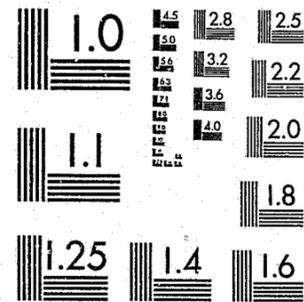


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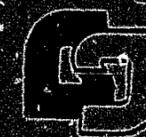
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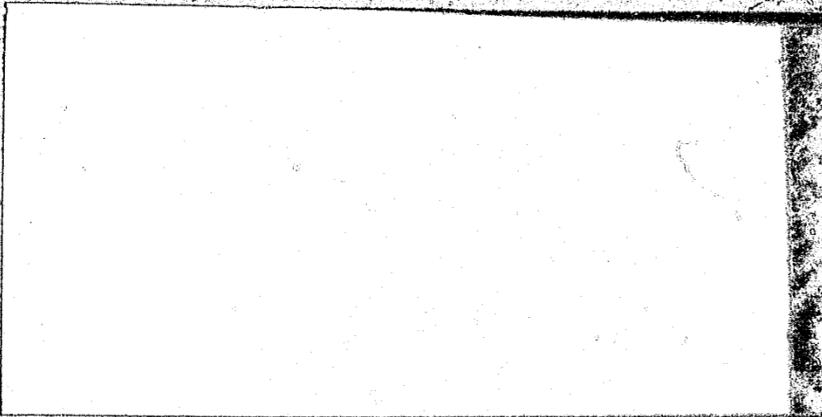
**FINAL EVALUATION OF
THE CHILD ABUSE UNIT:
SAN DIEGO POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

San Diego



ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS

90179



FINAL EVALUATION OF THE CHILD ABUSE UNIT: SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 1981

San Diego



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- Revised September 1981 -

Preface

The Criminal Justice Evaluation Unit of the San Diego Association of Governments was authorized by the Regional Criminal Justice Planning Board (RCJPB) to evaluate the Child Abuse Project of the San Diego Police Department. This project was funded by the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) with a total two-year allocation of \$283,833 (including state and local matching funds). Federal funding allowed the existing specialized central child abuse unit within the San Diego Police Department to expand its services to the entire City of San Diego.

The preliminary evaluation (July, 1980) was process-oriented and examined the project's progress toward the goal of centralized disposition of child abuse cases and the objectives stated in the grant proposal. This final evaluation addresses additional issues raised by the RCJPB: (1) the effects of diversion versus prosecution on recidivism of abusers; and (2) the impact of a specialized law enforcement assessment and referral unit on disposition of child abuse cases when compared with a traditional juvenile unit handling similar cases. The report begins with an executive summary presenting issues, conclusions and recommendations. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of each issue.

The assistance and cooperation of personnel in the San Diego Police Department, County Department of Social Services, San Diego Municipal Court, and the District and City Attorney's Offices toward evaluation efforts is sincerely appreciated.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Between 1974 and 1978, reported child abuse cases in the City of San Diego increased by 216%, from 709 in 1974 to 2,240 in 1978 (Child Abuse Project Application, 1979). During this time (1976), a child abuse team was developed to respond to abuse victims in the central city area. A social worker was assigned to the unit to provide a liaison role to the Department of Social Services (Welfare) which has primary responsibilities related to children. The special unit was created to provide an interdisciplinary approach to central city child abuse victims and their families by providing access to appropriate social services. These activities were generally not undertaken by patrol officers responding to these calls.

In 1979, the Police Department received federal funds (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) to expand the child abuse unit to provide services in all reported child abuse cases in the City of San Diego. Total project expenditures were \$283,833 for two years and allowed the unit to hire two patrol officers, a sergeant, another social worker, a part-time analyst, and to increase the clerical support. Total staff currently includes nine (9) sworn personnel and two social workers. Specific second-year project objectives included: (1) specialized response to 3,100 abuse reports, (2) referral of 60% of reported cases to social services, (3) reduction in adult court referrals, (4) a decrease in repeat calls (recidivism), and (5) maintenance of educational and coordination activities. The project has received federal funding for a third year.

The child abuse unit receives reports of child abuse incidents from several sources: patrol officers, area detectives, communications/dispatch personnel, public and private agencies, or direct calls from individuals. The circumstances of an incident dictate actions to be taken after referral to unit staff. A child may be removed to protective custody, an investigation may take place to substantiate suspected abuse, the alleged abuser may be arrested and charged with a crime, and/or the family may be referred to a social service agency. The diverse needs of child abusing families warrant intervention by police, the Department of Social Services, Juvenile Court, the District and/or City Attorney, and the criminal courts. California law requires that reports of suspected abuse be reported to law enforcement or the welfare department, so the necessity for coordinated activities is evident to avoid duplication of efforts.

ISSUES, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue I: HAS THE PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED ITS GOAL OF CENTRALIZED DISPOSITION OF ALL CHILD ABUSE CASES?

Conclusions: The majority of child abuse cases reported to the San Diego Police Department are handled by the special investigators in the Child Abuse Unit. Benefits of this approach are perceived by investigators handling other juvenile cases and personnel in the Department of Social Services. Concentration of expertise, coordination with social service personnel, and standardization of procedures are among the benefits cited. There is a need for feedback information on dispositions of abuse cases reported in areas throughout the city according to investigators in outlying stations.

Recommendations:

1. The child abuse team should continue as a centralized, specialized unit after the federal funding expires.
2. To enhance investigations of juvenile related offenses that occur throughout the city, a feedback mechanism should be developed for area investigators with information on dispositions of child abuse cases referred to the unit by area commands. This could be in the format of a monthly "hotsheet" prepared by project staff.
3. Training of patrol officers in the dynamics of child abuse situations and intervention strategies should continue on a regular basis.

Issue II: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF DIVERSION VERSUS PROSECUTION ON RECIDIVISM OF ABUSERS?

Conclusions: Diversion can be an effective means of reducing repeat offenses in less serious cases, but prosecution may be required in more severe incidents. Variables studied (e.g., prior offenses, suspect characteristics, etc.) were not significantly associated with recidivism. However, other interactive factors may ultimately influence the probability of repeated abuse.

Recommendations:

1. The referral and diversion aspects of unit operations should continue to be emphasized as an alternative to prosecution in less serious cases.
2. During the third grant year, the project analyst should further examine factors related to recidivism. Subsequent findings could have significant implications regarding intervention strategies.

Issue III: TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE PROJECT MEET SECOND-YEAR OBJECTIVES?

Conclusions: The objectives related to increases in the cases investigated, social service referrals, and reduction in recidivism were achieved. The objective concerning reduction of court referrals in abuse and neglect cases was not met. Accountability for project goals and activities should continue when the federal funding terminates.

