



# Honor Thy Children

*Archdiocese of Louisville continuing education for the awareness and prevention of child abuse*

## THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE

Prevention starts with understanding

We are well aware of the physical and mental costs associated with child abuse, but what about the monetary costs even long after the abuse has occurred? The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in February of 2012 that results of a study looking at confirmed cases of child maltreatment over a one year period, estimated that the total lifetime financial costs for each victim who lived was \$210,012. This, the CDC

says, is comparable to other costly health conditions such as stroke, with a lifetime cost per person estimated at \$159,846 or type 2 diabetes, which is estimated between \$181,000 and \$253,000. Likewise, negative effects of maltreatment over a survivor's lifetime generate costs which directly impact our national health care, families, education, criminal justice and welfare systems.

The best way to keep costs

to a minimum of course is indentifying and preventing abuse.

Should you have any questions or concerns surrounding child abuse and/or prevention, feel free to contact Martine Siegel, Archdiocese Victim Assistance Coordinator via email ([msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org)) or phone (502.636.1044)

### Archdiocese of Louisville

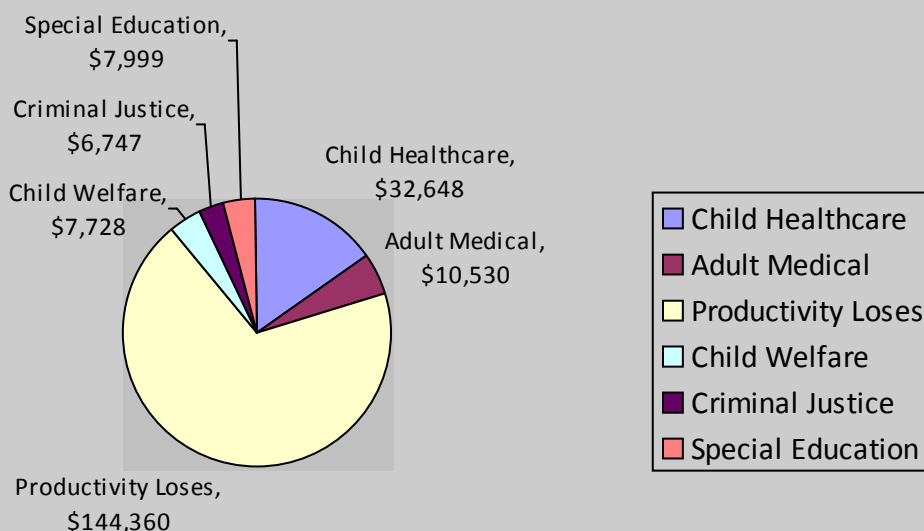
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### If you need support or someone to talk to:

- © Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky or Indiana: 800.CHILDREN/ 800.422.4453 [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org) [www.pca.in.org](http://www.pca.in.org)
- © Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800.4.A.CHILD 800.422.4453 [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

**THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE**



### Signs of Possible Sexual Abuse

- Unexplained pain, itching, redness or bleeding in the genital area
- Increased nightmares or bedwetting
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts/mood swings
- Loss of appetite or difficulty swallowing
- Sudden/unexplained avoidance of certain people or places
- Sexual knowledge, language or behavior that is unusual for the child's age.

# LINGERING EFFECTS OF HIDDEN BRUISES

For those who survive child abuse, the emotional trauma remains long after the external bruises have healed. Communities and the courts recognize that these emotional "hidden bruises" can be treated. Early recognition and treatment is important to minimize the long term effect of physical abuse. Whenever a child says he or she has been abused, it must be taken seriously and immediately evaluated. Often the severe emotional damage



to abused children does not surface until adolescence or even later, when many abused children become abusing parents. An adult who was abused as a child often has trouble establishing lasting and stable personal relationships. These men and women may have trouble with physical closeness, touching, intimacy, and trust as adults. They are also at higher risk for anxiety, depression, substance abuse, medical illness, and problems at

school or work. Early identification and treatment is important to minimize the long-term consequences of abuse. Qualified mental health professionals should conduct a comprehensive evaluation and provide treatment for children who have been abused. Through treat-

ment, the abused child begins to regain a sense of self-confidence and trust. The family can also be helped to learn new ways of sup-

port and communicating with one another. Parents may also benefit from support, parent training and anger management.

Physical abuse is not the only kind of child abuse. Many children are also victims of neglect, or sexual abuse, or emotional abuse. In all kinds of child abuse, the child and the family can benefit from evaluation and treatment from a qualified mental health professional.

## LINGERING EFFECTS OF HIDDEN BRUISES

- a poor self image
- sexual acting out
- inability to trust or love others
- aggressive, disruptive, and sometimes illegal behavior
- anger and rage
- self destructive or self abusive behavior, suicidal thoughts
- suicidal thoughts
- passive, withdrawn or clingy behavior
- fear of entering into new relationships or activities
- anxiety and fears
- school problems or failure
- feelings of sadness or other symptoms of depression
- flashbacks, nightmares
- drug and alcohol abuse
- sleep problems

### WHO IS YOUR SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR?

*Are you Safe Environment compliant? Do you need to be? Questions? Contact your Safe Environment Coordinator today! Don't know who that is? Contact Scott Fitzgerald at the Archdiocese (502.471.2132)*

### UPCOMING TRAININGS

A current list of trainings is always available at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe) All trainings are at 6:30p unless otherwise indicated.

