



# The Children's Advocate

Los Angeles Community Child Abuse Councils

Newsletter

## Upcoming Conferences

2011 Parent Leadership Conference  
Feb. 21 & 22  
Ontario, CA

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference  
Mar 22, 2012  
Pasadena, CA

## Child Maltreatment Prevention: Past, Present, and Future

Courtesy of Child Welfare Information Gateway

### Introduction

Child abuse prevention efforts have grown exponentially over the past 30 years. Some of this expansion reflects new public policies and expanded formal services such as parent education classes, support groups, home visitation programs, and safety education for children. In other cases, individuals working on their own and in partnerships with others have found ways to strengthen local institutions and create a climate in which parents support each other.

This issue brief underscores the importance of prevention as a critical component of the nation's child protection system. It outlines programs and strategies that are proving beneficial in reducing the likelihood of child maltreatment. Looking ahead, the brief identifies key issues facing high-quality prevention programs as they seek to extend their reach and impacts.

### Scope of the Problem

Recent research documenting the number of child maltreatment cases observed by professionals working with children and families across the country suggests prevention efforts are having an impact. For example, the Fourth Federal National Incidence Study on Child Maltreatment (Sedlak et al., 2010) reported a 19-percent reduction in the rate of child maltreatment as reported in a similar survey conducted in 1993. Substantial and significant drops in the rates of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse observed by survey respondents occurred between 1993 and 2006. Although no significant declines were observed in cases of child neglect, the NIS data mirror a similar drop in the number of physical and sexual abuse cases reported in recent years to local child welfare agencies (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). Between 1990 and 2009, the number of substantiated cases of physical abuse dropped 55 percent, and the number of substantiated sexual abuse cases declined 61 percent (Finkelhor, Jones, & Shattuck, 2011).

Despite these promising trends, child maltreatment remains a substantial threat to a child's well-being and healthy development. In 2009, over 3 million children were reported as potential victims of maltreatment. The risk for harm is particularly high for children living in the most disadvantaged communities, including those living in extreme poverty or those living with caretakers who are unable or unwilling to care for them due to chronic problems of substance abuse, mental health disorders, or domestic violence. In 2009, an estimated 1,770 children—or over 4.8 children a day—were identified as fatal victims of maltreatment. As in the past, the majority of these children—over 80 percent—were under the age of four (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). While child maltreatment is neither inevitable nor intractable, protecting children remains challenging.

For full article, please visit  
[http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue\\_briefs/cm\\_prevention.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue_briefs/cm_prevention.cfm)

## News from the Councils

**API Children Youth and Family Council** is producing a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to promote child abuse awareness and to encourage the community for reporting suspected child abuse in their communities. One of the challenges to outreach to Asian community is the language barrier. Therefore, starting in 2010, we developed a PSA, which can be used in different local Asian communities. In April 15, 2011, we were able to host a press conference in celebration of our completion and the release of our PSA. In August 19, 2011, we completed dubbing the voice over on the PSA in 6 Asian languages, which are Khmer, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Korean, Tagalog and Japanese. We are planning to launch the PSA on the internet and we are also in the process of connecting with the local Asian media in order to televise the PSA.

### SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council

The CAPC extended an invitation to enjoy a Free Community Health Fair at Los Nietos Community and Senior Center on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m in Whittier, Ca. As cars drove on East Slauson Avenue passing Los Nietos Library Saturday morning, a turquoise balloon arch encouraged people to attend the **Child Abuse Prevention Fair**. The event was designed to promote healthy living habits and provide preventive care tips that can lead to a healthier and happier life for everyone in our community. Free activities for kids and childcare were provided.

The purpose of the event was for SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council, Department of Children and Family Services Kinship Division and SPIRITT Family Services to work closely to gather quality service providers and bring great information to local families in order to ensure our communities stay HEALTHY! The event was a success as 270 individuals participated in this activity.

Please visit [www.lachildabusecouncils.org](http://www.lachildabusecouncils.org) for more information on upcoming events

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE COUNCILS

[www.lachildabusecouncils.org](http://www.lachildabusecouncils.org)

#### Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children

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#### Asian and Pacific Islander Children, Youth and Family Council

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#### Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council

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#### End Abuse Long Beach

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#### Family, Children, Community Advisory Council

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#### LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council

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#### San Fernando, Santa Clarita Valley Child Abuse Council

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#### San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

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#### Service Planning Area 7 Child Abuse Council

Norma Yoquez (562) 777-1410 x 112

#### YES2KIDS - Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

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#### Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Cathy Walsh (626) 455-4585

#### Westside Domestic Violence Network

Jennifer Chen Speckman (310) 920-7934

#### Child Abuse Councils. Coordination Project

Monika McCoy, Ph.D. (818) 790-9448

## CURRENT PREVENTION INITIATIVES

**Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council:** On April 13, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Fifth Annual Resource Fair, at the Grace Black Auditorium, for Providers brought together family service providers, parents and businesses to create a strong safety-net for our community to effectively help families gain access to the services they depend upon. Participants learned about the various community supports available in Los Angeles County; network with non-traditional partners and discuss innovative ways to address child abuse and neglect. The El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce and Parent Leaders in the El Monte/South El Monte community were recognized for their commitment to strengthening families and creating healthier communities. Additionally, the winners of the Children's Art Contest were recognized as well as their work which was displayed at the fair throughout the day. The Resource Fair for Providers **connects community members to ensure a seamless family service delivery system to support parents and children and prevent family violence.** A total of 115 community members attended the event and a total of 52 agencies hosted tables with community resources.

### Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) News

The Nexus Conference on October 20, 2011 was well attended and truly inspirational. The luncheon program featured moving tributes: Hershel Swinger (in memoriam) and Clarissa Phelps (photo) received the Frank Vicencia Champion For Children Award. The LA Child Abuse Councils are proud to be involved as sponsor, presenters, member of the planning committee and of course as attendees of this powerful conference. We would slos like to congratulate Deane Tilton Durfee on her **Appointment to U.S Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence** and the Ten Year Anniversary of the **Safe Surrender Law**, which has resulted in the safe placement of more than 80 infants.



**YOU** Can prevent  
child abuse



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