

CHILD ABUSE

The Silent Epidemic

CHILD ABUSE is a problem that affects everyone in America as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The purpose of **CHILD ABUSE: The Silent Epidemic** is to provide accurate, current knowledge of the four categories of child abuse and to give abusive adults and concerned citizens the chance to do something constructive about the problem.

Why do adults, especially parents and caretakers, abuse children? The reasons vary from one abuser to another. According to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, adults who repeatedly abuse or neglect children are apt to have a number of characteristics: a poor opinion of themselves; an unhappy childhood without dependable adults; a fear of rejection; obsessive behavior as a recluse or loner; severe personal problems such as poor health, alcoholism or drug addiction; unrealistic expectations of children; an undue fear of spoiling children; a belief in harsh, corporal punishment as discipline; an aptness to complain about the child; plus any kind of irrational or inconsistent behavior wherever the child is concerned.

Child abuse in its four forms --**physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse**-- is the cause of much suffering, including wrecked lives and broken families. In addition, child abuse and neglect create a variety of problems in all of society, since abused children have an increased likelihood of becoming abusers themselves or felony committing criminals.

The end result is that America is tampering dangerously with its most precious natural resource: its children, the next generation of citizens and leaders. This is an outrageous chance to take with our country's future, not to mention the already well-established harms to the present.



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Suggested Uses:

To serve as a graphic warning against the abuse of children. To educate the audience about the four forms of abuse found within the Commonwealth:

- 1) physical,
- 2) neglect,
- 3) emotional, and
- 4) sexual.

Recommended For:

Community and corporate crime prevention programs. Prevention programs, health classes, in schools, colleges and universities. 4-H youth programs and other community based efforts.

Producers:

Syndistar, Inc.
1424 S. Jeff Davis Parkway
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125
Phone: 1-800-841-9532

CONCLUSION

The Community Resource Development Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service as a part of its crime prevention programming effort purchased from Syndistar, Inc. and is making available **CHILD ABUSE: The Silent Epidemic**. Child abuse is a problem that affects everyone in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is hoped that by providing the public with current knowledge that something constructive can be done about the problem.

Detailed questions concerning any form of child abuse should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Additional information can also be supplied by the Crime Prevention Unit of the Virginia Tech Police.



Community Resource
Development

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