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~~REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT~~  
~~- Report, in~~  
IN MONTANA FOR JANUARY 1, 1974 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1974

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Provided by: Community Services Division  
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Social and Rehabilitation Services

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IN MONTANA FOR JANUARY 1, 1974 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1974

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#### INTRODUCTION

The intent of the facts presented within this publication is to answer many questions being raised about the dimensions of the social illness known as Child Abuse or Child Neglect in Montana.

The statistics presented were gathered for the period from January 1, 1974 through June 30, 1974. The information was taken from the National Clearinghouse on Child Neglect and Abuse (NCCNA), National Standard Form - 0023, of the Children's Division, The American Humane Association, Denver, Colorado 80201. This information is contained in the central index which is maintained by the Social Services Bureau as directed by the Director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services of Montana and by Montana Law: Section 10-1305 R.C.M., 1947, as amended (prior to June 30, 1974, section 10-903 R.C.M., 1947). The information was reported by the child protective social service workers located in the fifty-six county welfare departments of Montana.

During the period for which these statistics were gathered, Montana law defined child abuse and neglect in section 10-501 R.C.M., 1947, as amended, as:

"Dependent and neglected children - definition. For the purpose of this act, the words "dependent child" or "neglected child" shall mean any child of the age of sixteen years,<sup>1</sup> or under that age, who is dependent upon the public for support and who is destitute, homeless, or dependent, or who has no proper parental care or guardianship, or who habitually begs or receives alms, or who is found living in any house of ill-fame, or in any house of prostitution, or whose home, by reason of neglect, cruelty, or depravity on the part of its parents, guardian, or other persons in whose care it may be, is an unfit place for such child, or whose environment is such as to warrant the state, in the interest of the child to assume its guardianship or support."

Montana had 136 cases or families referred for abuse during the period reviewed. The 136 cases involved 203 children:

87 referrals were valid -- 123 children involved

49 referrals were invalid -- 80 children involved.

Montana had 231 families referred for neglect during the period reviewed. The 231 cases involved 390 children:

163 referrals were valid -- 283 children involved

68 referrals were invalid -- 107 children involved.

<sup>1</sup>The 1965 amendment changed the age from 16 years to 18 years (section 10-902 R.C.M., 1947, as amended).

Social and Rehabilitation Services and its County Welfare service social workers received a total of 367 referrals involving 593 children from January 1 through June 30, 1974:

250 valid referrals -- 406 children involved

117 invalid referrals -- 187 children involved.

This results in a validity rate for this period for Montana of 68.12%.

TABLE I - ABUSE\*

	Valid	Invalid	
Referrals	87/63.97%	49/36.03%	136
Children	123/60.59%	80/39.41%	203

\*Validity rate for abuse is 63.97%.

TABLE II - NEGLECT\*

	Valid	Invalid	
Referrals	163/70.56%	68/29.44%	231
Children	283/72.56%	107/27.44%	390

\*Validity rate for neglect is 70.56%.

TABLE III - ABUSE & NEGLECT REFERRALS

	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Valid	87/23.71%	163/44.41%	250/68.12%
Invalid	49/13.35%	68/18.52%	117/31.88%
Total	136/37.06%	231/62.94%	367/100%

TABLE IV - CHILDREN OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Valid	123/20.74%	283/47.72%	406/68.46%
Invalid	80/13.49%	107/18.01%	187/31.53%
Total	203/34.23%	390/65.76%	593/100%

The tables above indicate that 593 children were involved in the 367 referrals resulting in an average of 1.6 children per family referred (for abuse: 1.49 per family; for neglect: 1.69 per family).

The referral rate for Montana based on the NORC formula concept developed by Brandies University under the direction of Dr. Gil in 1965 is 0.51 referrals per 1000 people. Dr. Gil's study established the national average as 13.3 to 21.4 referrals for abuse and neglect per 1000 persons as the referral rate. This formula, when applied to the 1974 population, results in 9589.3 to 15,429.4 cases of abuse or neglect existing in Montana for the year. Dr. Gil indicates that this formula may be a little high, but is a good method for arriving at some indication of the extent of the abuse and neglect problem.

The 1970 census population of 694,409, when used as the base population, results in a referral rate of .53/1000 people. This is 3.98% of the Brandies referral rate.

The 1974 estimated population of Montana is 721,000. This basis results in a referral rate of .51/1000 persons. This is 3.83% of the Brandies referral rate.

The results reported are from 37 counties or 66.07%. Specific county statistics on abuse and neglect are reported in the following tables. Only those counties reporting cases are listed.

