



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adult Protective Services

County departments of job and family services are required to investigate and evaluate all reports of suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults age 60 and older. These adults may be handicapped due to aging or they may have physical or mental impairments which prevent them from providing for their own care and protection. When funding and services are available, adults who experience abuse, neglect and/or exploitation are offered support for protection and self-sufficiency.

As the elderly population increases, reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation increase. For the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, county agencies received a total of 14,969 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation for individuals age 18 and older. Of these reports, 14,103 were for adults age 60 and older. The following statistics are for reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation and protective services for adults July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

PHYSICAL/SEXUAL/EXPLOITATIVE/EMOTIONAL ABUSE: The types of abuse include physical, sexual, emotional and exploitative. *Abuse* means the infliction upon an adult (by one's self or others) of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish. *Physical abuse* includes pushing, hitting, slapping, pinching and other ways of physically harming a person. It can also mean incorrect positioning, force feeding, restraining or giving medication without their knowledge. *Sexual abuse* includes rape or other unwanted sexual contact, but it can also mean forced or coerced nudity, exhibitionism, and other non-touching sexual situations. *Exploitation* is the unlawful or improper act of a caretaker using an adult or his resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit or gain. *Emotional abuse* occurs when an elderly person is threatened, humiliated, intimidated or otherwise psychologically hurt.

PHYSICAL ABUSE: There were 1,979 reports of physical abuse; of which 1,868 reports were for seniors age 60 and older.

NEGLECT: County departments of job and family services received 10,974 reports of neglect. Neglect is divided in to two categories -- self-neglect and neglect by others; of the 10,974 reports, self neglect accounted for 7,707 reports; of which 7,183 were for individuals age 60 and older. There were 3,267 reports of neglect by others; of these, 3,114 were for elderly persons age 60 and older.

EXPLOITATION: There were 2,016 reports of exploitation; of which 1,938 were for elders age 60 and older.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES: There were 4,655 individuals in need of protective services; 349 reports indicated an emergency; 2,925 individuals agreed to receive services; 1,158 refused services; 363 were unable to refuse or agree to services; and 134 were court ordered services.

Child Protective Services

Public children's services agencies are required to investigate and assess all reports of child abuse and neglect and when necessary, intervene to protect children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or dependency. Public children services agencies complete assessments and work with each family to develop case plans identifying the services necessary to reduce risk to the child/children in the family and to prevent the abuse or neglect from reoccurring.

In instances where children cannot remain safe in their own homes, the agency works with the local juvenile court system to remove the child or children. Case plans are developed to identify what steps will be taken to ensure that each child will be able to live in a safe, stable environment. The risk of injuries or deaths requires staff to provide and coordinate an array of services that promote and ensure the safety and well-being of children. Major objectives of the Ohio's Child Protective Services program are:

Adult Abuse and Neglect Statistics

For State Fiscal Year 2005, county agencies received a total of 14,969 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults age 18 and older. Of these, 94 percent (14,103) were for individuals age 60 and older.

Adult Protective Services Statistics

There were 4,655 individuals in need of protective services; of this number, 349 indicated an emergency; 2,925 agreed to receive services; 1,158 refused services; 363 individuals were unable to refuse or agree to services; and 134 were court ordered services.

Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

In calendar year 2004, there were 71,256 new reports of abuse, neglect, and maltreatment reported to Ohio's public children services agencies.

Of those reports, 32,655 were for neglect; 22,563 were for physical abuse; 12,870 were sexual abuse reports; and 3,168 were for emotional maltreatment.

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1. To continue and to support Ohio's Statewide Risk Assessment Model -- a risk based system incorporates a variety of factors in determining risk to the child and weighs these factors with strengths that would enable the family to assure the child's safety.
2. To continue to support counties participating in ProtectOHIO, a project designed to test new child welfare program approaches in order to access services and enhance the quality of services.
3. To provide policy development, technical assistance and ongoing support to public children services agencies in addressing the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Children's Justice Act

The Children's Justice Act is a federally funded grant program to assist states in achieving systems reform which improves the state's investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. Ohio administers the following programs under the Children's Justice Act.

1. The Family Court Feasibility Study was developed to improve the interaction between the child welfare and judicial systems. It involves a number of activities including judicial training, data collection on juvenile court cases, and the integration of current law into a simplified text for attorneys who practice family law.
2. Multi-disciplinary and Team Training is a study curriculum developed by the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and state and national trainers who are involved in child abuse and neglect investigation and prosecution. They represent a cross section of disciplines involving child abuse and neglect.
3. A Task Force on Child Abuse appointed to review and evaluate state investigations and the administrative, civil and criminal handling of cases involving child abuse and neglect.

Social Services Block Grant (Title XX)

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services administers and coordinates the Title XX Program through the Social Services Block Grant. The grant provides social services to strengthen families by enabling residents of Ohio to restore, maintain or improve their self-support, self-care, and independent living. The plan is a cooperative effort among county departments of job and family services and the Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services, Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

For more information, contact your county department of job and family services or public children services agency.