

THE SOCIAL WORKER'S ROLE IN

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



In 2015,
683,000
CHILDREN
IN THE UNITED STATES
suffered abuse and neglect.

Children who are maltreated are in need of advocates to help distance them from abusive situations. Social workers have the ability to aid children who are threatened by violence through education and prevention.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT STATISTICS IN THE U.S.



Child maltreatment statistics in the U.S. are staggering and the effects of these crimes can be long-lasting and devastating to a child's development.



CHILD ABUSE (ACTS OF COMMISSION)

The CDC defines child abuse as "Words or overt actions that cause harm, potential harm or threat of harm."

THIS INCLUDES:

Physical abuse Sexual abuse

Psychological abuse



CHILD NEGLECT (ACTS OF OMISSION)

The CDC defines child neglect as "Failure to provide needs or to protect from harm or potential harm." This includes:

Physical neglect
Emotional neglect
Medical and dental neglect
Inadequate supervision
Exposure to violent environments

The 2015 Child Maltreatment report by the U.S. Administration for Children & Families provides the following statistics:



AGE OF VICTIMS

Children in their first year of life experienced the highest rate of victimization

27.7% of victims were under 3 years of age



GENDER OF VICTIMS



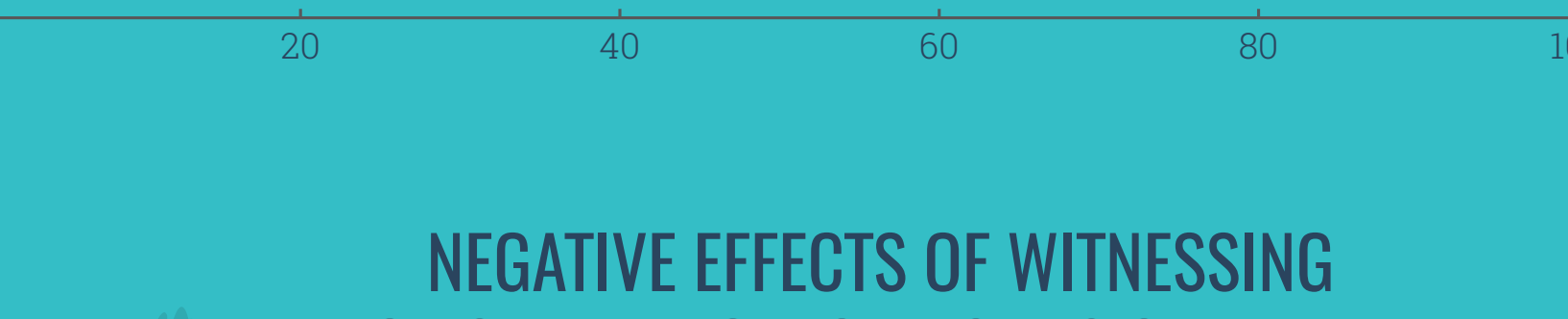
48.6% Boys
50.9% Girls
0.5% gender unknown

DEMOGRAPHICS OF VICTIMS



43.2% White
23.6% Hispanic
21.4% African-American

WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT?



NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WITNESSING OR SUFFERING VIOLENCE AS CHILDREN



- Attachment issues
- Regressive behavior
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Aggression, conduct and delinquency problems
- Cognitive problems
- More likely to become victims or perpetrators of further violence

Than those who do not suffer violence

- 6 times more likely to commit suicide
- 50% more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs
- 74% more likely to commit a violent crime

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Social workers provide a tremendous service for children who lack the ability to defend themselves against abuse and neglect.

WHERE SOCIAL WORKERS WORK



- Child welfare agencies
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Community centers
- Substance abuse clinics
- Private practices