Recommendations:

1. Project staff should continue outreach efforts to the community and professional service providers through presentations and ride-alongs.
2. The third-year objective regarding reduction in court referrals for abuse and neglect cases should be revised in light of the small percentage of cases in which a complaint is requested (3.4% in the first year). The focus should be on reducing the rejection rate by prosecutors through analysis of the reasons that cases are rejected. The extent to which police investigations can impact the rate should be examined.
3. If the project activities are retained with local funds after the federal grant expires (July, 1982), the following performance measurement system should be developed. This would insure continued accountability and provide pertinent information to elected officials and police department administrators:
 - o Specific impact objectives should be developed each year based on concrete indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.
 - o Data compilation procedures which incorporate the objectives should be maintained on a regular basis.

Since the third-year funding provides for a research analyst, an internal assessment mechanism could be developed and retained as part of overall unit activities.

Issue IV: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF A SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL UNIT ON OUTCOMES OF CHILD ABUSE CASES WHEN COMPARED TO A REGULAR JUVENILE UNIT HANDLING SIMILAR CASES?

Conclusions: Timely and appropriate decisions regarding child abuse cases have resulted as the project has adopted elements of a multi-disciplinary approach to intervention. Research in this area strongly supports the value of intervention strategies that incorporate the functions of police and social service personnel. Traditional approaches used by other police agencies do not stress a team concept and focus on arrest and prosecution. These actions may not be in the best interests of child abusing families.

Recommendations

1. The project staff should share information regarding the benefits of a police-social service approach with other police agencies and assist those that wish to implement the team concept.
2. To address the issues of cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency, the functions and tasks of both investigators and social workers should be examined. Specifically, tasks involved in the assessment process should be reviewed to determine which require police efforts. If findings indicate that the majority of assessment activities are social service-focused, the police department may wish to increase the number of social workers. This would allow transfer of one or more police officers to other areas of the department and result in more efficient use of resources.



THE CITY OF

SAN DIEGO

POLICE DEPARTMENT • 801 WEST MARKET STREET • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101
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WM. B. KOLENDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

IN REPLYING
PLEASE GIVE
OUR REF. NO. 474

September 15, 1981

Ms. Susan Pennell, Director
Criminal Justice Evaluation Unit
San Diego Association of Governments
Security Pacific Plaza, Suite 524
1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Ms. Pennell:

After reading your Final Evaluation of the San Diego Police Department Child Abuse Project, I wish to compliment you and your staff for the thoroughness of your research. In general, I concur with your findings and recommendations.

The Child Abuse Team has been incorporated into our Central Investigations Division and is currently working on developing a feedback mechanism for area investigators and field officers as suggested in your report. Training of field officers in the dynamics of child abuse will be expanded to include squad conference presentations and broader use of the "ride-along" program with Child Abuse Team members.

Your recommendations in the area of "subsequent findings on recidivism", and the breakdown of tasks and functions of investigators/social workers will provide us with points for further examination.

Once again, thank you for your professional evaluation of this project in consideration of its objectives and potential usefulness to this department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. B. Kolender".

W. B. Kolender
Chief of Police

WBK:ar

**CHAPTER 1
CENTRALIZED DISPOSITION
OF CASES**

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Centralized Disposition Of Cases

ISSUE I: HAS THE PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED ITS GOAL OF
CENTRALIZED DISPOSITION OF ALL CHILD ABUSE CASES?

SUMMARY

The majority of child abuse cases reported in the City of San Diego are handled by the child abuse unit staff. Centralized management has resulted in concentration of expertise, coordinated efforts with social service agencies, and standardization of procedures and data collection. The lack of follow-up information concerning dispositions of child abuse incidents is a problem identified by investigators in juvenile divisions in outlying area stations. A feedback mechanism designed to meet the information needs of these officers should be developed by project staff.

DISCUSSION

This issue was addressed in the preliminary evaluation (July 1980) and findings indicated that most reported child abuse cases were referred to the unit. Centralization contributed to increased reporting as well as changes in reporting sources, e.g., more referrals from medical personnel. Surveys conducted with personnel in the Department of Social Services (DSS) showed social workers to be supportive of the need and value of the centralized unit.

During the project's second year, the Police Department decentralized through development of seven area commands throughout the city. The issue of maintaining the centralized child abuse unit in light of overall decentralization efforts was examined by a survey of juvenile detectives assigned to area stations.

Officer Survey Results

Questionnaires were distributed to juvenile investigators in the Northern, Northeastern, Eastern, and Western divisions. Twenty-two (22) responses were received, representing 67% of the officers assigned to these juvenile units.

It is evident from survey results that most child abuse cases are referred directly to the child abuse unit. Those cases that are assigned to juvenile area commands are usually then referred to the centralized unit for investigation. The nature of cases retained by

the area investigators could not be determined from survey responses. It is possible that these cases involved other offenses or were not considered serious enough for specialized attention.

Benefits of Centralization. The majority of the juvenile investigators perceive benefits to a centralized approach to child abuse. The benefits mentioned are similar to the original rationale for developing the child abuse unit.

1. Increased expertise in handling child abuse cases (11).
2. Standardized policies, procedures, reports and statistics (5).
3. Increased rapport with other agencies involved in child abuse cases (5).
4. Additional time available to investigate cases (1).
5. Better control of cases investigated (1).
6. Investigators work as a team (1).
7. Increased accountability for investigative activities (1).

Problems of Centralization. One primary disadvantage of a centralized unit was cited: the problem of communication and coordination of efforts with area juvenile detectives. Only 18% of those surveyed have received feedback on cases referred to the child abuse unit. However, 64% of the investigators state that they would like to receive information on referrals. Since child abuse situations may also involve delinquent acts, the officers would like to be apprised of investigations of abuse in their assigned areas. Additionally, the majority of the officers (68%) seldom have contact with the child abuse detectives.

The first year evaluation recommended that a feedback mechanism be developed to keep area investigators informed of child abuse problems in their area and disposition of cases referred. This has not been accomplished. It should be noted that this problem is not unique to the centralization of child abuse. Traditionally, when police departments centralize by crime type (e.g., narcotics unit, fencing, robbery) poor communication with other units is frequently an outcome. Efforts to increase communication with area commands have probably been hindered by the advent of overall decentralization, but feedback to area detectives should be a goal of the unit. Initially, this could be accomplished by a monthly bulletin or "hotsheet" with names of victims, by area, and disposition, e.g., referred to social services, abuser arrested, etc. After a trial period (3-6 months), unit supervisors should determine if this method is meeting the information needs of juvenile investigators.

CHAPTER 2 PROJECT IMPACT ON RECIDIVISM

Project Impact On Recidivism

ISSUE II: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF DIVERSION VERSUS PROSECUTION ON RECIDIVISM OF ABUSERS?

SUMMARY

Diversion can be an effective means of reducing repeat child abuse offenses in less serious cases; whereas, prosecution is required in more severe cases. There is no significant difference in recidivism rates for cases prosecuted, diverted or handled informally. However, cases prosecuted tend to be more serious (i.e., prior offenses, molest, felony, dependent children and out-of-home placement of child).

