

Chapter 2

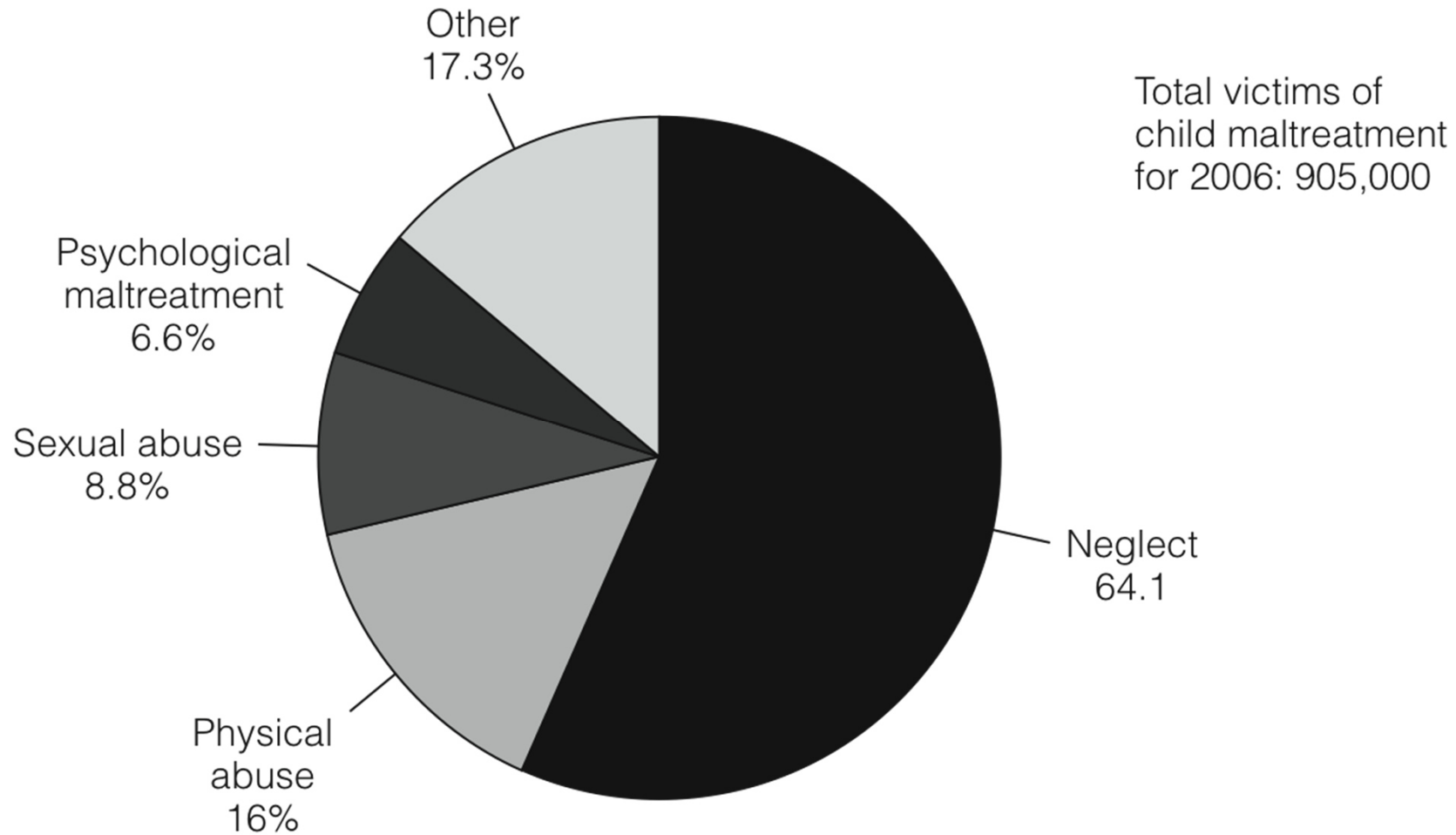
Recognizing and Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect

National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

- Collect data in the United States
- Developed from Child Abuse Protection Act (CAPTA) legislation
- In 2006, 3.3 million reports made to child protection agencies of possible abuse and neglect that involved about 6 million children.
- About 30% or 905,000 children victims of child maltreatment (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008).