TABLE V - REFERRALS FOR ABUSE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	No. of Families	Valid	%	No. of Children	Invalid	%	No. of Children
Bir Horn	6	5	83.3	7/87.5%	1	16.7	1/12.5%
Blaine	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Broadwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carbon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cascade	20	17	85.0	24/88.8%	3	15.0	3/11.1%
Choteau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Custer	2	1	50.0	3/60.0%	1	50.0	2/40.0%
Deerlodge	2	2	100	2/100%	0	0	0
Fallon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fergus	1	0	0	0	1	100	1/100%
Flathead	3	2	66.7	2/66.7%	1	33.3	1/33.3%
Gallatin	5	3	60.0	1/66.7%	2	40.0	2/33.3%
Glacier	3	2	66.7	3/100.0%	1	33.3	1/25.0%
Granite	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Hill	7	2	28.6	4/57.1%	5	71.4	8/69.2%
Jefferson	1	0	0	0	1	100	1/100%
Lake	1	0	0	0	1	100	1/100%
Lewis & Clark	8	6	75.0	6/75.0%	2	25.0	5/45.4%
Lincoln	2	1	50.0	1/50.0%	1	50.0	1/50.0%
Madison	2	1	50.0	1/50.0%	1	50.0	1/50.0%
Meagher	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Missoula	9	2	22.2	2/22.2%	7	77.8	14/87.5%
Mussellshell	2	0	0	0	2	100	2/100%
Park	8	6	75.0	12/70.6%	2	25.0	5/29.4%
Phillips	7	7	100	11/100%	0	0	0
Powder River	1	0	0	0	1	100	1/100%
Powell	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Ravalli	1	1	100	2/100%	0	0	0
Richland	1	0	0	0	1	100	2/100%
Roosevelt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rosebud	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Sanders	1	0	0	0	1	100	3/100%
Silver Bow	3	1	33.3	1/33.3%	2	66.7	2/66.7%
Teton	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Toole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley	7	5	71.4	6/75.0%	2	28.6	2/25.0%
Yellowstone	27	17	62.9	25/44.4%	10	37.1	20/44.4%
Totals	136	87	63.9	223/60.3%	49	36.0	80/39.4%

TABLE VI - REFERRALS FOR NEGLECT BY COUNTY

COUNTY	No. of Families	Valid	%	No. of Children	Invalid	%	No. of Children
Bir Horn	15	12	80.0	33/91.7%	3	20.0	3/8.3%
Blaine	2	0	0	0	2	100	2/100%
Broadwater	1	0	0	0	1	100	4/100%
Carbon	1	1	100	2/100%	0	0	0
Cascade	25	17	68.0	27/72.9%	8	32.0	10/27.0%
Choteau	2	2	100	4/100%	0	0	0
Custer	3	3	100	5/100%	0	0	0
Deerlodge	12	8	66.7	18/78.3%	4	33.3	5/21.7%
Fallon	1	1	100	1/100	0	0	0
Fergus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flathead	17	8	47.0	11/40.7%	9	52.9	16/59.3%
Gallatin	11	11	100	21/100%	0	0	0
Glacier	17	10	58.8	16/69.6%	7	41.2	7/30.4%
Granite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hill	17	7	41.2	6/30.0%	10	58.8	14/70.0%
Jefferson	2	1	50.0	1/50.0%	1	50.0	1/50.0%
Lake	2	2	100	2/100%	0	0	0
Lewis & Clark	15	8	53.3	15/48.4%	7	46.7	16/51.6%
Lincoln	9	5	55.6	10/58.8%	4	44.4	7/41.2%
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meagher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missoula	12	11	91.7	17/85.0%	1	8.3	3/15.0%
Mussellshell	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Park	2	2	100	2/100%	0	0	0
Phillips	7	7	100	14/100%	0	0	0
Powder River	1	1	100	4/100%	0	0	0
Powell	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Ravalli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roosevelt	3	2	66.7	6/85.7%	1	33.3	1/14.3%
Rosebud	1	1	100	1/100%	0	0	0
Sanders	3	3	100	6/100%	0	0	0
Silver Bow	5	3	60.0	3/27.3%	2	40.0	8/72.7%
Teton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toole	3	2	66.7	3/75.0%	1	33.3	1/25.0%
Valley	8	8	100	10/100%	0	0	0
Yellowstone	32	25	78.1	43/82.7%	7	21.9	9/17.3%
Totals	231	163	70.6	283/72.6%	68	29.4	107/27.4%