Other study variables were not statistically associated with recidivism. Further study is required to analyze interactive effects of variables and the effects of variables not studied (e.g., income, welfare status, etc.).

DISCUSSION

To address the question of the relative effects of prosecution and diversion on recidivism, a study was conducted of child abuse cases reported to the San Diego Police Department from August, 1979 to May, 1980. The sample was selected systematically to represent all types of abuse. Since only a small proportion of child abuse cases are prosecuted, all court cases were included in the sample.

Data were collected on the following variables to determine not only the effectiveness of diversion and prosecution, but also to analyze other factors that could affect recidivism.

- Reporting date of the incident
- Investigator time expended
- Type of abuse
- Family structure
- Police placement of the child
- Demographic characteristics of the victim and suspect
- Type of injuries sustained
- Law enforcement disposition
- Court disposition
- Dependency status of the child
- Prior reported incident
- Subsequent reported incident

Recidivism is operationally defined as one or more additional reported incident(s) of child abuse in a family within a one-year period after the date of the offense reported in the study period. The findings are limited because a significant proportion of subsequent offenses are committed more than two years after the original offense (37%) according to preliminary findings (August, 1980). Time constraints did not allow analysis of recidivist data for a period longer than one year. A pre- and post-study of recidivism would have enhanced the validity of findings, but this was not possible. Prior to grant funding, data on child abuse cases reported to area stations were not consistently compiled or sent to the central unit. Therefore, reliable data was not available.

Results

As a result of the increased emphasis on diversion, the child abuse unit has been successful in reducing repeat occurrences of child abuse in families (see page 32). When evaluating the effect of the type of law enforcement disposition on recidivism, findings show that for some cases, diversion acts as a sufficient deterrent, but more serious cases require prosecution to achieve the same result. The recidivism rate in child abuse cases remains substantially the same for all types of case disposition by law enforcement (see Table 1). Fifteen percent (15%) of the cases in which a complaint was filed resulted in a subsequent abuse offense, compared to 16% of the cases diverted and 15% of the cases disposed of informally.* (It should be noted that in almost all complaint cases, a referral is also made to a social service agency).

TABLE 1
SUBSEQUENT REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE
BY TYPE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION
CHILD ABUSE STUDY SAMPLE

N = 274	Complaint Filed	Diversion	Informal Disposition
Subsequent Reports	17 (15%)	19 (16%)	7 (15%)
No Subsequent Reports	95 (85%)	97 (84%)	39 (85%)
TOTAL SAMPLE CASES	112	116	46

$\chi^2 = .06$

No significant difference. (A chi-square value that indicates no significant difference means that any relationship between variables could have occurred by chance in a sample of a given size.)

*An informal disposition involves counseling by the abuse investigator with no other public or private agency or resource sought.

Further analysis of the data shows that the disposition of cases by abuse investigators varies based on prior offenses and the type of offense. (See Tables 2 and 3) Cases to be prosecuted tend to involve families with prior incidents; whereas, cases diverted or treated informally are more likely to be the first reported offense. In addition, the majority (69%) of molest suspects are formally charged by the prosecutor, while most physical abuse (65%) and neglect cases (79%) are diverted or handled informally.

Other variables which reflect the more serious nature of cases prosecuted are the dependency status of the child, placement of the child in Hillcrest Receiving Home, and the seriousness of the offense at the time of law enforcement disposition (felony or misdemeanor). A higher percentage of cases in which a complaint is filed involve dependent children or children placed in Hillcrest. (See Tables 4 and 5). In addition, Table 6 indicates that felony cases more often result in a complaint filed (78%) compared to misdemeanors (33%).

Conclusion. The key to effective police intervention in the cycle of repeated child abuse offenses is knowing which cases to prosecute and which cases to divert. It appears that the child abuse team is making appropriate decisions by prosecuting the more severe cases and using diversion as an alternative means of treating abuse in less serious cases.

TABLE 2

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION
BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE OFFENSE

	<u>Physical Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Molest</u>	<u>Other*</u>
Complaint Filed	44 (35%)	14 (21%)	44 (69%)	9 (64%)
Diversion	59 (46%)	37 (54%)	16 (25%)	4 (29%)
Informal	24 (19%)	17 (25%)	4 (6%)	1 (7%)
TOTAL CASES	127	68	64	14

Note: Percentages not equal to 100% due to rounding.

$\chi^2 = 38.25$

Significant .01 level.

*Includes combinations of maltreatment.

TABLE 3

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION
BY PRIOR REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE

	<u>Prior Report</u>	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Complaint Filed	46 (54%)	66 (35%)
Diversion	33 (39%)	81 (43%)
Informal	6 (7%)	40 (21%)
TOTAL CASES	85	187

Note: Percentages not equal to 100% due to rounding.

$\chi^2 = 12.41$

Significant at .01 level.

TABLE 4

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION
BY DEPENDENCY STATUS
CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Dependent</u>	<u>Not a Dependent</u>
Complaint Filed	60 (70%)	41 (44%)
Diversion	25 (29%)	43 (46%)
Informal	1 (1%)	10 (11%)
TOTAL CASES	86	94

Note: Percentages not equal to 100% due to rounding.

$\chi^2 = 15.88$

Significant at .01 level.

TABLE 5

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION
BY PLACEMENT OF CHILD
CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Hillcrest</u>	<u>Other Placement</u>
Complaint	30 (24%)	63 (62%)	17 (43%)
Diversion	55 (43%)	37 (36%)	23 (58%)
Informal	42 (33%)	2 (2%)	0
TOTAL	127	102	40

Note: Percentages not equal to 100% due to rounding.

$\chi^2 = 64.4$

Significant at .01 level.

TABLE 6
LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION BY
FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE
CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Felony</u>	<u>Misdemeanor</u>
Complaint Filed	63 (78%)	49 (33%)
Diversion	15 (19%)	68 (46%)
Informal	3 (4%)	30 (20%)
TOTAL CASES	81	147

Note: Percentages not equal to 100% due to rounding.

$\chi^2 = 41.28$
Significant at .01 level.

Factors Related to Recidivism

Court Disposition. Only a small proportion of child abuse cases are processed through the criminal courts. However, the majority of the defendants charged with child abuse are ultimately found guilty (72%). An additional 12% of the cases prosecuted were diverted and, therefore, the courts retained jurisdiction over the defendant. (See Table 7) Data suggest that those defendants found guilty are less likely to be involved in a subsequent child abuse incident (14%) than those found not guilty (20%) or diverted (27%). Due to the small sample of cases, this finding is inconclusive. But it is plausible that those who are under the supervision of the courts or probation would be at least temporarily deterred from committing additional offenses. As stated previously, cases that reach the courts tend to be more serious (e.g., repeat offenders, molest cases, felonies).

