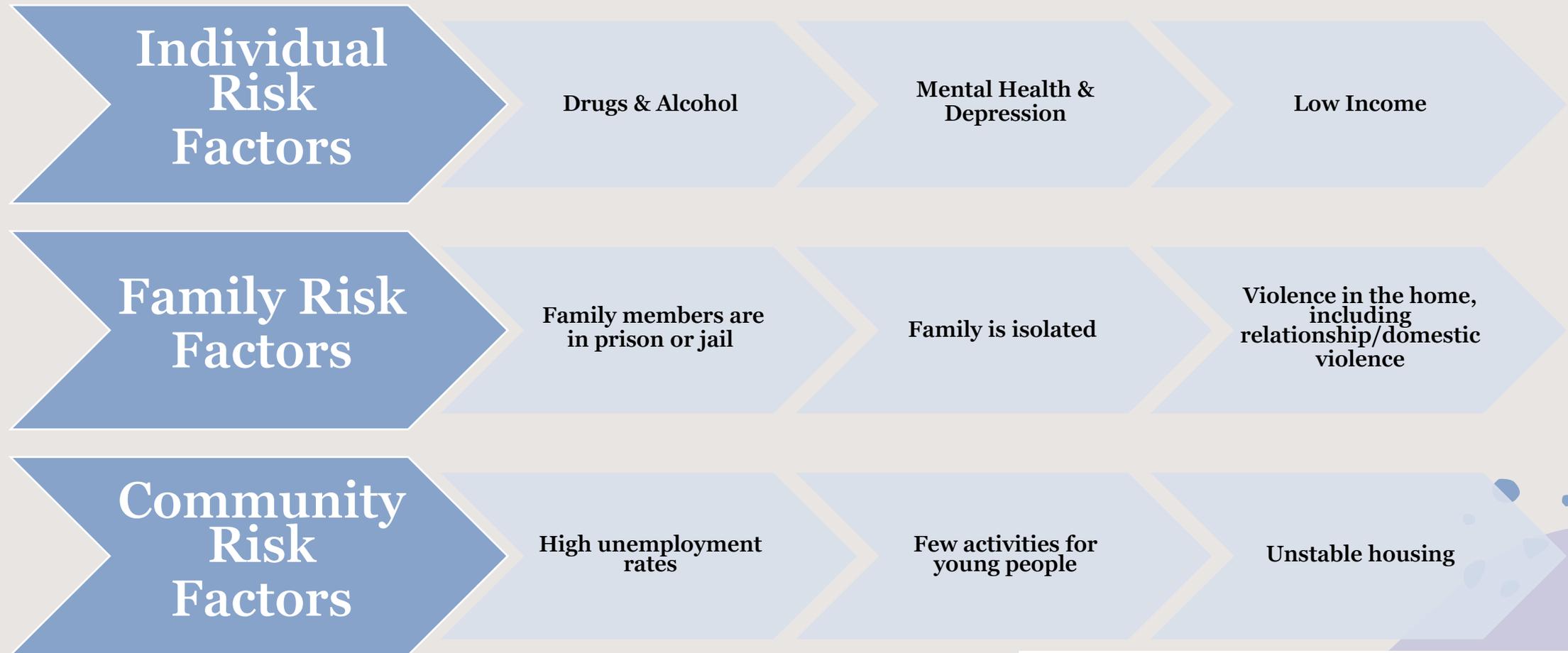
Educational
Neglect

Inadequate
Supervision

Exposure to
violent
environments

Most parents and caregivers work very hard to protect their children, however sometimes circumstances or conditions can interfere with their ability to effectively do so.

Some examples include:



Physical Abuse:

General Definition: any non-accidental physical injury to a child. This can include striking, kicking, burning, or biting a child, or any action that results in a physical impairment of the child.

MN Definition: When a caregiver causes any physical injury, or threatens harm or substantial injury, on a child other than by accident. Physical abuse can range from minor bruises to severe internal injuries or death.

Egregious Harm:

MN Definition: The infliction of bodily harm to a child or neglect of a child which demonstrates a grossly inadequate ability to provide minimally adequate care.

Signs of Physical Abuse

- Knowing and recognizing the signs of physical abuse is the first step towards reporting the abuse and bringing it to a stop.
- Not all signs are obvious, some are more subtle.
- Some signs may include:

Weight loss
or weight gain

Poor Hygiene

Chronic
school
absentness

Socially
withdrawn

Poor
concentration

Hyperactivity

Regressive
behaviors for
their age

Increased
verbal
aggression

Self-harm

Withdrawal
to touch

Difficulty
walking or
sitting

Unexplained
symptoms of
illness

Unexplained
injuries

Phobias

Depression &
Anxiety

Substance
abuse

Headaches

Irritability



Sexual Abuse

MN Definition: Any sexual contact with a minor or threatened sexual abuse.

According to RAINN:

- Every **9 minutes**, child protective services substantiates, or finds evidence for, a claim of sexual abuse.
- **1 out of 9 girls and 1 out of 53 boys** under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult.
- **Females, age 16-19, are 4 times more likely** than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.
- **93%** of victims of child sexual abuse know the perpetrator of the abuse.