TABLE VII - COMPOSITE OF REFERRALS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Total Referrals	%	Total Valid	%	Total Invalid	%	Validity Rate
Big Horn	21	5.7	17	80.9	4	19.1	80.95%
Blaine	3	.82	1	33.3	2	66.7	33.30%
Broadwater	1	.27	0	0	1	100	0.00%
Carbon	1	.27	1	100	0	0	100.0%
Cascade	45	12.3	34	75.6	11	24.4	75.60%
Choteau	2	.54	2	100	0	0	100.0%
Custer	5	1.36	4	80.0	1	20.0	80.00%
Deerlodge	14	3.81	10	71.4	4	28.6	71.40%
Fallon	1	.27	1	100	0	0	100.0%
Fergus	1	.27	0	0	1	100	0.00%
Flathead	20	5.45	10	50.0	10	50.0	50.00%
Gallatin	16	4.36	14	87.5	2	12.5	87.50%
Glacier	20	5.45	12	60.0	8	40.0	60.00%
Granite	1	.27	1	100	0	0	100.0%
Hill	24	6.54	9	37.5	15	62.5	37.50%
Jefferson	3	.81	1	33.3	2	66.7	33.30%
Lake	3	.81	2	66.7	1	33.3	66.70%
Lewis & Clark	23	6.27	14	60.9	9	39.1	60.90%
Lincoln	11	2.99	6	54.5	5	45.4	54.50%
Madison	2	.54	1	50.0	1	50.0	50.00%
Meagher	1	.27	1	100	0	0	100.0%
Missoula	21	5.72	13	61.9	8	38.1	61.90%
Mussellshell	3	.81	1	33.3	2	66.7	33.30%
Park	10	2.73	8	80.0	2	20.0	80.00%
Phillips	14	3.81	14	100	0	0	100.0%
Powder River	2	.54	1	50.0	1	50.0	50.00%
Powell	2	.54	2	100	0	0	100.0%
Ravalli	1	.27	1	100	0	0	100.0%
Richland	1	.27	0	0	1	100	0.00%
Roosevelt	3	.81	2	66.7	1	33.3	66.70%
Rosebud	2	.54	2	100	0	0	100.0%
Sanders	4	1.09	3	75.0	1	25.0	75.00%
Silver Bow	8	2.18	4	50.0	4	50.0	50.00%
Teton	1	1.27	1	100	0	0	100.0%
Toole	3	.81	2	66.7	1	33.3	66.70%
Valley	15	4.09	13	86.7	2	13.3	86.70%
Yellowstone	59	16.10	42	71.2	17	28.8	71.20%
Totals	367	100.00	250	68.12	117	31.88	68.12%

The element of a crisis existing in every abuse or neglect syndrome has been extensively documented in research by such authorities as Dr. Henry Kempe and Dr. Pollack of the University of Colorado Medical Center. The following table list the stress factors identified in the valid cases of abuse and neglect referred. More than one stress factor may be involved in an abusive or neglecting situation. This was true for many of the cases identified in Montana. A possible trend was observed in the review of the NCCNA data forms. This trend would need further research or evaluation before definite conclusion could be made. The trend was that if a parent or parents were involved in drinking of alcohol and an argument ensued between the adults, physical beating of a child occurred. Again, the author must stress that this was only an observation.

TABLE VIII - STRESS FACTORS OF ABUSERS AND NEGLECTORS

Stress Factor	Frequency	Percent
1. Argument	75	30.0
2. Job Related	68	27.2
3. Under Alcohol	68	27.2
4. Family Breakup	67	26.8
5. Child's Disobedience/loss of control	65	26.0
6. Health Problems	43	17.2
7. Other <sup>1</sup>	43	17.2
8. Child Hostility/provocation	40	16.0
9. Physical Fight	26	10.4
10. Other Drug <sup>2</sup>	16	6.4
11. Child's Incessant Crying	16	6.4
12. Child's Reaction to Sexual Advances	1	.4
13. None Apparent	79	31.6

N=250 valid cases

<sup>1</sup>Other stress factors included: single parent lack of knowledge  
pregnancy/newborn financial  
loneliness household responsibilities  
loss of relative illness of relative

<sup>2</sup>Other drugs included: aspirin, "Mickey Finn", tranquilizers.

Physical neglect was the form of abuse or neglect that occurred most frequently. The following table relates the forms of abuse or neglect by priority of highest frequency.

TABLE IX - FORMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Type	Frequency	Percentage
1. Physical Neglect <sup>1</sup>	108	43.2
2. Emotional Neglect	59	23.6
3. Beating <sup>2</sup>	53	21.2
4. Medical Neglect	12	4.8
5. Educational Neglect	12	4.8
6. Sexual Abuse <sup>3</sup>	11	4.4
7. Abandonment	11	4.4
8. Moral Neglect	8	3.2
9. Kicking	7	2.8
10. Failure to Thrive	4	1.6
11. Burning	3	1.2
12. Biting	3	1.2
13. Strangling	1	.4
14. Unknown	8	3.2

N= 250 valid cases

<sup>1</sup>This included: lack of supervision, of food, of clothing, and locking in or locking out of the child.