TABLE 7
SUBSEQUENT REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE
BY COURT DISPOSITION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Guilty</u>	<u>Diverted</u>	<u>Not Guilty</u>
Subsequent Reports	9 (14%)	3 (27%)	3 (20%)
No Subsequent Reports	57 (86%)	8 (73%)	12 (80%)
TOTAL	66	11	15

$\chi^2 = 1.46$
No significant difference.

Type of Abuse. Additional variables were analyzed to examine the type of cases that reflect a subsequent incident. Preliminary findings indicate that molest cases are less likely to result in reports of repeat occurrences of child abuse (13%) compared to physical abuse (17%) and neglect cases (17%). However, it may be the response of the criminal justice system that is the critical factor since more molest cases result in complaints filed. The number of sample cases with subsequent offenses is too small (44) to resolve this issue in the current study.

TABLE 8
SUBSEQUENT REPORTS BY
TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE CASE

	<u>Physical Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Molest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Subsequent Reports	22 (17%)	12 (17%)	8 (13%)	2 (14%)
No Subsequent Reports	106 (83%)	57 (83%)	56 (88%)	12 (86%)
TOTAL	128	69	64	14

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Suspected Abusers. Demographic factors related to suspected abusers are not statistically associated with the outcome of child abuse cases in the sample. There is no difference in recidivism rates for male and female abusers (see Table 9). This is despite the fact that males are more likely to be formally charged because of their involvement in molest cases.

In addition, the race and age of the offender are not statistically related to recidivism, although data indicate a slightly higher proportion of Whites and individuals over 30 are involved in repeat offenses (see Table 9).

The relationship of the abuser to the victim may be related to recidivism, but the sample was too small to evaluate any association between these variables.

TABLE 9
 SUBSEQUENT REPORTS OF
 CHILD ABUSE BY DEMOGRAPHIC
 CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSERS

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Subsequent Reports	24 (16%)	19 (16%)
No Subsequent Reports	123 (84%)	97 (84%)
TOTAL	147	116

$\chi^2 = .001$
 No significant difference.

<u>Race</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Other</u>
Subsequent Reports	24 (18%)	19 (14%)
No Subsequent Reports	106 (82%)	121 (86%)
TOTAL	130	140

$\chi^2 = 1.20$
 No significant difference.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Under 30</u>	<u>Over 30</u>
Subsequent Reports	15 (13%)	25 (19%)
No Subsequent Reports	105 (88%)	108 (81%)
TOTAL	120	133

$\chi^2 = 1.88$
 No significant difference.

Note: Percentages not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Prior Offenses. It was expected that families with child abuse reports prior to the offense reported in the study period would be more likely to be involved in subsequent offenses. Twenty percent (20%) of those with prior offenses had a subsequent reported offense, compared with 14% of those with no previous record of related incidents. (See Table 10) Expressed as a ratio, of those cases with priors, 1 in 5 had a subsequent abuse report. Of those cases with no prior report, 1 in 7 reflected a repeat incident. However, this finding is not statistically significant in a sample of the size studied.

The disposition of cases by law enforcement and the courts may be an intervening variable which masks the relationship between priors and subsequents. Cases with priors are more likely to be prosecuted, which could affect the results.

TABLE 10
 SUBSEQUENT REPORTS BY PRIOR OFFENSES
 CHILD ABUSE CASES
 N = 274

	<u>Prior Report</u>	<u>No Prior Report</u>
Subsequent Reports	17 (20%)	26 (14%)
No Subsequent Reports	68 (80%)	163 (86%)
TOTAL	85	189

$\chi^2 = 1.72$
 No significant difference.

Dependency Status

Jurisdiction by the court occurs when the judge determines that the interests of the child will be best served by supervision by social service personnel. The child may be temporarily placed in a foster home or remain in his/her own home while rehabilitation efforts take place with the abuser. Findings indicate that subsequent offenses of child abuse are not related to whether or not the child was declared a dependent by the juvenile court (see Table 11). The finding is surprising in light of surveys conducted of criminal justice and social service personnel for a related study (Evaluation of Domestic Violence in San Diego, Pennell and Curtis, 1981). Respondents indicated that juvenile court jurisdiction may have a deterrent effect on recurrent abuse behavior. Further research is needed to resolve this discrepancy in findings.

TABLE 11
 SUBSEQUENT REPORTS BY DEPENDENCY STATUS
 CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Dependent</u>	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Subsequent Reports	21 (24%)	20 (21%)
No Subsequent Reports	66 (76%)	74 (79%)
TOTAL CASES	87	94

$\chi^2 = .21$
 No significant difference.

Other Factors

It is possible that variables not studied in this research are essential factors in determining the likelihood of recidivism. For example, financial factors tend to be associated with the type of abuse as well as recidivism of offenders (Dunne and Sullivan, 1980; Smith and Bohnstedt, 1980). If financial problems are not resolved, the chances of continued neglect are probably greater. Other factors which could affect recidivism include values, psychological makeup, and cultural influences on behavior.

**CHAPTER 3
 PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Project Objectives

ISSUE III: TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE PROJECT MEET SECOND-YEAR OBJECTIVES?

SUMMARY

The majority of objectives were achieved by project staff. The community outreach efforts conducted by staff contributed to an increase in reported cases and cases referred to social service agencies. Since relatively few abuse and neglect cases are referred for prosecution, the related objective regarding reduction of referrals was unrealistic. Repeat occurrences of child abuse have continued to decrease since the unit became centralized. Accountability for unit performance should continue if the project is absorbed with local funds after July of 1982.

DISCUSSION

Second-year objectives for the child abuse unit address both the process of intervention and the impact of the centralized approach. Table 12 lists the objectives and results related to compliance.

Process Objectives

The unit was to respond to an increased number of child abuse reports (3,100) and refer 60% of the child abuse cases to social service agencies. To date, these objectives have been achieved. In 1980-81, 3,391 cases were reported to the child abuse unit. This represents an 11% increase in reported cases from the first grant year. This increase is likely due to increased reporting rather than changes in the actual incidence of child abuse. The outreach efforts of abuse investigators have contributed to community and professionals' awareness of child abuse and the responsibility for reporting incidents to law enforcement.

During a nine-month period (August 1980 - April 1981), the referral of cases to social service agencies exceeded the objective by 5%. Cases referred totaled 1,614, which represents 65% of the cases reported (see Tables 12 and 13).

To educate the public and coordinate activities with other agencies, abuse investigators expected to provide 200 public presentations and 40 ride-alongs. (A ride-along is when a professional accompanies the abuse investigator during daily activities). The required number of presentations were given (207), but the unit fell short of the objective relating to ride-alongs (37).

