

Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

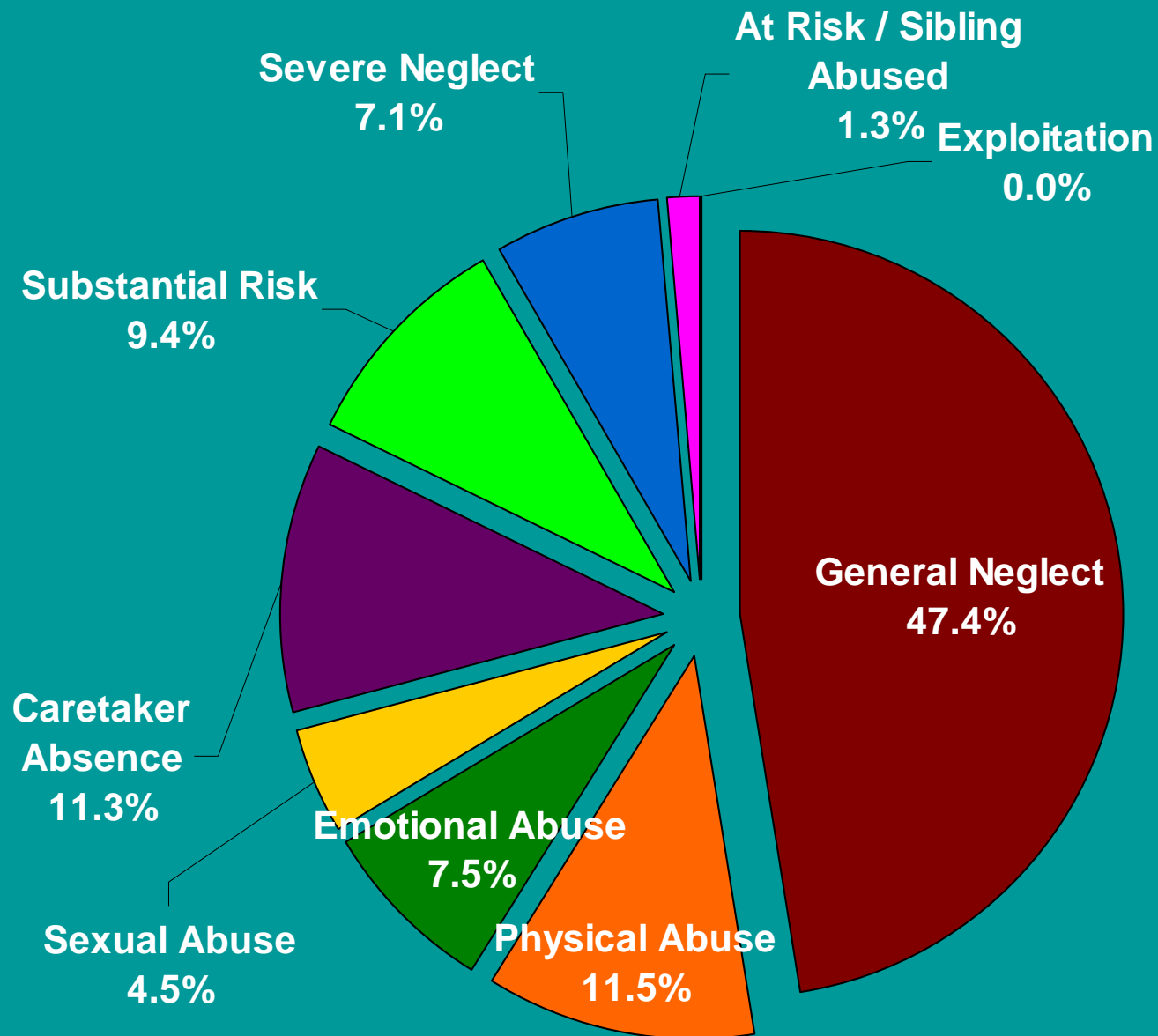


Presentation to the Board of
Supervisors
April 2008

Why are we here today?