<sup>2</sup>This included: beating of child's head against a wall; throwing of child across a room; use of sticks, cords, etc.

<sup>3</sup>This included: homosexual activities, intercourse, fondling, and pornographic picture taking.

Referral of a suspected case of abuse or neglect to the local welfare agency is a vital part of the treatment of the abuse and neglect syndrome. The following tables provide identification of the initial action taken by the agency protective service worker or in some cases by the police, sheriff, or probation officer prior to referral to the protective service worker. The information does not indicate how many children continued in foster care, nor the length of stay in foster care. This information would require a separate study.

TABLE X - ACTION INITIATED FOR VALID ABUSE REFERRALS

Action	Age of Child (years)					total
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 18	
1. Child temporarily held	3/2.4%	2/1.6%	0	1/.8%	4/3.2%	10/8.1%
2. Emergency removal of child	1/.8%	3/2.4%	0	3/2.4%	5/4.1%	12/9.8%
3. Removal of child-court order	1/.8%	0	1/.8%	2/1.6%	4/3.2%	8/6.5%
4. Protective services accepted-child at home	8/6.5%	14/11.4%	5/4.1%	13/10.6%	21/17.1%	61/49.6%
5. Court ordered supervision-child at home	3/2.4%	0	0	1/.8%	0	4/3.2%
6. Temporary court ordered placement of child	1/.8%	0	0	1/.8%	4/3.2%	6/4.9%
7. Temporary voluntary placement of child	4/3.2%	4/3.2%	1/.8%	1/.8%	6/4.9%	16/13.0%
8. Child returned home	5/4.1%	3/2.4%	1/.8%	5/4.1%	6/4.9%	20/16.3%
9. Consent to adoption	0	0	0	1/.8%	3/2.4%	4/3.2%
10. Neglect petition filed	5/4.1%	0	0	3/2.4%	3/2.4%	11/8.9%
11. Termination of parental rights	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Criminal action against abuser	1/.8%	1/.8%	2/1.6%	2/1.6%	6/4.9%	12/9.8%
13. Action awaiting further investigation	4/3.2%	5/4.1%	2/1.6%	6/4.9%	12/9.8%	29/23.6%
14. Report unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Other	3/2.4%	2/1.6%	2/1.6%	7/5.7%	9/7.3%	23/18.7%

16 children had unknown ages and unknown initial action

Workers showed more than one action being taken thus 232 actions for 87 cases.

N= 123 children involved.

Initial action involved temporary placement outside of the natural home for 30 children or 24.4% (items 1, 2, and 3) in the abuse category. It is noticeable that the largest single group placed for this category were adolescents as they composed 43.3% of all children placed for abuse. An impressive fact is that 49.6% of the children continued to remain in their natural homes and receive protective services. This would seem to indicate the agency is achieving its goal of preserving family unity when possible.



TABLE XI - ACTION INITIATED FOR VALID NEGLECT REFERRALS

Action	Age of Child (years)					total
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 18	
1. Child temporarily held	11/3.9%	7/2.5%	2/.7%	7/2.5%	10/3.5%	37/13.1%
2. Emergency removal of child	5/1.8%	8/2.8%	7/2.5%	8/2.8%	11/3.9%	39/13.8%
3. Removal of child-court ordered	5/1.8%	2/.7%	1/.4%	3/1.1%	1/.4%	12/4.2%
4. Protective services accepted-child at home	22/7.8%	21/7.4%	9/3.2%	13/6.4%	33/11.7%	103/36.4%
5. Court ordered supervision-child at home	1/.4%	0	0	0	0	1/.4%
6. Temporary voluntary placement of child	10/3.5%	4/1.4%	5/1.8%	12/4.2%	16/5.7%	47/16.6%
7. Temporary court ordered placement of child	4/1.4%	3/1.1%	1/.4%	3/1.1%	12/4.2%	23/8.1%
8. Child returned home	9/3.2%	7/2.4%	2/.7%	6/2.1%	7/2.4%	31/11.0%
9. Consent to adoption	1/.4%	0	0	1/.4%	1/.4%	3/1.1%
10. Neglect petition filed	11/3.9%	9/3.2%	4/1.4%	6/2.1%	14/4.9%	44/15.5%
11. Termination of parental rights	2/.7%	1/.4%	0	2/.7%	3/1.1%	8/2.8%
12. Criminal action against abuser	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Action awaiting further investigation	13/4.6%	4/1.4%	5/1.8%	4/1.4%	22/7.8%	48/17.0%
14. Report unsubstantiated	1/.4%	0	1/.4%	1/.4%	0	3/1.1%
15. Other	8/2.8%	10/3.5%	5/1.8%	6/2.1%	10/3.5%	39/13.8%

Workers showed more than one action per case, thus 438 actions although 163 cases involved. N= 283 children involved.