TABLE 12
OBJECTIVES - CHILD ABUSE PROJECT
SECOND GRANT YEAR

Objective	Result	Compliance
1. Respond to 3,100 reports of child abuse.	3,391	Achieved
2. Refer 1,860 (60%) of child abuse cases to social service agencies.	65%	Achieved*
3. Reduce percentage of court referrals for neglect and abuse cases by 2% from first grant year.	-1.6%	Not Achieved
4. Reduce percentage of repeated child abuse cases by 3% from first grant year.	-5.6%	Achieved
5. Maintain educational and coordination activities by providing:		
- 200 public presentations	207	Achieved
- 40 ride-alongs	37	Not Achieved

*Based on 9 months

TABLE 13
REFERRALS TO PUBLIC/PRIVATE
SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES,
CHILD ABUSE CASES
August-April
1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81

	Time 1	Time 2	Time 3
Total Cases Reported	1,828	2,243	2,489
Total Cases Referred	494 (27%)	1,117 (50%)	1,614 (65%)

Court Referrals. The child abuse project staff feel that criminal court referrals may not always be appropriate in terms of the needs of abuse victims and their families. Often, the intervention of professionals representing the medical, educational or social service disciplines is viewed as more beneficial than prosecution. This is especially true of physical abuse and neglect incidents. For this reason, project staff sought to reduce referrals to the criminal courts in abuse and neglect cases by 2% from the first grant year.

Findings indicate that complaints were submitted to the prosecutor in 3.4% of the first year abuse and neglect cases, decreasing to 1.8% in the second year (see Table 14). The difference (1.6%) is slightly below the objective. It may have been unrealistic to expect such a significant reduction, considering the small number of cases in which a complaint is requested by law enforcement. The actual number of cases referred for prosecution decreased by 38% (from 65 cases to 40). It should be noted that the proportion of cases rejected by the prosecutor decreased by 7% (22% to 15%). This may reflect improved investigative skills by unit officers, e.g., evidence gathering, interviewing skills. It is suggested during the next year that the objective related to court referrals focus on the reasons for rejection and further reduction of the rate.

TABLE 14
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES
REFERRED FOR PROSECUTION
August-April, 1979-80, 1980-81

	First Year	Second Year	% Difference
Total Number of Cases Reported (Abuse & Neglect)	1,897	2,188	
Number of Complaints Submitted to Prosecutor	65 (3.4%)	40 (1.8%)	-1.6%
Number of Complaints Rejected	14 (22.0%)*	6 (15.0%)*	-7.0%

*Percentage of number submitted.

Project Impact Objectives

Recidivism. The child abuse unit proposed to decrease by 3% the number of reported incidents in which there was a repeat occurrence of abuse. Analysis shows this objective was exceeded as the recidivism rate in the second year decreased by 5.6%.

To determine project impact on recidivism, the following methodology was employed. A pre- and post-comparison was made of subsequent child abuse reports for a sample of families. The sample consisted of cases reported to the unit in August and September one year before, and during two years of, grant operations. Repeat occurrences were documented on cases through the following April of the respective time periods, reflecting six to seven months after the filing of the original report. Table 15 shows the results of case examination.

TABLE 15
 REPORTED CHILD ABUSE CASES
 WITH SUBSEQUENT REPORTS
 August and September
 1978, 1979 and 1980

	<u>Time 1*</u>	<u>Time 2</u>	<u>Time 3</u>	<u>% Difference Time 2-Time 3</u>
Number of Cases With Subsequent Reports	45 (16.7%)	61 (16.5%)	39 (10.9%)	-5.6%
Number of Cases With No Subsequent Report	224 (83%)	308 (83.5%)	318 (89.1%)	+5.6%
Total Reported Cases	269	369	357	

*Central City cases only.

The recidivism rate has decreased since the child abuse unit became centralized (17% to 11%). This study does not represent the long-range effects of intervention. A previous study (Pennell, 1980) indicated that only 26% of the repeat offenses of child abuse occur within six months after the initial report and 41% are reported within one year.

CONTINUED ACCOUNTABILITY

The federal funding source (LEAA) requires that applicants develop and assess objectives to be achieved during the funding period.

It is suggested that accountability procedures for measuring project effectiveness become a part of unit activities subsequent to federal funding. If the unit is retained with local funds, each year the activities and outcomes will be scrutinized with regard to continuation. Using the capabilities of the federally funded research analyst in the third year, specific objectives should be developed that include concrete effectiveness indicators.

Data collection procedures that incorporate workload and staffing factors as well as objective achievement should be included in the development of an internal assessment mechanism.

Frequently, a concept or program is initially retained after the federal money expires, only to be dropped from the budget in subsequent years. Certainly, many factors contribute to this decision, but often it is the result of insufficient information concerning the outcomes or benefits received from project activities.

The key considerations are the kinds of information to be compiled and a collection process that does not burden the project staff or interfere with service delivery functions. Increased attention should be given to this issue in the coming year to insure continuing accountability as a regular function of unit activities.

CHAPTER 4
EFFECTS OF A SPECIALIZED
ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL UNIT

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Effects of a Specialized Assessment and Referral Unit

ISSUE IV: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF A SPECIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL UNIT ON OUTCOMES OF CHILD ABUSE CASES WHEN COMPARED TO A REGULAR JUVENILE UNIT HANDLING SIMILAR CASES?

SUMMARY

The unit has incorporated several of the elements of a multi-disciplinary approach suggested by the literature concerning intervention in child abuse cases. The services provided and the management of cases indicate that timely and appropriate dispositions are being made. Other police agencies with no specialized approach emphasize traditional functions of arrest and prosecution rather than liaison and referral to social services.

During the next year, it is suggested that project staff further analyze factors associated with recidivism. This information could assist in assessing the effectiveness of intervention strategies. In addition, staff should analyze the workload and efficiency of investigators and social workers to determine the feasibility of increasing the social worker positions and transferring one or more sworn personnel positions.

DISCUSSION

To address this issue, a literature search was conducted to examine the dynamics of child abuse situations and to determine the extent to which the police can be expected to impact dispositions. Research in this area has defined the types of services that are necessary if intervention is to be effective. These services were compared to the activities conducted by the child abuse unit. Also, data related to unit dispositions were compared to dispositions of child abuse cases reported to North County police agencies. Finally, results of interviews with social workers regarding their opinions of a specialized unit are presented.

Dynamics of Child Abuse

The health and welfare of children are protected by both criminal and civil statutes. Child abuse is designated as a crime and suspected abusers can be arrested, prosecuted, fined, imprisoned and/or mandated to participate in treatment programs. The California Welfare and Institutions Code describes the conditions under which children can be taken into protective custody and declared dependents of the juvenile

court. State law requires intervention in child abuse situations by both law enforcement and the children's division of the Department of Social Services. Traditional approaches have resulted in divergent purposes of each agency (prosecution versus rehabilitation). In recent years, however, studies have indicated that this approach has had a negative impact on service delivery to child abusing families. Problems associated with the separation of functions include confusion over roles and responsibilities at different intervention points, poor communication, working at cross purposes, and duplication of investigative activities.

To develop an effective system for the care of abused children, it has been suggested that a cohesive element is required that coordinates the involved medical, legal, and social service components.

To insure that the situation is managed in an expeditious manner, these key components must interrelate. The literature regarding effective intervention in child abuse incidents suggests that a multi-disciplinary team approach that incorporates the key agencies can reduce the institutional barriers that hinder service delivery.

