

# Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities



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# Child Abuse And Neglect

- Highly prevalent
  - 1 in 7 children experienced abuse and neglect in the last year.
  - True number of victims is likely much higher.



# Child Abuse And Neglect

- Associated with negative health and economic consequences
  - Children may suffer immediate physical injuries, as well as emotional and psychological problems.
  - Total lifetime burden was approximately \$124 billion in 2008.



Leeb, R. T., Lewis, T., & Zolotor, A. J. (2011). A review of the physical and mental health consequences of child abuse and neglect and implications for practice. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, 5(5), 454-468.

Fang, X., Brown, D. S., Florence, C. S., & Mercy, J. A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36, 156-165.



# Child Abuse and Neglect

- ❑ Child abuse and neglect is **PREVENTABLE**.
  - May prevent other forms of violence.
  - Requires a comprehensive focus that crosscuts key sectors of society (e.g., public health, government, education, social services, and justice)



# Technical Packages

- One of the six key components for effective public health program implementation as they
  - Sharpen and focus what otherwise might be vague commitments to "action" by encouraging implementation of specific interventions known to be effective.
  - Avoid a scattershot approach of using a large number of interventions, many of which have only a small impact.

# CAN Technical Package

Select group of strategies with a focus on **PREVENTING** child abuse & neglect from happening in the first place as well as approaches to **LESSEN** the immediate and long-term harms of child abuse & neglect.



# Strategy

# Approach

Strengthen economic supports to families

- Strengthen household financial security
- Family friendly work policies

Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting

- Public engagement and education campaigns
- Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment

Provide quality care and education early in life

- Preschool enrichment with family engagement
- Improved quality of child care through licensing & accreditation

Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development

- Early childhood home visitation
- Parenting skill and family relationship approaches

Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

- Enhanced primary care
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure
- Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence

# Strengthen Economic Supports to Families

- ❑ Strengthen household financial security
  - Child support payments
  - Tax credits
  - State nutrition assistance programs
  - Assisted housing mobility
  - Subsidized child care



# Strengthen Economic Supports to Families

## □ Family friendly work policies

- Livable wages
- Paid leave
- Flexible and consistent schedules



# Change Social Norms to Support Parents & Positive Parenting

- ❑ Public engagement and education campaigns
  - The Raising of America
- ❑ Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment
  - Bans pertaining to home, school, & other settings



# Provide Quality Care & Education Early in Life

- ❑ Early enrichment with family engagement
  - Child Parent Centers
  - Early Head Start
- ❑ Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation



# Enhance Parenting Skills to Promote Healthy Child Development

- ❑ Early childhood home visitation
  - Nurse Family Partnership
  - Durham Connects
- ❑ Parenting skill and family relationship approaches
  - Adults and Children Together Against Violence: Parents Raising Safe Kids (ACT)
  - Incredible Years
  - Safe Care



# Intervene to Lessen Harms & Prevent Future Risk

- ❑ Enhanced primary care
  - Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)
- ❑ Behavioral parent training programs
  - Safe Care
  - Incredible Years



# Intervene to Lessen Harms & Prevent Future Risk

- ❑ Treatment to lessen harms of abuse & neglect exposure
  - Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- ❑ Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence
  - Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment Program: School-age Program
  - Multisystemic Therapy (MST)



# Sector Involvement

- Public health
- Education
- Government (local, state, federal)
- Social services
- Business/labor
- Other non-governmental organizations
- Health services
- Justice
- Housing
- Media



# Implementing the Technical Package

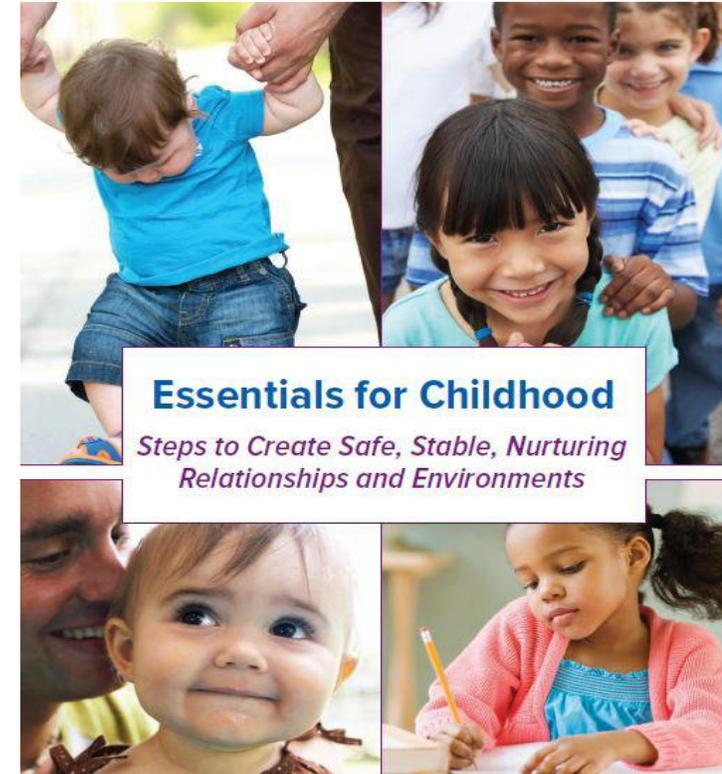
- ❑ Already engaged in CAN prevention
  - Do your current efforts align with information included in the technical package?
  - Are there ways the technical package can advance your work?
- ❑ Not yet engaged in CAN prevention
  - Can you use the package to plan and prioritize your efforts?
- ❑ More resources can be found at  
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/>





- Proposes a process and strategies that communities can consider to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children and families
- **Steps/Goals:**
  1. Raise awareness and commitment
  2. Use data to inform action
  3. **Create the context for healthy children and families through norms change, programs, and policies**

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/essentials.html>



National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Division of Violence Prevention



# Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect

The technical package is a tool to help states and communities take advantage of the **best available evidence** to inform and guide prevention decision-making.

Join us!