FIGURE 2.1

Types of Abuse and Victims, 2006



Types of Physical Abuse

Types of Physical Abuse		
Skin Injuries	Bruises	Patterns or shapes of bruising such as a cord or fingers Bruises in various healing stages Clusters of bruises in areas Bruises in areas unlikely to be accidental Infant bruising
	Bites	Human teeth marks Bites in unusual locations Bites that break skin
	Abrasions/Cuts	Unlikely areas such as genitals Gums and inner mouth areas Lips, eyes, ears of infant
	Burns	Burns with recognizable pattern such as curling iron Lower half of body from bath water Cigarette burns Burns in clusters, such as small round burns from matches Rope burns Scalding from tap water or boiling liquids or grease Burns from fireplace
Internal Injuries	Muscle, Joint, and Skeletal Injuries	Broken bones and fractures Separation of bone from joint Sprains Swollen joints from being jerked and pulled Muscle injuries from being hit or pulled
	Organs and Internal Tissue	Stomach and intestinal injuries from punching, kicking Blood vessel rupture and damage
	Drug and Alcohol Exposure	Fetal alcohol syndrome Addiction Birth defects Learning disabilities
Sensory/Head	Teeth	Teeth missing or loose
	Eye Injuries	Injuries to eyes not easily explained or suspicious Bleeding or bruising in and around eyes and scalp
	Hair	Bald spots in hair
Failure to Thrive	Infant Growth	Child does not eat Listless or unresponsive Significantly behind in development with no obvious reason Height or weight substantially below norm or loss
Shaken Baby Syndrome	Eyes, Brain, Internal Organs	Retinal detachment Bleeding, swelling, and bruising in the brain Neck broken Internal organ, tissue damage

Physical Abuse

- Defined as any type of injury to a child that is physically inflicted or causes physical harm.
- Physical abuse is the second most common form of abuse
- It is the least likely to be repeated (Hines & Morrison, 2005)

Types of Physical Abuse

- **Battered Child Syndrome**
 - The term was coined to refer to multiple fractures in differing states of healing
- **Fractures and Skeletal Injuries**
 - Breaks in the bones
 - Can be small and go undiagnosed
- **Abdominal and internal injuries**
 - Most often seen in younger children
 - Most likely to cause death and severe injury
- **Bruising**
 - Most common expression of physical abuse

Bruising Stages

Child's skin color often makes timeframes and coloring difficult to determine

Length of time from start of bruise

Color

Immediate

Red

6-12 hours

blue

12-24 hours

black-purple

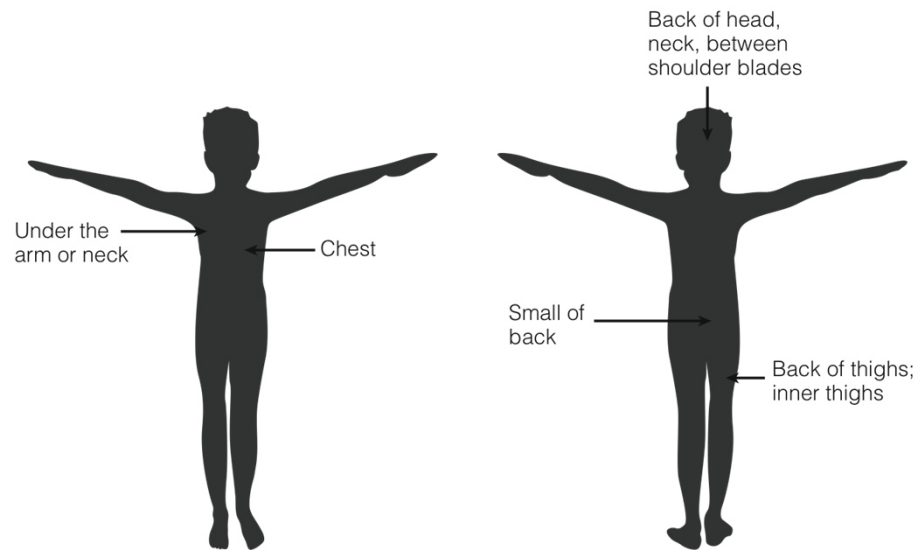
4-6 days

green tint, dark

5-10 days

pale green to yellow

Suspicious Areas of Bruising



- Under the arm or neck
- Back of head, neck, between shoulder blades
- Back of upper thighs; inner thighs
- Small of back
- Chest, groin

Bruises

- Many things may affect a bruises' color
 - time since injury
 - depth of bruise
 - child's skin sensitivity
- Bruises of different colors in unusual locations or without adequate explanation are signs of concern.
- Bruising associated with child abuse is often seen in clusters with several bruises together in an area