The following services have been identified as essential for the handling of child abuse situations (Comprehensive Emergency Services):

1. Availability of immediate response on a 24-hour basis.
2. Appropriate assessment of immediate needs, e.g., child removal, medical care, arrest of abuser.
3. Suitable placement of child.
4. Follow-up with families after abatement of crisis, e.g., case management, support services (homemaker, financial assistance).
5. Development of attainable goals for families with children placed out of the home, e.g., parenting classes.

Examination of the role of the police illustrates how law enforcement becomes involved in the above services when a team approach is utilized.

Law Enforcement Role

The police play a vital role due to their 24-hour availability and the authority to remove children to protective custody. These factors contribute to police agencies being the primary referral sources for abuse incidents. Traditional approaches in police departments have focused on protection of the child and identification of the suspected abuser for arrest and prosecution purposes. Studies of communities in which a specialized, multi-disciplinary approach has been implemented indicate that the actions taken by police can influence subsequent efforts by social service and juvenile court personnel. Therefore, effective intervention by police must include coordination with these entities. The information gathered by police at the initial investigation is used not only for criminal complaint processing of the abuser, but also for civil dependency hearings in juvenile court. The gathering of physical and other corroborative evidence becomes a critical factor in the investigation since the adult and juvenile courts have different criteria for admissible evidence.

Studies have confirmed that police knowledge of information needs of other agencies/systems regarding child abuse will affect the nature of their decisions about the value of arrest and child removal. In some situations, these outcomes may not be desirable in terms of the needs of the child abusing families and future rehabilitation efforts.

When police coordinate their investigations with social service personnel, these benefits are more likely to be realized:

1. Confusion and trauma for abusing families is reduced by a systemized approach.
2. Assessments concerning treatment plans are developed in conjunction with criminal justice actions (adult and juvenile) and social service efforts.
3. Continuity of services will be maintained when primary agencies are informed of each other's activities and duplication of tasks may be reduced.
4. A team approach reflects a concentration of expertise that is well-suited to engage in community outreach activities, e.g., workshops, presentations, training.

Results

Findings suggest that the implementation of a specialized, centralized child abuse unit in the San Diego Police Department has successfully incorporated several of the elements of a multi-disciplinary approach. A review of a sample of child abuse cases indicates that the case management emphasizes the assessment and referral aspects. The following findings are pertinent (see Tables 16 through 19).

1. Those child abuse cases that have a prior incident reported are more likely to be assigned for follow-up investigation. (Table 16)
2. The screening process or assignment of cases is effective since only one repeat offense occurred in those cases handled informally compared to those assigned for investigation. (Table 17)
3. Those cases assigned for investigation were more likely to result in complaints filed and diversion to other agencies than those cases that were not assigned. (Table 18)
4. Those victims who were involved in a prior incident were more likely to be removed from their homes than children with no record of an abuse incident (Table 19). This may be an indication of the kinds of information that are considered before a child is removed, thus allowing for appropriate placement.

TABLE 16

ASSIGNMENT OF CHILD ABUSE CASES
BY PRIOR OFFENSES

	<u>Prior Offense</u>	<u>No Prior Offense</u>
Case Assigned	81 (95%)	122 (65%)
Case Not Assigned	4 (5%)	67 (35%)
TOTAL	85	189

$\chi^2 = 28.87$
Significant at .01 level.

TABLE 17

ASSIGNMENT OF SUBSEQUENT CHILD ABUSE
CASES BY OFFENSES

	<u>Case Assigned</u>	<u>Case Not Assigned</u>
Subsequent Offense	43 (21%)	1 (1%)
No Subsequent Offense	160 (79%)	72 (99%)
TOTAL	203	73

$\chi^2 = 15.73$
Significant at .01 level.

TABLE 18

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION BY
ASSIGNMENT OF CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Case Assigned</u>	<u>Case Not Assigned</u>
Complaint	109 (54%)	3 (4%)
Diversion	79 (39%)	37 (51%)
Informal	14 (7%)	32 (44%)
TOTAL	202	72

$\chi^2 = 78.58$
Significant at .01 level.

TABLE 19

PRIOR OFFENSES BY PLACEMENT OF CHILD
CHILD ABUSE CASES

	<u>Prior Offenses</u>	<u>No Prior Offenses</u>
Home	23 (27%)	105 (57%)
Removed	61 (73%)	79 (43%)
TOTAL	84	184

$\chi^2 = 20.37$
Significant at .01 level.

Comparison With Other Law Enforcement Agencies

The Criminal Justice Evaluation Unit examined the problem of child abuse in North County in another study (Pennell & Curtis, 1981). Findings related to arrests and referrals were compared to results in the child abuse unit.

None of the North County police agencies studied has investigators assigned to solely child abuse cases, although two agencies have a formalized agreement with counselors who provide assistance subsequent to the police investigation. Findings indicate that the special unit in the San Diego Police Department refers more victims to other agencies and arrests fewer suspected abusers.

TABLE 20
ARRESTS AND REFERRALS OF
CHILD ABUSE CASES, NORTH COUNTY POLICE
AGENCIES AND SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

	Child Abuse Unit	Other Police Agencies*
Actions Taken:		
Reported Cases	3,391	418
Percent Referred	65%	54%
Percent Arrested	4%	13.4%

*Includes Carlsbad, Escondido, Oceanside and Sheriff's Substations.

It was mentioned earlier that criminal justice actions (e.g., arrest) may not be in the best interests of child abusing families. The data suggest that the special unit has adopted this consideration when disposing of child abuse cases. In the San Diego Police Department, 65% of the cases reported were referred to other agencies and arrests were made in only 4% of the cases. Compilation of data on total cases reported to North County police agencies revealed referrals in 54% and arrests in 13% of the cases.

Data collected in 1976 on child abuse cases reported to the San Diego Police Department (prior to a special unit) showed that in a sample of cases (334), 51% were referred and complaints were sought in 10%. It can be assumed that the percentage of arrests was higher than the complaint percentage. So, prior to unit specialization, the outcomes concerning referrals and arrests were similar to other police agencies with no special unit.

Social Service Personnel Opinions About Specialized Unit

Interviews were conducted with eight (8) social workers in the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services (DSS). Since this division has responsibility for investigating regionwide reports of child abuse, the staff interacts with all police agencies. Therefore, these individuals are in a position to comment on the value of a specialized unit. In general, the social workers are supportive of this arrangement and cited these advantages in working with officers in the unit:

1. The officers have an expressed interest in the problem of child abuse.
2. Procedures are standardized in terms of identification, investigation, and decisions concerning referral of cases.
3. Frequent contact with the same staff facilitates communication and combined efforts.
4. Knowledge and expertise of unit staff provide valuable assistance to social service staff who prepare petitions for juvenile court.