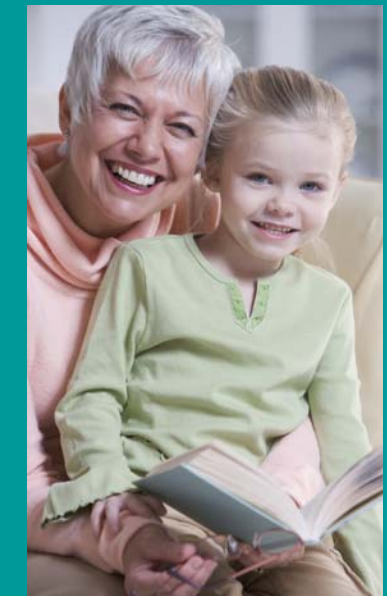
- To increase awareness about child abuse PREVENTION;
- To share with you what research shows regarding what works to prevent child abuse; and
- To inform you what the Child Abuse Prevention Council is doing in Santa Barbara County

Substantiated Abuse in Santa Barbara County



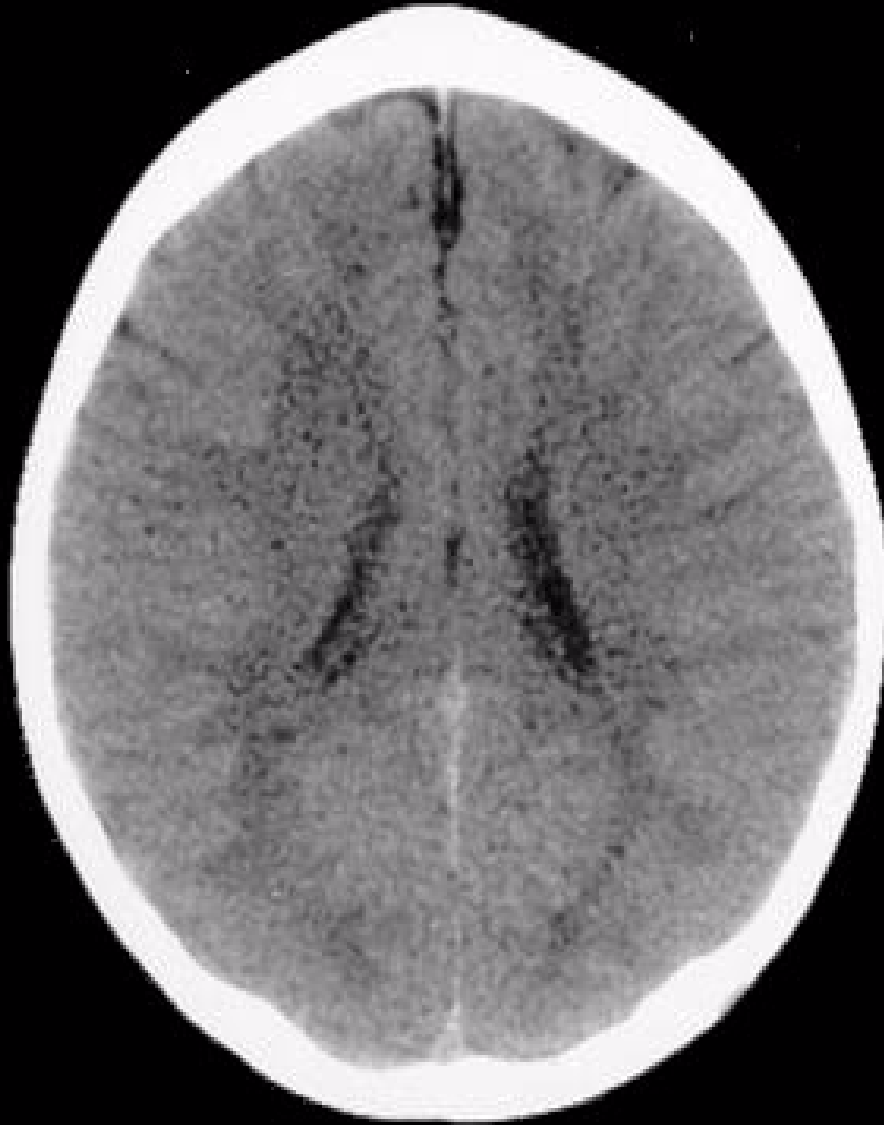
Data: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports> - 2006 Calendar Year

Why is PREVENTING Child Abuse important?



Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

3 Year Old Children



Normal



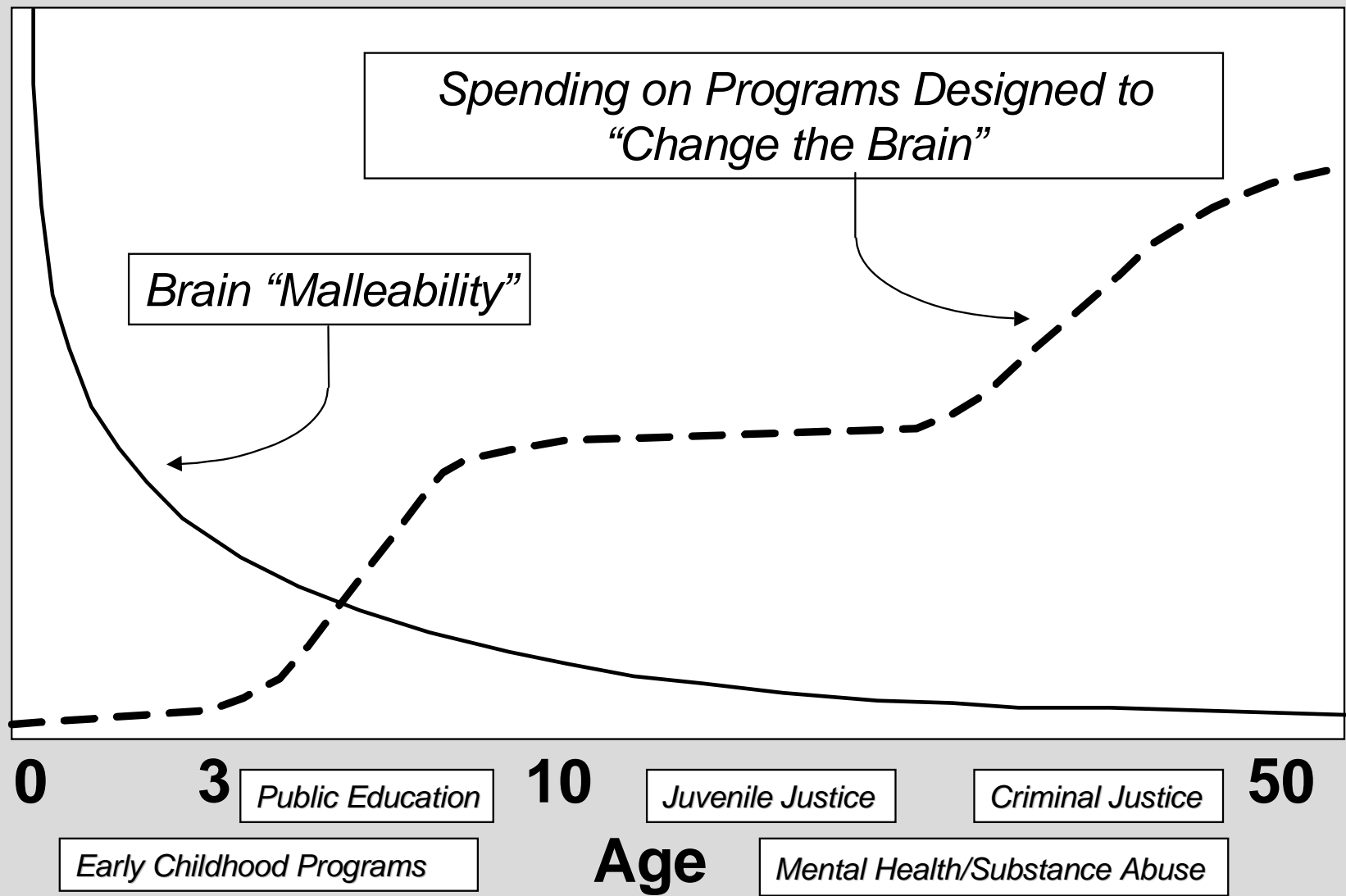
Extreme Neglect

Why is Preventing Child Abuse Important?