Sexual Abuse

According to RAINN, Sexual Abuse can include:

- Exhibitionism, or exposing oneself to a minor
- Fondling
- Intercourse
- Masturbation in the presence of a minor or forcing the minor to masturbate
- Obscene conversations, phone calls, text messages, or digital interaction
- Producing, owning, or sharing pornographic images or movies of children
- Sex of any kind with a minor, including vaginal, oral, or anal sex
- Sex trafficking
- Any other contact of a sexual nature that involves a minor

Child sexual abuse can cause long-lasting effects on the victim's mental health.

- Child victims of sexual abuse are:
 - 4 times more likely to develop symptoms of drug abuse.
 - 4 times more likely to experience PTSD as adults.
 - 3 times more likely to experiences a major depressive episode as adults.

Sexual Abuse



Physical Signs

Bleeding, bruises, or swelling in genital area

Bloody, torn, or stained underclothing

Difficulty walking or sitting

Frequent urinary or yeast infections

Pain, itching, or burning in genital area

Behavioral Signs

Changes in Hygiene

Develops Phobias

Depression or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Suicidal thoughts or self harm

Inappropriate sexual knowledge or behaviors

Sexual abuse of minors often goes unreported. Some common reasons include:

The child feels that the abuse is their fault.

The child thinks that no one will believe them.

The child is embarrassed.

The child has been conditioned to believe this is "how love is shown."

The child worries reporting the abuse will split up their family.

Emotional Abuse

General Definition: Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate, or ignore a child.

Mental Injury

MN Definition: An injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by an observable or substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to the child's culture.

Emotional Abuse could include:

- Humiliating or constantly criticizing a child
- Shouting at a child or calling them names
- Making the child the subject of jokes or using sarcasm to hurt a child
- Blaming or scapegoating
- Making the child perform degrading acts
- Pushing a child too hard or not recognizing their limitations
- Exposing a child to upsetting events or situations, like domestic abuse or drug taking
- Failing to promote a child's social development
- Persistently ignoring a child
- Being absent
- Manipulating a child
- Never saying anything kind and never expressing positive feelings or congratulating a child on successes

Neglect

General Definition: a failure of a parent or other person with responsibility for a child to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision to the degree that the child's health, safety, and well-being are threatened with harm.

MN Definition: A parent, legal guardian, or caretaker who willfully deprives a child of necessary food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision appropriate to the child's age, when the parent, guardian, or caretaker is reasonably able to make the necessary provisions and the deprivation harms or is likely to substantially harm the child's physical, mental, or emotional health of the child.

How can we help prevent child abuse and neglect?

Strengthen economic supports to families

- Strengthening household financial security
- Family-friendly work policies

Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting

- Public engagement and enhancement campaigns
- Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment

Provide quality care and education early in life

- Preschool enrichment with family engagement
- Improved child care quality through licensing and accreditation

Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development

- Early childhood home visitation
- Parenting skill and family relationship approaches

Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

- Enhanced primary care
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure
- Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence

MANDATED REPORTERS

Hopefully, all people who witness or suspect maltreatment will report the abuse. However, **Mandated Reporters** are a special group required to report suspected maltreatment.

Mandated Reporters are professionals or professional's delegate identified by law who **MUST** make a report if they have a reason to believe that the abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of a child has occurred.

Mandated Reporter means a professional or professional's delegate who works in: social services, law enforcement, education, direct care, licensed health and human services, employment in a licensed facility, and medical examiners/coroner activities.

You might be wondering, when or what I am supposed to report?

WHEN IN DOUBT, REPORT!

Important Definitions to Remember while Filing a Report:

False Report or a Bad Faith Report: A report placed with information that the individual knows to be untrue or fabricated. A person who knowingly makes a false report could be found guilty of a misdemeanor and be held liable in a civil suit for damages and fees.

Good Faith Report: An accurate report of the facts you know to be true- a report of what you have seen and heard. You do not need to have all the facts or know for certain that abuse/maltreatment occurred- just report what you know.



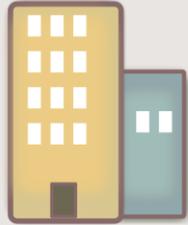
Maltreatment of Minors Act: Reporting

Unlike the reporting of suspecting maltreatment of adults, all suspected maltreatment of children must be reported externally and must be reported by the person who witnessed or suspected the abuse.





When reporting suspected maltreatment of a minor, the report must be made immediately, defined as within 24 hours.



Report externally.

- If there is immediate danger, call 911.
- If there is no immediate danger-
 - Call you county child protection office if the alleged perpetrator is a parent, guardian, or family foster care provider.
 - Call the Dept. Of Human Services Licensing Division at 651-431-6600 if the alleged perpetrator is a staff at a licensed program.



You must follow up with a written report within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays.

CLOSING-

- As a Mandated Reporter, you are required to report all witnessed or **suspected** instances of maltreatment. You are not responsible for determining if suspected maltreatment occurred.
- When you make a report, your information will be kept confidential. Your information will be kept private and no one will be informed that you reported them.

The image shows the iconic Jeopardy! game show set. The background is a curved wall with a grid of red and orange squares. A bright light fixture is visible at the top center. The floor is a dark, reflective surface with a grid pattern. The word "JEOPARDY!" is written in large, white, 3D block letters with blue outlines, centered in the background.

JEOPARDY!

LET'S PLAY!