Their appears to be a possible trend to use temporary placement more often in neglect than abuse as 88 children were removed or 31.1%. However, adolescents were joined by infants as the largest groups placed as each group accounted for 25% of those children placed or combined - 50%. Neglect's multiple factors appear to have some influence on provision of protective services in the natural home as 36.4% as compared to 49.6% for abuse received services in their own homes.

Table XII is a composite of the two previous tables. The results suggest a variety of areas for further study.

TABLE XII - COMPOSITE OF ACTIONS INITIATED

Action	Age of Child (years)					total
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 18	
1. Child temporarily held	14/3.4%	9/2.2%	2/.5%	8/2.0%	14/3.4%	47/11.6%
2. Emergency removal of child	6/1.5%	11/2.7%	7/1.7%	11/2.7%	16/3.9%	51/12.7%
3. Removal of child-court order	6/1.5%	2/.5%	2/.5%	5/1.2%	5/1.2%	20/4.9%
4. Protective services accepted-child at home	30/7.4%	35/8.6%	14/3.4%	31/7.6%	54/13.3%	164/40.4%
5. Court ordered supervision-child at home	4/3.0%	0	0	1/.2%	0	5/1.2%
6. Temporary voluntary placement of child	14/3.4%	8/2.0%	6/1.5%	13/3.2%	22/5.4%	63/15.5%
7. Temporary court ordered placement of child	5/1.2%	3/.7%	1/.2%	4/1.0%	16/3.9%	29/7.1%
8. Child returned home	14/3.4%	10/2.5%	3/.7%	11/2.7%	13/3.2%	51/12.6%
9. Consent to adoption	1/.2%	0	0	2/.5%	4/1.0%	7/1.7%
10. Neglect petition filed	16/3.9%	9/2.2%	4/1.0%	9/2.2%	17/4.2%	55/13.5%
11. Termination of parental rights	2/.5%	1/.2%	0	2/.5%	3/.7%	8/2.0%
12. Criminal action against abuser	1/.2%	1/.2%	2/.5%	2/.5%	6/1.5%	12/3.0%
13. Action awaiting further investigation	17/4.2%	9/2.2%	7/1.7%	10/2.5%	34/8.4%	77/19.0%
14. Report unsubstantiated	1/.2%	0	1/.2%	1/.2%	0	3/.7%
15. Other	11/2.7%	12/3.0%	7/1.7%	13/3.2%	19/4.7%	62/15.3%

Workers showed more than one action per case thus 654 actions for 250 cases. N= 406 children involved.

16 children had unknown ages and unknown initial action

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHILDREN

The referrals received involved children from age 0 to age 18 years. Sex of the child appears to be of no significance as 49.3% were male and 50.7% were female. Age of the child did appear to be a factor as school age children (61.1%) tended to be reported more than preschool children (38.9%). However, a surprising statistic was that adolescents were the single largest group referred (33.5%).

TABLE XIII - ABUSE & NEGLECT REFERRALS BY AGE & SEX

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 - 2	35/9.4%	27/7.2%	62/16.6%
3 - 5	38/10.2%	45/12.1%	83/22.2%
6 - 7	21/5.6%	18/4.8%	39/10.4%
8 - 10	33/8.8%	31/8.3%	64/17.2%
10-- 18	57/15.3%	68/18.2%	125/33.5%
total	184/49.3%	189/50.7%	373/100%

N= 373      33 children ages unknown

TABLE XIV - SEX COMPOSITIONS BY AGES

0 - 2 yrs:    56.4% males;    43.5% females  
 3 - 5 yrs:    45.8% males;    54.2% females  
 6 - 7 yrs:    53.8% males;    46.2% females  
 8 - 10 yrs:    51.6% males;    48.4% females  
 10 - 18 yrs:    45.6% males;    54.4% females

TABLE XV - PERCENTAGES OF REFERRALS  
RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES

Infants:      16.6%  
 Toddlers:     22.2%  
 Latency:      27.6%  
 Adolescents:    33.5%

Tables XVI - XVIII indicate to a very limited extent the influence of race on abuse and neglect of children in Montana. Race was not known in all cases referred.

