

Boys & Girls Club of Andros
Mental Health Tip
Signs of Child Abuse

Child Abuse:-

Unexplained physical injuries (bruises, burns, fractures)

Changes in behavior (withdrawal, aggression, anxiety)

- Fear or avoidance of certain people or places
- Difficulty sleeping or nightmares
- Changes in appetite or eating habits

Child Neglect:-

- Poor hygiene or uncleanliness
- Unmet physical needs (hunger, thirst, clothing)
- Lack of supervision or guidance
- Delayed development or growth
- Changes in behavior (withdrawal, aggression)

Substance Abuse (Drugs/Alcohol)

- Changes in behavior (mood swings, irritability)
- Physical signs (bloodshot eyes, tremors, slurred speech)

- Possession of substances or paraphernalia
- Changes in relationships or social circles
- Decline in academic or extracurricular performance

Additional Signs

- Changes in online activity or social media behavior
- Unexplained absences or tardiness
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies
- Changes in physical appearance or grooming
- Difficulty with concentration or memory

If you suspect child abuse or neglect, please report it to local authorities or a trusted organization. For substance abuse concerns, consider reaching out to a healthcare professional or support group.

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

1. Local Child Protective Services (CPS): Contact your local CPS agency or hotline to report concerns.
2. Law Enforcement: If the situation is urgent or life-threatening, call the police.
3. National Hotlines: Organizations like the National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-422-4453) can provide guidance and support.

Responsibility of Person Reporting

1. Provide accurate and detailed information about the situation.
2. Report concerns promptly to ensure timely intervention.
3. Cooperate with investigating authorities.
4. Maintain confidentiality to protect the child's privacy.

Mandated Reporters

Some professionals, like teachers, healthcare providers, and social workers, are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Protection for Reporters

Many jurisdictions provide immunity for reporters who act in good faith, meaning they can't be sued for reporting concerns.

If you're unsure about reporting, consider consulting with a trusted authority figure or organization for guidance.

Tools Use:- Questionnaires and Surveys for assessing child abuse, neglect, and trauma:

Child Abuse and Neglect Questionnaires

Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ):- A 28-item self-report measure assessing emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, as well as emotional and physical neglect.

Child Abuse Survey:- A survey designed to collect information about sexual abuse experiences, available through BlockSurvey.

Traumatic Events Screening Inventory for Children (TESI-C):- A semi-structured interview assessing trauma exposure in children and adolescents aged 7 to 18^{1 2 3}.

Childhood Trauma Assessments

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

Questionnaire:- A widely used questionnaire assessing individuals' exposure to adverse experiences during childhood.

Childhood Trauma Screener (CTS):- A concise screening tool identifying individuals who may have experienced childhood trauma.

Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC):- A comprehensive questionnaire assessing exposure

to various types of traumatic events.

Additional Resources

Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse (CECA)

Interview:- A retrospective interview measure gathering detailed qualitative information about childhood experiences of care and possible abuse.

Trauma History Questionnaire (THQ):- A questionnaire assessing exposure to traumatic events across the lifespan, including childhood trauma ³.