6.28.18

*St. Francis Xavier (Raywick)*

7.9.18

*St. Margaret Mary*

7.30.18

*St. Paul*

8.6.18

*St. Gabriel*

8.8.18

*Holy Trinity  
(5:00 pm)*

8.14.18

*St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)*

8.20.18

*Holy Spirit*

8.23.18

*St. James (Elizabethtown)*

9.10.18

*St. Dominic (Springfield)*

9.13.18

*(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)*

*St. Rita*

9.17.18

*St. Mary Academy*

9.20.18

*St. Rita*

*(ENGLISH SPEAKING)*

10.22.18

*St. Joseph (Bardstown)*

*Keep checking [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe) for updates as trainings cancelled due to inclement weather will be posted here*

# CHILD ABUSE AND THE "SECRET"

The 'Secret' is the bond established by the abuser with the child victim. It ensures that nobody knows of the abuse other than the abuser and the abused. It is kept in place by embarrassment, fear, respect; even love. Examples of each our described below.



**Embarrassment** that friends or family will find out what happened. An emotion sometimes secured with photographs.

**Fear** for the safety of the child and their family should they disclose anything - fear that the abuser will inform - parents - friends, about the behavior their child has been pulled into and subjected to.

**Respect** or love for the abuser - strange as this may seem - for the attention and concern that they have shown the child that the child craves and does not receive at home. Over time, absent a good relationship between child and parents, the abuser seduces the child, earning their trust and friendship.

For this reason the child will keep the secret intact out of a need for the attention received from the abuser and the fear of losing a friend should the abuser be caught.

Other reasons victims keep abuse a secret.

Disruption of the family by revealing the abuse - when the child sees the disruption to their family that follows the revelation of abuse, they can see this as being their fault, that the disruption and upset is as a result of their disclosure or of their behavior. Recantation sometimes follows and the secret is intact again.

## Life Disruption.

This belief that it is their fault can at times be reinforced by other family members who either don't believe the child

or live in denial. In the case of a single mother, panic may set in at the through of a destruction of a life-style if dad or her boyfriend is forced to leave. There is pressure on the child to recant or not tell at call - a conscious or unconscious pressure.

**The child thinks the behavior is normal.** They have been abused from such a young age that they don't know any differently. They don't wonder why sleepover at friend's houses is discouraged where they might find that the abuse is not a normal part of life at all.

**Their abuser tells them and the child believes that the behavior is love.** "This is how daddy (Uncle) shows how much they love you." They believe them because they don't know any better.

Abusers seldom intentionally hurt their victims because they know that will lead them to tell someone about it or to see help. You can see how this reinforces the seductive nature of the relationship.

Its success depends entirely on the abuser knowing that parent won't or don't talk to their children. 'Our little secret' is what makes abuse thrive, knowing this is a key component of helping unlock the secret and freeing your child.

## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Just because school isn't session doesn't mean you can't become Safe Environment Compliant.

Are you or are you thinking about coaching in the fall?

Are you going to be involved in any other parish or school activity?

Remember anyone working with children on a regular basis **MUST** have **BOTH** the Safe Environment Training **AND** a current background check within the last five years.

There are trainings scheduled between now and the start of school. There is no need to register, just show up.

See your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator to ensure your background check is up to date.

Should you have any questions regarding Safe Environment contact your representative or reach out to:

**Scott Fitzgerald**  
Coordinator of Safe Environment Services

*fitzgerald@archlou.org*  
or 502.471.2132



**Archdiocese of Louisville  
Office of Safe Environment**

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No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone, especially a church minister. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our church to reflect the goodness of God in all of its dealings.

We hope that this information is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. Please let us know if you need further assistance or information by calling or emailing our victim assistance coordinator, Ms. Martine Siegel, at 502/636-1044; [victimassistance@archlou.org](mailto:victimassistance@archlou.org) or the Chancery at 502/585-3291.

We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

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## MYTH VS. FACT

There are a number of myths when it comes to child abuse. Here are a few of the most common. More of these are covered in our "Honor Thy Children" Training. If you've not been to a training and are required to do so, please make plans to attend one of many scheduled. You can always find a complete list at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)

**Myth: Abuse doesn't happen in "good" families.**

**Fact:** Abuse and neglect doesn't only happen in poor families or bad neighborhoods. It crosses all racial, economic, and cultural lines. Sometimes, families who seem to have it all from the outside are hiding a different story behind closed doors.

**Myth: Most child abusers are strangers.**

**Fact:** While abuse by strangers does happen, most abusers are family members or others close to the family.

**Myth: Abused children always grow up to be abusers.**

**Fact:** It is true that abused children are more likely to repeat the cycle as adults, unconsciously repeating what they experienced as children. On the other hand, many adult survivors of child abuse have a strong motivation to protect their children against what they went through and become excellent parents.