Mongolian spots



- Drug exposure
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, or FAS**

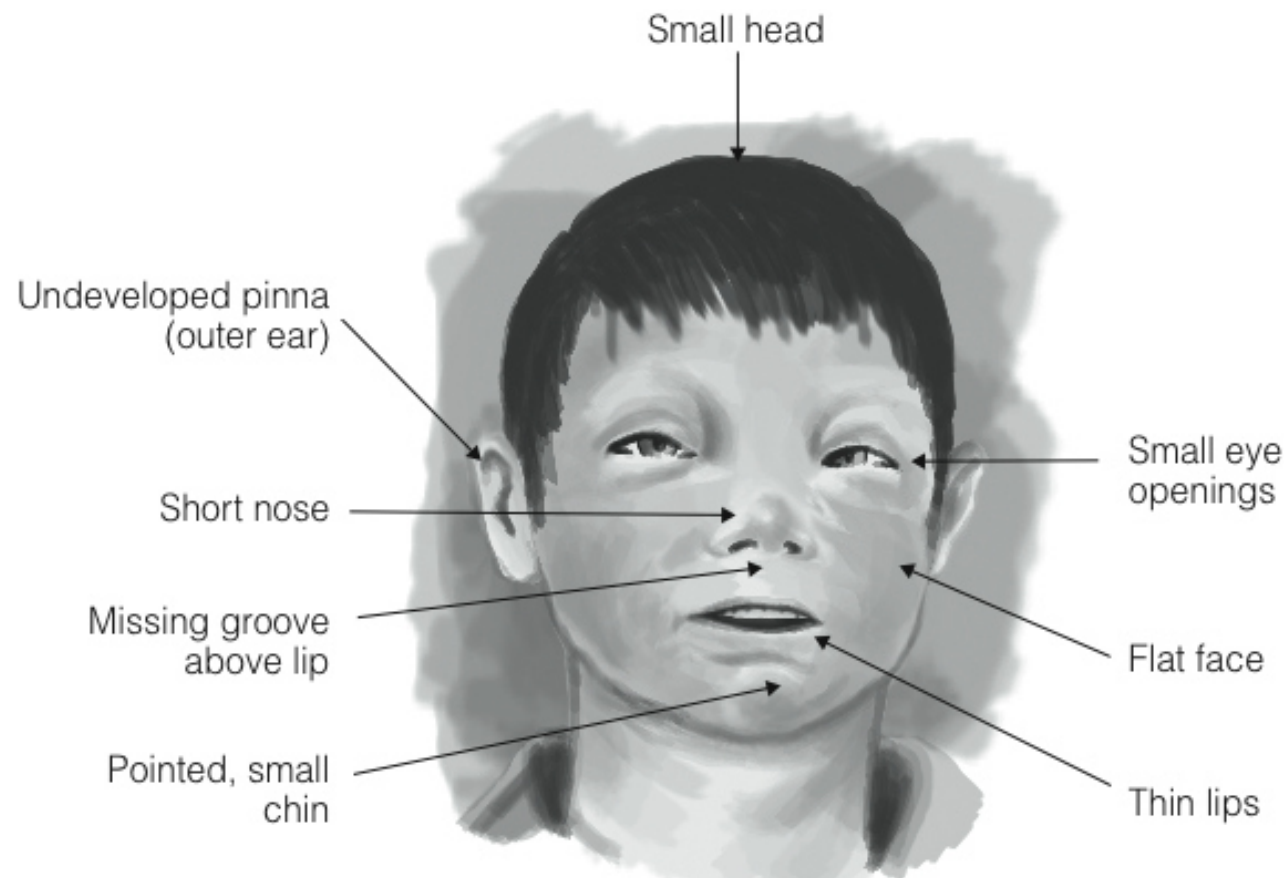


FIGURE 2.3
Physical Characteristics of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. From page 35 in book

Other Forms of Physical Abuse

- Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome
- Failure to Thrive
- Shaken Baby Syndrome
 - http://aboutshakenbaby.com/shaken_baby_syndrome_video.htm

Abuse

- Drugs
 - Pot Smoking Toddler Wautaga
 - <http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/law/2007/03/04/vo.tx.kids.smoking.pot.affl?iref=videosearch>
 - Uncle's Response
 - <http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=2929716>

When evaluating physical abuse watch for:

- unusual locations and shapes of injuries
- repeated and multiple injuries
- unusual injuries for the child's age
- “accidental” injuries with unusual or unrealistic explanation
- explanations from parent and child conflict
- children are withdrawn and fearful
- they may be very aggressive and angry all of the time

