

April, 2006

Chicago Dept of Public Health



OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

## Violence Prevention E-Brief

### If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all. Everyone Can Prevent Child Abuse

- **In 2001** nearly 3 million reports concerning the welfare of approximately 5 million children were made.
- Each week, child protective services agencies throughout the United States receive more than 50,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.
- In 67% of these cases, the information provided in the report was sufficient to prompt an investigation.
- 59% experienced neglect
- 19% were physically abused
- 10% were sexually abused
- **AN AVERAGE OF THREE CHILDREN DIE EVERY DAY FROM ABUSE OR NEGLECT.**

#### YOU ARE A LEGALLY MANDATED REPORTER OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IF YOU ARE:

A physician, resident, intern, hospital, hospital administrator and personnel engaged in examination, care and treatment of persons, surgeon, dentist, hygienist, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, physician assistant, substance abuse treatment personnel, acupuncturist, crisis line or hotline personnel, school personnel, educational advocate, social worker, social services administrator, domestic violence program personnel, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, advanced practiced nurse, home health aide, respiratory care practitioner, registered psychologist and assistants working under the direct supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist.

For a complete listing:

<http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/>

### Tool Box for Reducing and Preventing Child Abuse!

- **Healthy children act their age:**  
Understand child development
- **Healthy children are curious:**  
Encourage them to safely explore their world
- **Children need to feel safe:**  
Are YOU a safe person for children?
- **Children need practice in making choices:**  
Making healthy and safe choices will prepare children for a healthier, happier, safer future
- **Children need positive adults around them**  
What was the last thing you said to a child today—positive, hopeful, empathetic, kind?
- **Children need adults who listen to their cries, their words, their silence and know what to do to help them:**  
Call 1-800-25-ABUSE when you should  
For all the other times (which is **most** of the time) make welcoming places for children, and model nonviolent ways of solving problems and expressing feelings

#### April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and this week is the Week of the Young Child.

Attached to this e-brief, as a separate file, the staff of the Office of Violence Prevention encourage you to complete the power point training :

#### [Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

Working on the honor system, once you have completed the training, you are welcome to e-mail Pamela Greer (greer\_pamela@cdph.org) and she will send you an electronic certificate recognizing your completion of the training.

By the end of 2006, look for a Learning Management System (LMS) course about child abuse and neglect for all CDPH employees!

**An annual refresher during April could save a child's life!**