CONCLUSION

The need for, and value of, a multi-discipline approach to address the problem of child abuse has been documented. The development of an assessment and referral capacity with the assistance of "on-site" social workers has proven to be effective in the San Diego Police Department. Indicators of effectiveness include reduction in repeat offenses and appropriate decisions related to dispositions of child abuse cases. It can be assumed that the strong liaison with social services has contributed to timely service delivery to child abusing families. Also, the fact that the officers in the unit have received specialized training in the dynamics of child abuse cases implies that officers have developed sensitivity skills that reduce trauma to the family.

Regionwide data reflecting reported child abuse cases show that the highest concentration of reported incidents occurs in the metropolitan area of the San Diego region. Of all incidents reported to the Department of Social Services in 1980 (13,082), 24% were from the City of San Diego. Also, analysis of calls to the Emergency Response System (a state-mandated, 24-hour crisis intervention service for child abusing families) revealed 31% of the calls were from the metropolitan area of the region compared to 22% in East County, 18% in South County, and 12% in North County. These findings are consistent with data collected by project staff that reflect reports of abuse by area of the city (3,388 reports):

- . Southeast 26%
- . Eastern 24%
- . Central 21%
- . Western 10%
- . Northern 8%
- . Northeast 6%
- . Southern 6%

The relative volume and prevalence of incidents warrants a specialized law enforcement response.

Evaluation results over two years suggest additional areas that could be examined by the project staff during the third year of LEAA funding.

Recidivism

Factors associated with repeat offenses should be examined by reviewing a larger sample of subsequent cases. If specific variables are shown to be associated with recidivist cases, the resulting analysis could have important implications for intervention. The present study suggests some factors that may be associated with repeat offenses but the sample of cases was relatively small and weighted toward cases referred for prosecution. Since the grant funding provides for an analyst position, this information could be compiled during the next year along with the development of relevant intervention strategies that could further impact recidivism.

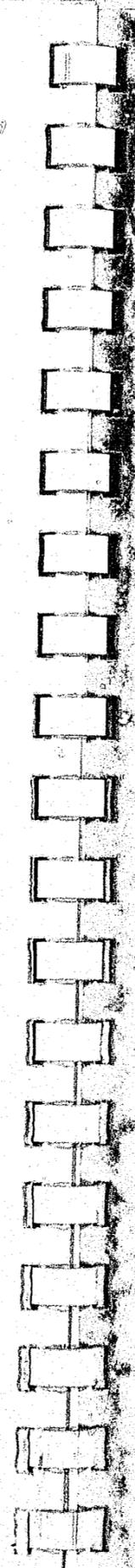
Workload and Efficiency Measures

Although the child abuse unit staff collect data on the number of investigator hours expended per case, it is not clear how much time is spent on specific functions. Also, the social workers' time is not accounted for, in terms of particular tasks. To address the issue of cost efficiency and effectiveness, it is recommended that the functions/tasks of both police officers and social workers be examined in terms of time expended so that the tasks can be defined. The tasks involved in the application of the assessment concept should be examined to determine which are police-oriented and which are social service focused. If review indicates that more tasks are related to social service activities, the police department may wish to consider increasing the number of social workers and transferring some sworn personnel to other areas of the police department. Although the problem of child abuse is effectively addressed by a coordinated approach involving police and social services, the emphasis appears to be on the assessment and referral aspects rather than arrest and prosecution functions. Utilizing more trained social workers and fewer sworn personnel may result in more effective use of resources.

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REFERENCES

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APPENDIX

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**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHILD ABUSE STAT/SHEET**

APPENDIX A

CONTROL NUMBER _____	Date Occurred _____
Victim's Name _____ DOB _____	Date Reported _____
Suspect's Name _____ DOB _____	Disposition Date _____
Mother's Name _____ RACE _____ DOB _____	Inv. Time _____
	Investigator _____

TYPE OF CRIME	LOCATION	BEAT ()	FAMILY STRUCTURE/ECONOMY	PRIOR INCIDENT
Abuse----- ()	Home Residence-- ()		Mother () Low ()	No--- () Case# _____
Neglect----- ()	Other Residence-- ()		Father () Medium ()	Yes-- () Date _____
Molest----- ()	Other Place----- ()		S/Mother () High ()	
Death----- ()			S/Father ()	
Child Stealing----- ()			Guardian () Welfare	
Dependent (NPG)----- ()			Friend () Assist. ()	

AGENCY INVOLVED (CURRENT)	OCCUPATION	PLACEMENT (BY POLICE)
Welfare----- ()	White Collar-- () Laborer----- ()	Home----- ()
Probation----- ()	Blue Collar-- () Professional-- ()	Rel/Friend's Home-- ()
Other _____	Military----- () Unemployed--- ()	Hillcrest----- ()
		Hospital _____
		Other _____

VICTIM DATA	SUSPECT DATA	RELATIONSHIP (SUSPECT)
SEX RACE AGE	SEX RACE AGE	Mother----- ()
M-- () W-- () 0-2--- ()	M-- () W-- () ()	Father----- ()
F-- () B-- () 3-5--- ()	F-- () B-- () ()	Sibling----- ()
M-- () 6-12--- ()	M-- ()	S/Mother----- ()
O-- () Above--- ()	O-- ()	S/Father----- ()
Number of Siblings--- ()		Relative----- ()
		Guardian----- ()
		Babysitter----- ()
		Unrelated----- ()

REPORTED TO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY	INJURY TYPE AND/OR DESCRIPTION
Family----- () Social Worker--- ()	Bruises----- () Internal Injury---- ()
Neighbor--- () Police----- ()	Lacerations----- () Broken Bones----- ()
School----- () Relative----- ()	Burns----- () Malnutrition----- ()
Medical--- () Reporting Form	Head Injury----- () Sex/Assault----- ()
Victim----- () Received (516)-- ()	Neglect----- () Ingestion/Overdose-- ()
Other _____	Medical Neglect--- () No Injury----- ()

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	CRIMINAL DISPOSITION
Marital Conflict----- () Sus/Abused as Child-- ()	Felony----- () Misdemeanor----- ()
Financial Stress----- () Over Discipline----- ()	Complaint Sought Yes-- () No-- ()
Emotional Problems--- () Alcohol Involved----- ()	Rejected Yes-- () No-- ()
Potty Training----- () Drugs Involved----- ()	Lack of Evidence Yes-- () No-- ()
Family Scapegoat----- () Accidental Injury--- ()	Unfounded Yes-- () No-- ()
Cultural Influence--- () Unsanitary Habits--- ()	CIVIL DISPOSITION
Criminal Act----- () Ignorance----- ()	Referral-- () (Agency)
Spousal Abuse----- () Other _____	INFORMAL----- ()

FINAL DISPOSITION
Comments _____

The following tables present additional data from the study of child abuse cases. Results should be viewed with caution due to sampling techniques which weighted the sample in favor of cases prosecuted.

