

# OCYF TRAUMA TEAM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

Contact us at RA-PWOCYFTRAUMA@PA.GOV

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

More than **two thirds of children** reported at least 1 traumatic event by age 16. At least **1 in 7 children** have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this is likely an underestimate. In 2019, 1,840 children died of abuse and neglect in the United States. (SAMSA, 2020) When children have been in situations where they feared for their lives, believed that they would be injured, witnessed violence, or tragically lost a loved one, they may show signs of child traumatic stress. As these children continue to grow into adulthood, they find that their experiences as a child begin to display themselves in different ways. Helping a child that's currently in an abusive situation could do more for their future than you could imagine. If you suspect a child is suffering from emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or child neglect, the next thing you need to do is report it. Childline, **1-800-932-0313**, is available 24 hours/7 days a week to receive reports of suspected child abuse.

### How to Respond If a Child Reveals Abuse or Neglect

#### DO:

- Remain calm
- Believe the child
- Allow the child to talk
- Show interest and concern
- Reassure and support the child's feelings
- Take action. It could save a child's life

#### DON'T:

- Panic or overreact
- Press the child to talk
- Promise anything you can't control
- Confront the offender
- Blame or minimize the child's feelings
- Overwhelm the child with questions

Visit  
[www.onewithcourage.org](http://www.onewithcourage.org) to find  
your local CAC and learn more.



### PA Child Abuse Statistics

- **32,919 reports of suspected abuse in 2020**
- **14.0% of these reports were substantiated**
- **2,029 reports of suspected repeat abuse in 2020**
- **Sexual abuse remains the leading category of substantiated abuse**
- **Parents are the leading perpetrators of abuse.**
- **73 Child Fatalities due to abuse**
- **115 Child Near-Fatalities due to abuse**

2020 PENNSYLVANIA CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

## TEAM UPDATE

The Trauma Team, in collaboration with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, sent out a survey to begin assessing the County Children and Youth (CCYA), foster, and adoption agencies' levels of trauma awareness. The survey was developed as a self-assessment to assist the Regional offices in understanding the needs of the CCYA, foster and adoption agencies in their pursuit of trauma awareness. Thank you in advance for completing this survey.