TABLE XVI - ABUSE OF CHILD BY AGE &amp; RACE

	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 18	total
Cau	20/18.3%	13/11.9%	7/6.4%	16/14.7%	31/28.4%	87/79.8%
Am Ind	1/.9%	3/2.8%	1/.9%	5/4.6%	7/6.4%	17/15.6%
Blk	1/.9%	1/.9%	0	0	0	2/1.8%
Span	1/.9%	0	0	0	0	1/.9%
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1/.9%	0	0	1/.9%*	0	2/1.8%
Total	24/22.0%	17/15.6%	8/7.3%	22/20.2%	38/34.9%	109/100%

\*Includes unknown race

9 children ages unknown

5 children had unknown ages and race

TABLE XVII - NEGLECT OF CHILD BY AGE &amp; RACE

	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 18	total
Cau	43/16.3%	32/12.2%	18/6.8%	30/11.4%	56/21.3%	179/68.1%
Am Ind	17/6.5%	4/1.5%	7/2.7%	17/6.5%	24/9.1%	69/26.2%
Blk	0	0	0	0	3/1.1%	3/1.1%
Span	1/.4%	4/1.5%	0	1/.4%	3/1.1%	9/3.4%
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1/.4%*	1/.4%*	1/.4%*	3/1.1%
Total	61/23.2%	40/15.2%	26/9.9%	49/18.6%	87/33.1%	263/100%

\*Includes unknown race

7 children ages unknown

13 children had unknown ages and race

TABLE XVIII - COMPOSITE BY AGE &amp; RACE

	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 18	total
Cau	63/16.9%	45/12.1%	25/6.7%	46/12.4%	87/23.4%	266/71.5%
Am Ind	18/4.8%	7/1.9%	8/2.1%	22/5.9%	31/8.3%	86/23.1%
Black	1/.3%	1/.3%	0	0	3/.8%	5/1.3%
Span	2/.5%	4/1.1%	0	1/.3%	3/.8%	10/2.6%
Other*	1/.3%	0	1/.3%	2/.5%	1/.3%	5/1.3%
Total	85/22.8%	57/15.3%	34/9.1%	71/19.1%	125/33.6%	372/100%

\*Includes unknown ethnic

N=372\*\*

\*\*Includes unknown ages of: 10 Cau; 5 Am Ind; 1 Other; and 18 unknown age and race

The child referred in Montana for abuse or neglect tended to be a legitimate child (born within a recognized marriage). However, the abused or neglected child came from a variety of settings i.e. illegitimate births, adoptive homes, and foster homes as well as relatives or friends.

TABLE XIX - STATUS OF CHILD

Status	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Legitimate	82/66.7%	220/77.7%	302/74.4%
Illegitimate	20/16.3%	33/11.7%	53/13.1%
Adoptive	4/3.2%	2/.7%	6/1.5%
Foster	0	1/.4%	1/.2%
Other	2/1.6%	2/.7%	4/1.0%
Unknown	15/12.2%	25/8.8%	40/9.8%

N=123

N=283

N=406

The abused or neglected child is not the only child in the home. The following table presents the distribution according to other siblings in the home as well as other siblings included in the complaint.

TABLE XX - ONLY CHILD VERSUS OTHER SIBLINGS

	Abuse	Neglect	Total
only child	23/32.2%	42/25.8%	70/28.0%
other sibling included in report	20/23.0%	74/45.4%	94/37.6%
other sibling- not included in report	27/31.0%	25/15.3%	52/20.8%
unknown	12/13.8%	22/13.5%	34/13.6%

N=87

N=163

N=250

# CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTS

Marital conflict or absence of a parent due to divorce led the list of status characteristics of abusive or neglective parents. The following table relates the status of the parent at the time of the referral.

TABLE XXI - PARENTAL STATUS

	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Natural parents	28/32.2%	25/15.3%	53/21.2%
Single parent*	4/4.6%	12/7.4%	16/6.4%
Divorced/Seperated	17/19.5%	55/33.7%	72/28.8%
Parent-Stepparent	17/19.3%	13/8.0%	30/12.0%
Parent-Paramour**	10/11.5%	10/6.1%	20/8.0%
Relative	1/1.1%	4/2.4%	5/2.0%
Adoptive parent	1/1.1%	0	1/.4%
Widowed	0	3/1.8%	3/1.2%
Foster parent	1/1.1%	1/.6%	2/.8%
Unknown	8/9.2%	40/24.5%	48/19.2%

N=87

N=163

N=250

\*Never married

\*\*No legal marriage (common law)

Parents tended to be between 21 and 34 years of age as this group involved 65.8% of all parents although parent ages ranged from 16 years to over 55 years. The study showed 12.8% (16) of the parents were American Indian in abuse referrals and 24.4% (47) in neglect referrals.

TABLE XXII - PARENT'S AGE AND RACE

	10 & under	21 - 34	35 - 50	50 & over	total
Cau	230/7.8%	115/30.1%	84/22.0%	18/4.7%	247/64.6%
Am Ind	9/2.4%	32/8.4%	14/3.7%	8/2.1%	63/16.5%
Black	0	2/.5%	0	0	2/.5%
Span	0	2/.5%	0	0	2/.5%
Other	1/.3%*	0	2/.5%**	0	3/.8%
Total	40/10.5%	151/39.5%	100/26.2%	26/6.8%	317/83.0%

\*Hawaiian

\*\*Greek

54 parents age unknown: 35 Cau; 17 Am Ind; 1 Black; 1 Spanish.

