

**Statistics & Data on Child Maltreatment**  
The Rainbow Project, Inc.  
Child & Family Counseling and Resource Clinic

- **Nearly 600,000 children are abused in the United States annually.** The youngest children are the most vulnerable to maltreatment- children in their first year of life have the highest rate of victimization in the national population.  
*National Children's Alliance; US Department of Health & Human Services*
- **Nationally, 3 in 10 women and 1 in 10 men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime.** About 1 in 15 children are exposed to domestic violence each year in the United States. Children who witness domestic violence are 7.4 times more likely to commit suicide, 50% more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, and 74% more likely to commit a violent crime.  
*National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Childhood Domestic Violence Association*
- **Approximately 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience child sexual abuse.**  
*Center for Disease Control, 2024*
- **Child abuse occurs in every socioeconomic level, across all ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.**  
*Center for Disease Control*
- **In Wisconsin, child protective services agencies received 72,170 referrals for child maltreatment in 2023. Of those referrals, 20,923 were screened in for further assessment and 4,00 were substantiated.** Neglect was the most common type of maltreatment allegation, followed by physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.  
*Wisconsin Department of Children & Families- Wisconsin Child Abuse & Neglect Report 2023*
- **In Wisconsin, there were 22 substantiated cases of a child dying from maltreatment in 2023.**  
*Wisconsin Department of Children & Families- Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report 2023*
- **In the United States, there were 1,990 estimated cases of a child dying from maltreatment in 2022.**  
*National Children's Alliance, 2022*
- **Children from homes with violence are much more likely to experience significant psychological problems short- and long-term.** Many meet the diagnostic criteria for PTSD and the effects on their brain are similar to those experienced by combat veterans. Children are suspended, expelled, and discharged from early childhood programs, schools and hospitals due to extreme behavior problems caused by the trauma they have experienced.

*Childhood Domestic Violence Association, Center for Disease Control*

- **In 2024, Dane County CPS received 1,323 reports of child maltreatment.** Of those, 196 children were identified as victims of substantial maltreatment  
*Dane County Child Protective Services Dashboard, 2024*
- **Children in homes with violence are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate 1500% higher than the national average.**  
*Childhood Domestic Violence Association*
- **Child maltreatment is costly. In the United States, the total lifetime economic burden associated with child abuse and neglect was about \$592 billion in 2018. This economic burden rivals the cost of other high-profile public health problems, such as heart disease and diabetes.** How? Investigations, foster care, medical and mental health treatment, and later for special education, juvenile and adult crime, chronic health problems and other costs across the life span.  
*Center for Disease Control, 2024*

#### **Adverse Childhood Experiences Data**

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are defined as preventable, potentially traumatic events that occur among people under the age of 18, which are associated with numerous negative health outcomes.**  
*Center for Disease Control, 2024*
- **63.9% of adults in the United States reported experiencing at least one ACE, with 17.3% reporting four or more ACEs.**  
*Center for Disease Control, 2024*
- **Exposure to ACEs are common, but are not evenly distributed across the population.** Females, members of racial/ethnic minority groups, and individuals with a low socioeconomic status are at a significantly higher risk of experiencing ACEs and experiencing higher numbers of ACEs.  
*Center for Disease Control, 2024*
- **Exposure to ACEs is associated with the development of several types of mental health conditions and chronic physical health conditions.** Exposure to ACEs predisposes individuals to depression, asthma, cancer, COPD, and several other severe conditions.  
*Center for Disease Control, 2021*