

Child Abuse Awareness Game, January 30th

The Badger Thunder will host Chippewa Falls/Menomonie in a 1:00 PM game on January 30th at Poppy Waterman Ice Arena in Lake Delton. While numerous teams have hosted games over the past few years for Cancer Awareness, the Badger Thunder team has decided to have a game and has chosen to use it to help bring more information out on Child Abuse.

Unless otherwise noted, the information in this article was taken from the "Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report" Annual Report for Calendar Year 2014 to the Governor and Legislature (s. 48.981(9), Wis. Stats). The full report can be seen on the internet at <http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/CAN.htm>.

What is Child Abuse? Child abuse is the physical, sexual or emotional maltreatment or neglect of a child or children. Child abuse can occur in the child's home, or in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with. There are four major categories of child abuse: neglect, physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse and sexual abuse. (This answer is from <http://www.statisticbrain.com/child-abuse-statistics/>)

National Child Abuse Statistics (<http://www.statisticbrain.com/child-abuse-statistics/>)

Child Abuse Statistics	Data
Number of children annually who are abused	681,000
Number of children that die every day as a result of child abuse	4
Percent of children that die from abuse that are under the age of 4	80 %
Percent of abused children that will later abuse their own children	30 %
Percent of men in prison that were abused as children	14 %
Percent of women in prison that were abused as children	36 %
Percent of child abuse perpetrators that are female	53.6 %
Percent of homeless youth that ran away to escape abuse	46 %
Type of Abuse	Percent of Cases
Neglect	78.5 %
Physical Abuse	17.6 %
Sexual Abuse	9.1 %
Psychological Maltreatment	9 %
Medical Neglect	2.2 %
Other/Unknown	10.6 %

The above information was taken as stated from <http://www.statisticbrain.com/child-abuse-statistics/>. The sources they used were: Children's Bureau, National Children's Alliance, Child Help and the research date was March 31, 2015.

Let's look at the information a little closer to home and see the statistics released in December 2015 in the "Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report" Annual Report for Calendar Year 2014 to the Governor and Legislature (s. 48.981(9), Wis. Stats).

The first numbers we're going to look at will show the **Total Number of Wisconsin CPS Maltreatment Reports** from 2004-2014. While the number in 2014 is slightly lower than 2004, however there is an increase over the last 5 years.

Year	Number of Reports
2014	42,300
2013	40,135
2012	39,460
2011	38,145
2010	39,706
2009	38,097
2008	39,493
2007	40,616
2006	41,294
2005	40,917
2004	42,451

The next table shows a breakdown of the **Total Maltreatment Allegations by Maltreatment Findings and Maltreatment Type**.

Maltreatment Type	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Not Able to Locate Information Sources - Unsubstantiated	Total
Neglect	3,437	21,885	824	26,146
Physical Abuse	901	10,626	239	11,766
Sexual Abuse	1,177	4,286	164	5,627
Emotional Abuse	26	1,101	32	1,159
Total	5,541	37,898	1,259	44,698

What is a substantiated case? Substantiated cases refer only to cases in which Child Protective Services (CPS) staff determine, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that child maltreatment has occurred. (This was taken from paragraph 4 under Child Protective Services – Initial Assessment).

The age range of the children is shown below:

Victim Age Range	Number of Victims
< 1 to 3 yrs	1,587
4 to 7 yrs	1,245
8 to 11 yrs	974
12 to 15 yrs	853
16 + yrs	285

We could go on and on showing you numbers, but that's all they would be to many people are numbers. The thing we need to comprehend is that these numbers are children. They are the future we cling to and hope that will make the world a better place. However, if we don't become better aware of the problems existing today we don't do anything to fix the situation.

According to www.childhelp.org, "Every year more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more than 6 million children (a report can include multiple children)."

Think of it over 6,000,000 children reported for abuse and if only 1% of them are substantiated that is still over 60,000 abused children in the United States alone. Think of the first table in this article and it stated that 4 children die on a daily basis due to child abuse. That means there are at least 1,460 children dying every year in the United States from child abuse. This is not a problem it is an epidemic.

Now we ask ourselves, "What can I do to help?"

Joe Scialfa, Communications Director for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, supplied the following links.

This link is How to report suspected child maltreatment:

<http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/CPS/cpswimap.HTM>

The second link is to the Department of Children and Families publication "It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child". http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/publications/pdf/dcf_p_pfs0101.pdf

There are numerous organizations people can volunteer to help at or join.