

What is abuse?

Abuse is...

- an act or failure to act which results in death or serious harm; or which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.
- defined differently in every state.

There are four major types:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect, which may be physical, medical, educational, or emotional

What are some warning signs?

The child...

- has sudden changes in behavior, appetite, or academic performance
- is reluctant to go home, fearful of caregivers
- has unexplained injuries
- begs for or steals food or money; lacks medical care or appropriate clothing
- demonstrates unusual sexual behavior
- runs away from home, attempts self-harm, or abuses alcohol or drugs
- is behind grade level in many subjects

The parent...

- administers harsh physical discipline, or asks others to do so
- has unrealistic expectations of the child
- looks primarily to the child to satisfy his or her needs
- is abusing alcohol or drugs
- is secretive or isolated, severely limits the child's contact with other children

Homeschoolers dead from abuse and neglect



Hana Williams (1998 - 2011)

Sedro-Woolley, Washington



Neil Beagley (1992 - 2008)

Oregon City, Oregon



Christian Choate (1996 - 2009)

Gary, Indiana



Nubia Barahona (2001 - 2011)

West Palm Beach, Florida



Calista Springer (1992 - 2008)

Centreville, Michigan



Raijon Daniels (1998 - 2006)

Richmond, California

More than 90 homeschooled children have died from abuse and neglect since 2000.

Many others have been tortured, bound, starved, physically and sexually assaulted, and denied medical care by their caregivers.

Adopted children and those with special needs make up a disproportionate number of documented cases.

Hundreds of homeschool graduates reveal unreported abuse they suffered as children.

Homeschooling parents can make a difference!

Visit hsinvisiblechildren.org for more information



Abuse and Neglect of Homeschooled Children

Recognition and Response

***Scope of the Problem
&
Ways YOU Can Help!***

661 Washington Street #563
Canton, MA 02021
(617) 765-7096

<http://www.responsiblehomeschooling.org>

Visit childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/whatiscan.pdf

for more information



Abuse and neglect of homeschooled children is substantively different from that of children who attend school.

- Physical abuse may be more severe.
- Children may be permanently confined.
- They may be deprived of food.
- They may be isolated in a cultlike environment.
- They may not know that sexual abuse is wrong.
- They may be trafficked or singled out for abuse.
- They may not have anyone to ask for help.
- Parents may have fewer resources to care for special needs children.
- Medical neglect may go unnoticed.

This analysis is based on the
Homeschooling's Invisible Children
database.

Visit hsinvisiblechildren.org for more information.

How can my community help?

Educate parents on...

- Normal child development
- Risk & protective factors for child abuse
- Positive, non-corporal discipline
- Parental stress prevention
- How to recognize and report abuse
- Helpful resources in the community

Encourage parent networking

- Parent-to-parent mentoring programs
- Structured parent cafés and conversations
- Babysitting and transportation co-ops
- Lending library of parenting books
- Resources for needy families

Support homeschooled children

- Be a friend and a safe resource
- Teach the correct names for body parts
- Empower children to make decisions
- Offer to provide tutoring and resources
- Encourage kids to dream big and pursue their interests

Prevent abuse in your co-op

- Screen all volunteers; create guidelines for adult/youth interactions
- Have a clear reporting structure
- Limit one-on-one adult/youth interactions
- Avoid internal investigations; take action and report suspicions to the authorities
- Know your role as a mandatory reporter

Support CRHE!

Publicize our mission and volunteer or donate at responsiblehomeschooling.org!

~ Few states require homeschooled children to ~ have contact with mandatory reporters.

~ Only two states prohibit registered sex ~ offenders from homeschooling.

~ No state monitors homeschool families that ~ have troubling social services histories.

Homeschoolers die from abuse at a rate equal to or greater than other children.

But they lack equal protections.



What if a child discloses abuse?

- Believe the child.
- Do not deny their experiences.
- Listen and react calmly.
- Reassure the child that it was not their fault.
- **Don't** blame the child.
- **Don't** confront the potential abuser.
- Report the abuse to the authorities.

How do I report suspected abuse?

- Contact the National Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-422-4453**
- Or, find your state's child abuse hotline at crhe.org/4buse
- Abuse and neglect reports are confidential and anonymous.