

CHILD ABUSE

At a Glance

WHAT IS IT?

Child abuse is any act that causes harm to a child, that is carried out by someone in a position of trust or responsibility.

Children are most often abused by a family member or someone they know.

Even if you are uncertain, report any suspicions of child abuse to the child protection authority in your state or territory.



STATISTICS

In childhood aged up to 18:

- 32.0% had experienced physical abuse;
- 28.5% had experienced sexual abuse;
- 30.9% had experienced emotional abuse;
- 8.9% had experienced neglect; and
- 39.6% of respondents had been exposed to domestic violence between parents.



Types of abuse

Physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect are among the various types of abuse.



Effects

Abuse can affect a child's development in many different ways and lead to social, emotional and mental health problems.



RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, call triple zero (000).
- If you have hurt your child in the past, or feel like you might hurt them, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.
- If you are a child, teen or young adult who needs help and support, call the [Kids Helpline](#) on 1800 55 1800.
- If you are an adult who experienced abuse as a child, contact [Blue Knot](#) on 1300 657 380.
- For detailed information on how to report child abuse and neglect, read more on the [Child Family Community Australia](#).

Girls are more likely to experience multi-type maltreatment (43.2%) than boys (34.9%)
(Professor Mathews, 2023).