N=382

Parents tended to be of Protestant religious affiliation according to information provided in the following table.

TABLE XXIII - PARENT'S RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Protestant	46/29.1%	55/22.1%	101/24.8%
Catholic	19/12.0%	37/14.8%	56/13.8%
Other*	8/5.0%	12/4.3%	20/4.9%
None	1/.6%	6/2.4%	7/1.7%
Unknown	84/53.2%	139/55.0%	223/54.8%
	N=158	N=249	N=407

\*Other includes: Mormon, Latter Day Saints.

Abuse and neglect knows no income barrier. Valid referrals were received from all economic levels ranging from less than \$3000 to over \$20,000 annual income. Receiving public assistance did not appear to significantly enhance a parent's chances for being referred as 28.8% (72) of the parents received public assistance. Table XXIV supplies the information on income.

TABLE XXIV - ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND PARENTAL INCOME

Income	Abuse	Neglect	Total
0 - 3000	14/16.3% <sup>1</sup>	42/25.8% <sup>2</sup>	56/22.4%
3001 - 4000	11/12.8% <sup>3</sup>	11/6.7% <sup>4</sup>	22/8.8%
4001 - 5000	9/10.3% <sup>5</sup>	11/12.3% <sup>6</sup>	30/12.0%
5001 - 6000	7/8.0% <sup>5</sup>	9/5.8% <sup>7</sup>	16/6.4%
6001 - 10,000	14/16.1% <sup>5</sup>	13/8.0% <sup>8</sup>	27/10.8%
10,001 - 12,000	3/3.4%	1/.5%	4/1.6%
12,001 - 20,000	1/1.1%	3/1.9%	4/1.6%
Unknown	28/32.2%	62/38.6%	91/36.4%
	N=87	N=163	N=250

- <sup>1</sup>11 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>2</sup>36 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>3</sup>6 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>4</sup>6 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>5</sup>2 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>6</sup>6 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>7</sup>3 receiving some public assistance
- <sup>8</sup>2 receiving some public assistance

Formal education may be one of many indicators of the parent's ability to adjust to life's demands or to adequately and appropriately deal with life's crises. Abusive or neglecting parents tended to have at least 10 years of formal education but not more than 12 years. This group composed 38.4% of all parents. The importance of education needs further evaluation as a helpful tool in evaluating parental ability to handle stress as well as flexibility to change.

TABLE XXV - PARENT'S EDUCATION

Grade	Frequency	Percentage
0	1	.2
1 - 3	2	.4
4 - 6	11	3.2
7 - 9	52	12.9
10 - 12	155	38.4
Some Coll	28	6.9
Coll Grad	4	1.0
Post Grad	2	.4
Unknown	127	36.4

The author does not intend to imply that only natural parents abuse or neglect children, but he does agree with the formula of Dr. Kempe: the parent or parent substitute who spends the greatest amount of time with the child has the greatest potential for abusing or neglecting the child. Natural parents were involved in 74% of all cases as the abuser or neglecter while step-fathers (7.6%) and paramours (4.8%) were the next most frequent persons name respectively.

TABLE XXVI - RELATIONSHIP OF ABUSER &amp; NEGLECTOR TO CHILD

Relationship	Abuse	Neglect	Total
Parent	55/63.2%	130/79.8%	185/74.0%
Relative	3/3.4%	4/2.4%	7/2.8%
Stepfather	9/10.4%	10/6.1%	19/7.6%
Stepmother	2/2.3%	5/3.1%	7/2.8%
Nonrelative	5/5.7%	2/1.2%	7/2.8%
Paramour*	6/6.9%	6/3.7%	12/4.8%
Sibling	2/2.3%	0	2/.8%
Adop parent	1/1.1%	2/1.2%	3/1.2%
Foster parent	1/1.1%	0	1/.4%
Unknown	3/3.4%	4/2.4%	7/2.8%

N=87

N=163

N=250

\*Paramour included lover, boyfriend, common-law spouse.

The most alarming factor determined by this study was that 41.7% of the abusers or neglectors had previous records of abuse or neglect. Male abusers had a tendency to be repeaters more often than females; but in neglect, females were repeaters three times more than males.

