

LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY  
Health and Human Service Needs  
FACT SHEET

## Child Maltreatment in Livingston County

September 2020

### What is “Child Maltreatment”

Child maltreatment is “all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role (e.g. clergy, coach, teacher).” (Centers for Disease Control CDC)



Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force, such as kitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other show of force against a child.

Sexual abuse is engaging a child in any sexual act, including fondling, rape, and exposing a child to sexual activities or images. Child pornography is sexual abuse.

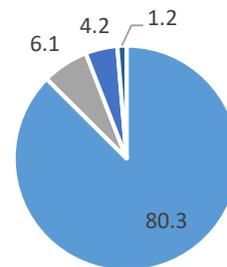
Emotional abuse is behavior that harms a child’s self-worth or emotional well-being, including name calling, shaming, rejection, withholding love, and threatening.

Neglect is the failure to meet a child’s basic needs, including housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care. Poverty alone is not neglect.

Most cases of child maltreatment are cases of neglect. Children under four years of age are at the greatest risk for severe injury and death from abuse.

**Parents are the perpetrators in the vast majority of child maltreatment cases. (CDC)**

**Perpetrator of Child Maltreatment Relationship to Victim**



■ Parents ■ Other Relative ■ Unmarried partner of parent ■ Other

## Why is this issue so important?



Child maltreatment has both immediate and long-term negative effect on health. Abused children often suffer injuries and experience stress that can disrupt early brain development. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk of many health problems as adults, including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, high-risk sexual behaviors, smoking, suicide, and certain chronic diseases. These children are also at higher risk for being arrested as a juvenile, arrested as an adult, and more likely to commit a violent crime.

## What is the financial impact?

The consequences of child abuse cost the United States at least \$124 billion annually, an average of \$1400 each year for each American family.

According to the 2020 Kids Count in Michigan report, in 2019 there were 2,140 children in investigated families in Livingston County and 413 confirmed victims of abuse and/or maltreatment. Using the CDC's estimate of the lifetime cost per abuse survivor of \$210,012, the financial cost for those 413 confirmed victims in our own county would be over \$86 million over those children's lifetimes.

**The costs of prevention are a tiny fraction of the costs of abuse.**

**Cost savings estimates ranged from**

**96 to 98%**

**depending on the prevention model tested.**

## What local programs and services exist?

**LACASA 517-548-1350**

- Child Abuse Prevention Council: prevention education, safe sleep materials, professional trainings
- Parenting Education classes: award winning nationally recognized program for parents of young children, newborn to 11 years old.
- Healthy Families: evidence-based nationally accredited program offering in-home support and education for new parents

**Department of Health and Human Services 517-548-0200**

**24-hour Protective Services Hotline for reports of suspected abuse or neglect 855-444-3911**

**The Connection Youth Services-program for teens 866-440-7233**