

Native American Child Welfare: Challenges in Protecting Vulnerable AI/AN Children

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Child Maltreatment: Overview

- Each year, almost one million American children are found to be victims of child abuse and neglect
- The youngest children represent the highest proportion of victims



Child Maltreatment: Overview



- During 2006 alone, an estimated 1,530 children died from abuse or neglect
- A recent report from Prevent Child Abuse America and the Pew Charitable Trusts estimates that, in addition to the human toll, child maltreatment costs our nation over *\$103 billion* every year

Child Maltreatment: Overview

An estimated 3.6 million children received an investigation by CPS agencies during FY 2006

- Of reports received in FY2006:
 - 64.1 % experienced neglect
 - 16% were physically abused
 - 8.8% were sexually abused
 - 6.6% were psychologically maltreated
 - 2.2% were medically neglected



Child Maltreatment: Common Themes

Common factors that lead to the removal of children from their homes include:



- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Violence in the home
- Mental illness
- Homelessness
- Issues related to poverty
- Lack of access to care (including health care) and services
- Overcrowding

In most parts of Indian country, all of these factors exist at much higher rates than in the U.S. as a whole