TABLE XXVII - FREQUENCY OF PREVIOUS RECORDS  
FOR ABUSE OR NEGLECT

	Had Record		No Record		Unknown		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Abuse	23/8.1%	15/5.6%	16/5.6%	15/5.3%	16/5.6%	8/2.8%	94
Neglect	21/7.4%	59/20.7%	14/4.9%	32/11.2%	30/10.5%	35/12.3%	191
Total	44/15.4%	74/26.3%	30/10.5%	47/16.5%	46/16.1%	43/15.1%	285
	119/41.7%		77/27.0%		89/31.2%		N=285

By taking 41.7% of the 89 unknown cases, we arrive at 37 abusers or neglectors being possible repeaters. This added to the known 119 totals 156 or 54.7%. This indicates that at least one out of two abusers or neglectors are not new to the act or to say it another way, are "old hands to this action."

SPECIFICS ON REFERRAL SOURCES

The neighbor continues to be a very important friend to the abused or neglected child as 21.2% of all referrals were received from this source. This may be stated another way: a key to effective protective service delivery by SRS and the County Welfare Service Programs is community support. Our law enforcement agencies and schools also continue to be valuable resources for detection of the social illness or problem of abuse and neglect.

TABLE XXVIII - REFERRAL SOURCES FOR ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Source	Frequency	Percentage
1. Neighbors	78	21.2
2. Law Enforcement <sup>1</sup>	63	17.2
3. Schools	58	15.8
4. Public Social Agency <sup>2</sup>	47	12.8
5. Relatives	47	12.8
6. Parent/Substitutes	43	11.7
7. Public Health Nurses	35	9.5
8. Hospitals	27	7.4
9. Physicians	22	6.0
10. Child Caring Agency <sup>3</sup>	11	3.0
11. Anonymous	8	2.2
12. Court	3	.8
13. Nurse <sup>4</sup>	3	.8
14. Other	17	4.6

N=367 total cases

<sup>1</sup>Police, sheriff, probation, etc.<sup>2</sup>Public welfare, CAP, Planned parenthood, Mental Health, Diagnostic centers.<sup>3</sup>Day care centers, day care homes.<sup>4</sup>Child itself, Babysitter, Attorney

More than one referral source was involved in one case.

Chapter I provided a breakdown by county of the referrals. The following table shows the distribution of referrals from various federal reservations in Montana.

TABLE XXIX - REFERRALS BY LOCATION

Federal Facility	Abuse		Neglect	
	Valid	Invalid	Valid	Invalid
Malstrom AFB	5/100%	0	2/100%	0
Glasgow AFB	5/71.4%	2/28.6%	7/100%	0
Crow Reservation	4/80.0%	1/20.0%	6/85.7%	1/14.3%
Blackfoot Reservation	3/60.0%	2/40.0%	11/78.6%	3/21.4%
Flathead Reservation	0	1/100%	1/100%	0
Lane Deer Reservation	0	0	1/100%	0
Rocky Boy Reservation	0	1/100%	0	0
Ft. Peck Reservation	0	0	1/100%	0
Totals	17/29.8%	7/12.3%	29/50.9%	4/7.0%

The referrals are made primarily by phone as 55.6% (124) were received in this manner. A written referral was utilized in 14.3% (32) of the referrals with in-person referrals involving 26.4% (59). The means of receiving the referral was not provided in 35 cases (14%).

The frequency of referrals according to the day of the week, etc. is portrayed in the following data.

TABLE XXX - FREQUENCY OF REFERRAL BY DAY OF WEEK

Day	freq office	%	freq non office	%	known time and day	unknown time known day	total
Sunday	17	8.0	17	100	17	0	17
Monday	37	17.4	4	44.4	9	28	37
Tuesday	40	18.9	8	44.4	18	22	40
Wednesday	36	17.0	19	69.2	13	23	36
Thursday	37	17.4	13	68.4	19	18	37
Friday	28	13.2	3	50.0	5	23	28
Saturday	17	8.0	17	100	17	0	17
			71	72.4			

N=212

Freq-non office reflects those referrals after work hours or before the office opens. The % indicates what % of total referrals for day, time and day known the non office referrals comprised.

If the estimate process is used, based on known variables stated in the table above (72.4% of known referrals for time and day are non office time). The unknown time and know day category would be divided as follows:

Day	Freq: Office	Freq: Non Office
Monday	16	12
Tuesday	12	10
Wednesday	7	16
Thursday	6	12
Friday	9	14
	50	64

This estimate plus original amounts known for office time and non office time referrals equals 121 non office time referrals or 57.1% of all referrals are made during the hours of 5:30 PM to 8:00 AM; 91 are received during office hours or 42.9% of the referrals are made from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

# SUMMARY

Many types of data have been presented in this report. The report does not exhaust the information provided on the NCCNA report form. To provide such an exhaustive report would require volumes, thus the author has selected those elements most frequently questioned.

The social problem of child abuse or neglect continues to be an iceberg of a problem. The author hopes this report will assist in exposing more of the iceberg as well as lay aside some of the misconceptions in existence concerning child abuse and neglect in Montana.

# END