Emotional Maltreatment

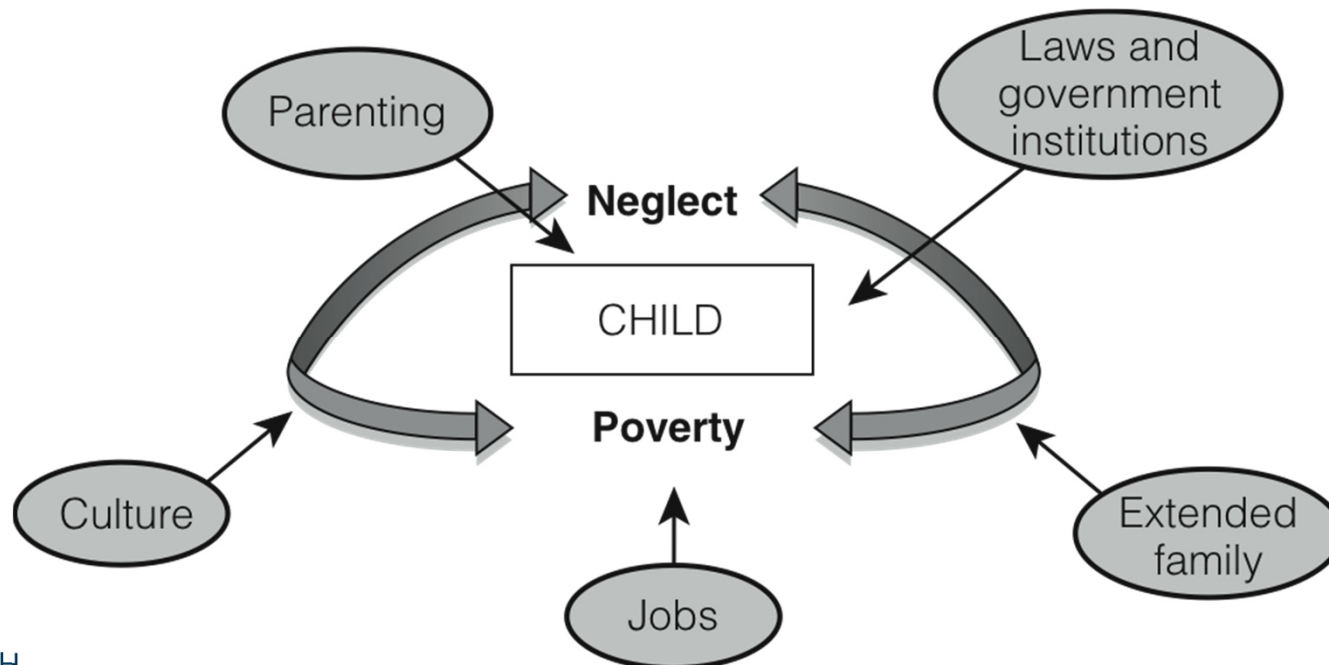
- **Emotional**
- **Emotional abuse** is more purposeful and easier to identify
- Emotional abuse and the concept of harm are very difficult to quantify

Emotional Abuse

- Rejection
- Terrorizing
- Exploiting/corrupting
- Denying emotional responses
- Isolating
- Mental health/medical/educational
- Bullying
 - Online victimization

Neglect

- Failure to provide for a child's needs
- Concept of child neglect didn't emerge until 1800s
- Often culturally defined
- When can you leave a child alone?



Types of Neglect

- Physical
- Educational
- Emotional
- Supervisory
- Medical
 - Mental health
- Infant Neglect (not usually one of the listed types)

Physical Neglect:

- Refusal of Health Care
- Delay in Health Care
- Abandonment
- Expulsion
- Other Custody Issues
- Other Physical Neglect

Neglect

- Educational
 - *Permitted Chronic Truancy*
 - *Failure to Enroll/Other Truancy*
 - *Absenteeism*
- Medical
 - *Medicines not given or not given appropriately*
 - *Medical care not sought or not followed*
 - *Psychological help not sought or followed*
 - *Medical care not provided due to religious beliefs*

Supervisory Neglect

- Inadequate Supervision:
 - *When*
 - *Night or day*
 - *How long*
 - *A few hours or minutes?*
 - *Where*
 - *At home*
 - *On the street*
 - *Unsafe area*
 - *How*
 - *Without permission*
 - *Wandering*
 - *Left in home alone*
 - *Left to babysit younger siblings*

Infant Neglect

- Prenatal exposure to drugs
- Prenatal:
 - FAS
 - HIV
- Stimulation
- Language
- Gross motor and fine motor
- Failure to Thrive

Child Sexual Abuse: CSA

- 3-30% of males and 6-62% of females estimated to be victims
- Involvement of a child in sexually-related activities.
 - Penetration or genital contact orally, genitally, or anally by a penis or other object. Fondling (touching) of child's private parts or having the child fondle an adult.
 - Exposing a child to sexual acts through verbal description and discussion, internet, video or other media.
 - Exposing to a child the adult's private parts, or pictures of sexual activity, or pornography.
 - Lack of supervision of child's sexual activities, even if they consent.
 - Use of the child for sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography.

CSA

- The type of sexual abuse most common is **incest**, or sexual maltreatment among families' members (Goldman & Salus, 2003).
- **Rape.**
- **Child pornography**
- **Pedophiles**
- **Voyeurism**
- **Grooming**
- **Female Circumcision**
- **Child Prostitution**

Child Exploitation

- **Child exploitation** involves the use of a child by an adult to achieve some tangible benefit.
 - **Child trafficking**
 - **Baby Trafficking**
 - **Child labor**
 - **Media Exploitation**
 - **Child Soldiers**
- **Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000**