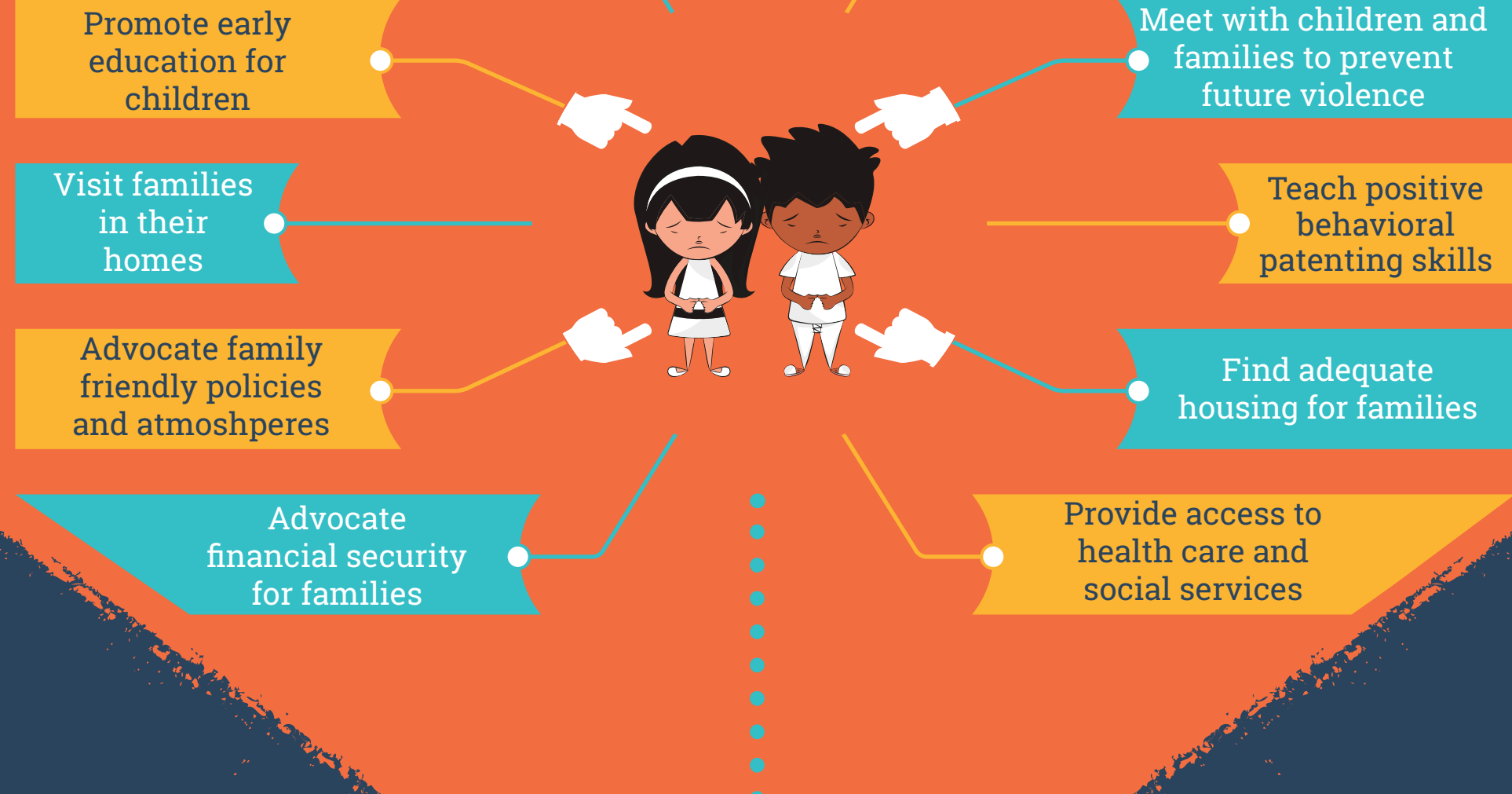
SOCIAL WORKERS LOOK FOR SIGNS OF ABUSE, SUCH AS:



- Aggressive, defiant behavior
- Fear of adults
- Self-destructive behavior
- Cheating in school, stealing & lying
- Poor peer relationships
- Regressive maturity
- Avoidance of physical contact
- Wearing clothing that covers body in warmer months
- Poor hygiene
- Listlessness and fatigue



HOW SOCIAL WORKERS CAN PREVENT ABUSE



REGULATIONS AND RESOURCES

Social workers strive to ensure that the laws preventing child abuse are upheld. They also work in conjunction with organizations to stop abuse and spread the word about risks and prevention.



LEGISLATION

CRIME VICTIMS FUND

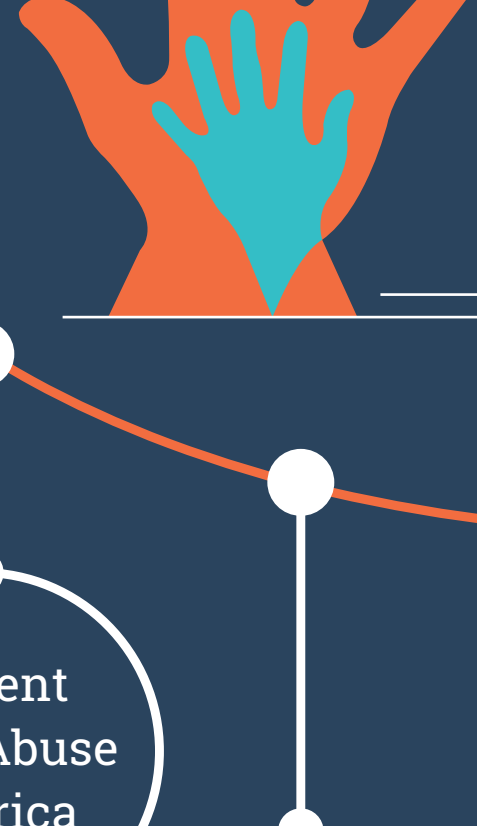
Money collected from those who commit crimes used to help those victimized by crimes.

THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

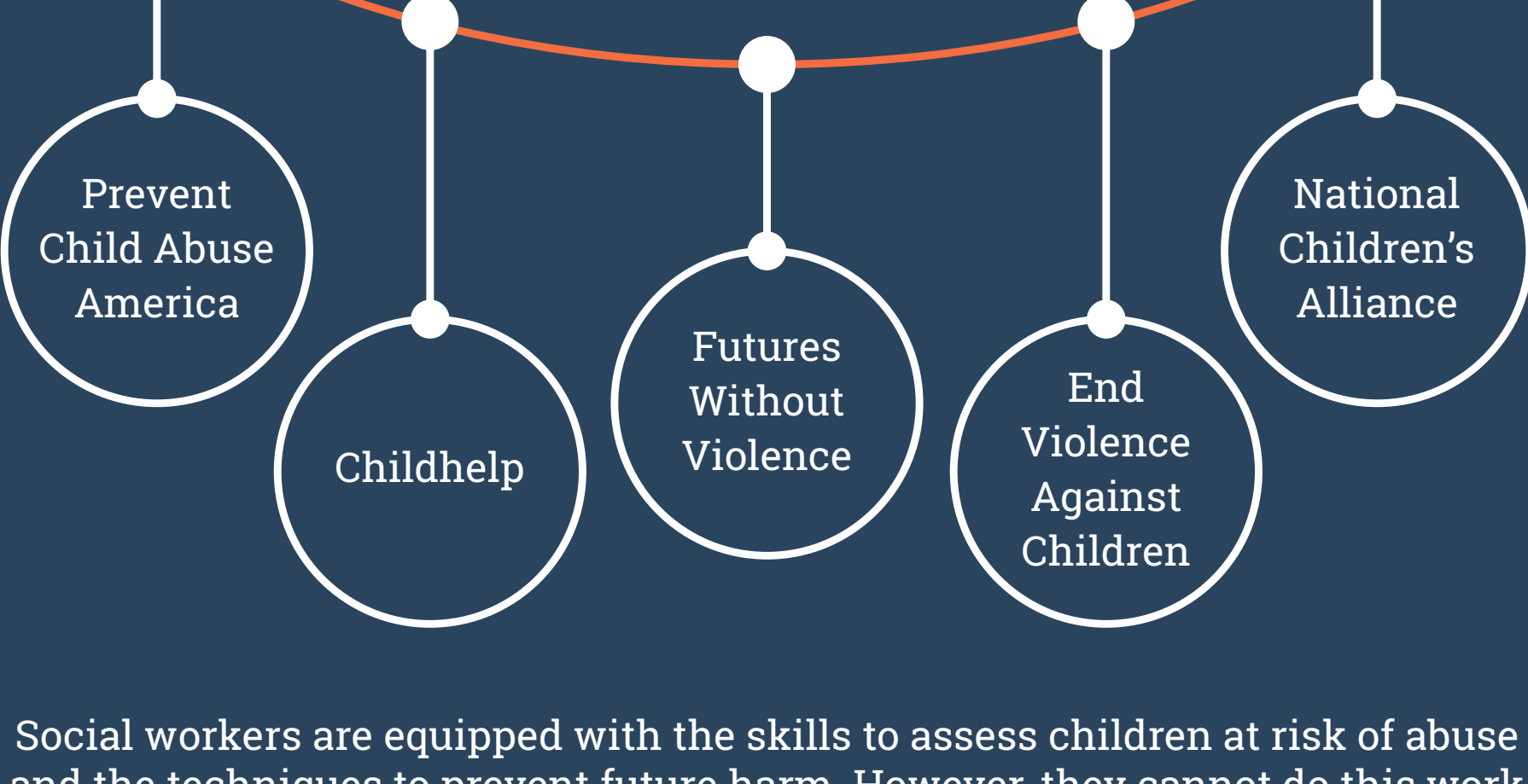
Federal funding provided to States supporting prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment in child abuse and neglect cases.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM (PSSF)

Federal funding to aid States in keeping children safe from maltreatment, allowing children to remain with families and ensure safe permanency for children in foster care.



Nonprofit Organizations Helping Children at Risk of Abuse and Neglect



Social workers are equipped with the skills to assess children at risk of abuse and the techniques to prevent future harm. However, they cannot do this work alone. Educating and engaging families and communities as well as utilizing the resources from government programs and nonprofit organization are necessary to ensure the continued protection of children.

SOURCES:

- <https://www.childhelp.org/>
- <http://preventchildabuse.org/>
- <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>
- <http://www.end-violence.org/about.html>
- <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/>
- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/educator.pdf>
- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/factsheets/about/>
- <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/majorfedlegis.pdf>
- <https://www.acfhhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2015.pdf>
- <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/supported-legislation>
- <http://www.casey.org/media/PromotingSafeandStableFamilies.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/definitions.html>
- https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/childrens-exposure-to-violence/#_edn3
- https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/CM_Strategic_Direction-Long-a.pdf
- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm#tab-3>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/riskprotectivefactors.html>

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