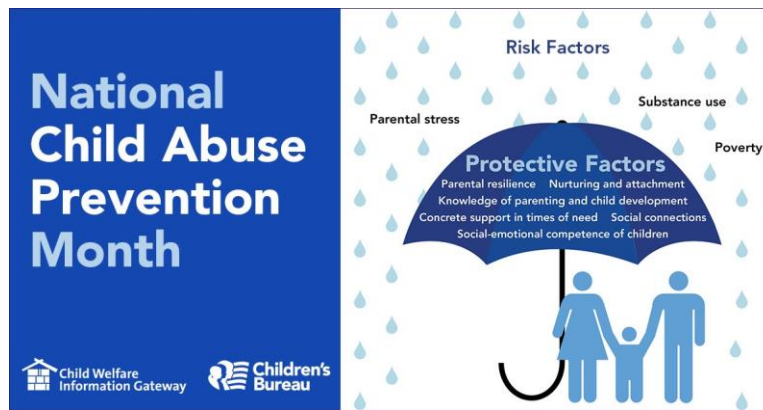


April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Exposure to child abuse and neglect can have lifelong consequences to a person's physical and mental wellbeing (Lippard, E. and Nemeroff, C. 2019). Depression, anxiety, obesity and cardiovascular problems are some of the risk factors for those who have experienced abuse (DOH, 2016). The stress of safety concerns, unemployment, loss of loved ones, economic challenges and parenting during Covid-19 pandemic have increased the risk of child abuse as well as it occurring undetected.

We all need to work together to prevent child abuse. Schools play a role as mandated reporters but can also assist parents in finding help before a crisis occurs. Your child's teacher, school counselor and school nurse are here to help you or answer questions if you need help.

Parents also play an important role in protecting children by teaching them what is safe and respectful behavior and what is questionable behavior of others. If you are concerned about a child being abused, you can report it to Childline at 1-800-932-0313.

April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. (n.d.). Retrieved March 23, 2021, from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth/>

Lippard, E. T.C., & Nemeroff, C.B. (2019). The Devastating Clinical consequences of child Abuse and Neglect: Increased Disease Vulnerability and Poor Treatment Response in Mood Disorders. Retrieved March 23, 2021 from <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2019.19010020>

Molnar, B.E., Scoglio, A.A., & Beardslee, W.R. (2021, January 06). Community-Level Prevention of childhood Maltreatment: Next Steps in a World with COVID-19. Retrieved March 23, 2021, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7786316/>

"Violence and Injury Prevention". (2019). Pennsylvania Department of Health. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/violence-prevention/Pages/ViolenceInjury%20Prevention.aspx> helping families and children before a crisis occurs helps prevent child abuse and neglect.