

National Data Analysis System (2006, January). Issue brief: Child abuse and neglect. Retrieved on February 8, 2008 from:  
[http://ndas.cwla.org/include/pdf/ChildAbuseNeglect\\_Final\\_IB.pdf](http://ndas.cwla.org/include/pdf/ChildAbuseNeglect_Final_IB.pdf)

- Legal definitions of neglect and abuse
- Overview
  - “In 2003 about 12.4 per 1,000 children in the population were found to be victims...”
  - “Between 1995 and 2003, the rate of child abuse has fluctuated between 12.4 in 1990, 15.1 in 1995 and 12.4 in 2003 (Figure 1). During the same time period, the fewest number of victims were reported in 2003, marking the continuation of an 8 year decline.”
- Disproportionality
  - “Children of color are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. These children, specifically African American children, have been found to be referred to child protective services (CPS) and subsequently investigated by CPS to a disproportionately higher degree than white children.<sup>9 10</sup> This may be one contributing factor in children of color having a higher rate of victimization. In 2003, American Indian-Alaska Native children had the highest rate of victimization; 21.3 children per 1,000. This racial group was closely followed by African American children who were victims at a rate of 20.4 children per 1,000. This can be seen in comparison to white children who were victims at a rate of 10.99 per 1,000.<sup>11</sup>”
  - “The National Incidence Studies, which collect data on victims of child abuse and neglect, identified not just by CPS agencies, but a wider range of professionals, examine the incidence and characteristics of those who are abused. These studies have found no significant or only marginal racial differences in the incidence of maltreatment and physical abuse, when particular demographics were controlled for.<sup>13</sup>”
- “Poverty and Child Maltreatment
  - Income level has been linked to child maltreatment. Children from families with incomes less than \$15,000/year, compared to children from families with incomes greater than \$30,000/year are 22 times more likely to experience some form of maltreatment and 44 times more likely to be victims of neglect.<sup>14</sup>”