- Physical, mental and emotional health (obesity, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, diabetes, heart disease, cancer)
- Cognitive dysfunction (language development, attention deficits, school performance)

Why is Preventing Child Abuse important?

- High risk health behaviors (teen pregnancy, alcohol and substance abuse)
- Behavioral problems (aggression, juvenile delinquency, adult criminality, abusive and violent behavior)



CAPC Core Principle #1

Prevention is possible - AND saves costs in intervention and treatment.



CAPC Core Principle #2

Communities that invest in and support parents and families ensure healthy development for children.



CAPC Core Principles: what research shows

Prevention programs and services strengthen families through

- reducing risk AND
- promoting protective factors,
so child abuse never occurs.

CAPC Core Principles – what the research shows

- **Stress**
- **Job loss**
- **Poverty**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Substance abuse**



all increase the risk of child abuse!

CAPC Core Principles – what the research shows



- Lack of understanding of a child's developmental stages
- Postpartum and other kinds of depression
- Isolation

all increase the risk of child abuse!

CAPC Core Principles: what research shows

- **Nurturing and attachment**
- **Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development**



serve as protective factors!

CAPC Core Principles: what research shows

- **Parental resilience**
- **Social connections**
- **Concrete supports for parents**



serve as protective factors!

CAPC Core Principles: what research shows

The costs of responding to the impact of child abuse and neglect are borne by the victims and their families, but also by society

CAPC Core Principles: what research shows

- Direct costs: Hospitalization, mental health care, child welfare system, law enforcement
- Indirect costs: Special education, juvenile delinquency, mental health and health care, adult criminal justice system and lost productivity to society

CAPC Core Principles: what research shows

In 2006 in the United States, the direct and indirect costs of child abuse and neglect were \$103 billion.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council

A community council with the primary purpose of coordinating Santa Barbara County's efforts to prevent and respond to Child Abuse (mandated by Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 18980 et seq.)

Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Child Abuse Prevention Council

- **Membership includes representatives from community-based organizations, County agencies, as well as parents and community members**
 - **Last revised by-laws were presented to and approved by the Board in August of 2005.**
 - **Staffed in-kind by the Human Services Program (PHD) and KIDS Network (DSS)**
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Current Members

ADMHS • C.A.L.M • CASA • Child Welfare Services • Community Action Commission • Community Volunteer • County Counsel • District Attorney's Office • Family Service Agency • First 5 • Foster Parent • Human Services • Isla Vista Youth Projects • Vandenberg Family Advocacy Program • No. County Rape Crisis & Child Protection Center • Parent • People Helping People • PHD • Child Care Planning Council • Santa Maria Healthy Start • Sojourn Services • St. Vincent's PATHS • Cottage Hospital (partial list)

Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Child Abuse Prevention Council – a cost-effective resource

- Existing agencies working together to improve coordination and outcomes
- Brings resources and information to the County
- Community participating voluntarily in activities to strengthen families and protect children

CAPC Projects

- Education, outreach and resources for providers and their families
- Mandated Reporter training for school community
- The “Front Yard” – an organized, coordinated and well thought out system of PREVENTION, so that families are strengthened and children are nurtured

Policy Recommendations

Give priority to:

- Access to Health Care
- Safe, Affordable Housing
- After-school Programs & Youth Activities
- Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks
- Economic Support for Families
- Law Enforcement

Every decision in these areas has an impact on
Child Abuse Prevention.