TABLE 21
PRIOR REPORT BY TYPE OF
CURRENT CHILD ABUSE OFFENSE

Prior Report	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
Yes	36 (28%)	25 (37%)	17 (27%)	7 (50%)
No	91 (72%)	43 (63%)	47 (73%)	7 (50%)
TOTAL	127	68	64	14

$\chi^2 = 4.41$
No significant difference.

Highlights:

- Although results are not statistically significant, neglect cases are more likely than abuse and molest cases to have suspects with prior reports of child abuse.

TABLE 22
DEPENDENCY STATUS BY PRIOR
REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE

Dependent	Prior Report	No Prior Report
Yes	38 (53%)	49 (45%)
No	34 (47%)	60 (55%)
TOTAL	72	109

$\chi^2 = 1.06$
No significant difference.

Highlights:

- There is not a significant association between prior reports and current dependency status of the child.

TABLE 23
POLICE PLACEMENT OF CHILD
BY PRIOR REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE

Police Placement	Prior Report	No Prior Report
Home	23 (27%)	105 (57%)
Relative or Friend	1 (1%)	7 (4%)
Hillcrest	47 (56%)	54 (29%)
Hospital	6 (7%)	12 (7%)
Other	7 (8%)	6 (3%)
TOTAL	84	184

$\chi^2 = 25.88$
Significant at .01 level.

Highlights:

- In cases with prior reports, the child is more likely to be placed in Hillcrest (56%); whereas, when there are no priors the child usually remains in the home (57%).

TABLE 24
POLICE PLACEMENT OF CHILD
BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
Home	62 (50%)	30 (44%)	34 (53%)	2 (15%)
Relative or Friend	4 (3%)	3 (4%)	1 (2%)	0
Hillcrest	41 (33%)	29 (43%)	26 (41%)	6 (46%)
Hospital	10 (8%)	5 (7%)	0	3 (23%)
Other	8 (6%)	1 (1%)	3 (5%)	2 (15%)
TOTAL	125	68	64	13

Highlights:

- Neglect and molest victims are more likely to be placed in Hillcrest than are abuse victims.

TABLE 25

CRIME TYPE AT DISPOSITION
BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

	<u>Physical Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Molest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Felony	23 (21%)	3 (6%)	47 (80%)	8 (62%)
Misdemeanor	84 (79%)	46 (94%)	12 (20%)	5 (38%)
TOTAL	107	49	59	13

$\chi^2 = 81.71$
Significant at .01 level.

Highlights:

- The majority of molest cases (80%) and cases with more than one type of abuse (62%) are felonies. These cases are most likely to result in a complaint filed.
- Physical abuse and neglect cases are generally misdemeanors (79% and 94%, respectively).

TABLE 26

DEPENDENCY STATUS BY
TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

<u>Dependency</u>	<u>Physical Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Molest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Yes	37 (46%)	18 (53%)	25 (45%)	6 (60%)
No	44 (54%)	16 (47%)	30 (55%)	4 (40%)
TOTAL	81	34	55	10

$\chi^2 = 1.22$
No significant difference.

TABLE 27

COURT DISPOSITION
BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

	<u>Physical Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Molest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Guilty*	29 (78%)	10 (100%)	30 (83%)	8 (100%)
Not Guilty	8 (22%)	0	6 (17%)	0
TOTAL	37	10	36	8

$\chi^2 = 4.42$
No significant difference.

*Includes diversion

TABLE 28

RELATIONSHIP OF SUSPECT
BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

<u>Suspect*</u>	<u>Physical Abuse</u>	<u>Neglect</u>	<u>Molest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Mother	38%	78%	3%	57%
Father	34%	20%	25%	7%
Sibling	0	0	2%	0
Stepfather	11%	3%	28%	21%
Other Relative	4%	0	14%	0
Guardian	5%	3%	2%	0
Other	11%	9%	28%	29%

Highlights:

- Mothers are the suspects in the majority of neglect cases (78%).
- Stepfathers and other offenders (usually boyfriends) are involved in a disproportionate number of molest cases.

*Multiple responses possible.

TABLE 29

SEX OF SUSPECT BY
LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITION

Disposition	Male Suspect	Female Suspect
Complaint	74 (51%)	32 (28%)
Diversion	58 (40%)	52 (45%)
Informal	14 (10%)	31 (27%)
TOTAL	146	115

$$x^2 = 19.99$$

Significant at .01 level.

Highlights:

- Male suspects are more likely to have a complaint filed (51%).
- Diversion is the most common disposition of cases involving female suspects.
- These factors are probably related to the type of offense committed (e.g., males tend to be the suspect in molest cases and females are responsible for more neglect cases).

TABLE 30

AGE OF SUSPECT BY
TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

Suspect	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
Under 20	2 (2%)	5 (8%)	4 (7%)	1 (8%)
20-29	50 (43%)	37 (60%)	16 (27%)	4 (31%)
30-39	51 (44%)	14 (23%)	31 (52%)	4 (31%)
40-49	9 (8%)	3 (5%)	6 (10%)	4 (31%)
50 & over	5 (4%)	3 (5%)	3 (5%)	0
TOTAL	117	62	60	13

Highlights:

- Neglect suspects tend to be younger than abuse or molest suspects.

TABLE 31

SEX OF SUSPECT BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

Suspect	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
Male	69 (55%)	10 (16%)	61 (98%)	6 (46%)
Female	56 (45%)	52 (84%)	1 (2%)	7 (54%)
TOTAL	125	62	62	13

$$x^2 = 85.63$$

Significant at .01 level

Highlights:

- Most molest suspects are males (94%), whereas females are responsible for most neglect cases (84%). Slightly more than half of the physical abuse is committed by males (55%).

TABLE 32

FAMILY STRUCTURE BY TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
Mother Only	35 (28%)	33 (49%)	14 (22%)	6 (43%)
Father Only	5 (4%)	3 (4%)	1 (2%)	0
Mother and Father	46 (37%)	21 (31%)	15 (24%)	2 (14%)
Mother and Stepfather	18 (14%)	2 (3%)	16 (25%)	3 (21%)
Father and Stepmother	3 (2%)	1 (1%)	0	0
Other	18 (14%)	7 (10%)	17 (27%)	3 (21%)
TOTAL	125	67	63	14

Highlights:

- Almost half of the neglect cases occur in families with a single mother (49%). This could be related to economic factors.
- A disproportionate percentage of molests occur in families with a mother and stepfather (25%) or in the other category (27%), which usually consists of a mother living with her boyfriend.

TABLE 33
AGE OF VICTIM BY
TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

Age	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
0-5	48 (38%)	37 (54%)	8 (13%)	6 (43%)
Over 6	79 (62%)	32 (46%)	56 (88%)	8 (57%)
TOTAL	127	69	64	14

$\chi^2 = 25.06$
Significant at .01 level

Highlights:

- Molest and abuse victims are generally over 6, whereas the majority of neglect victims are 5 or under.

TABLE 34
RACE OF VICTIM BY
TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

Race	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
White	63 (50%)	27 (40%)	33 (52%)	8 (57%)
Non-White	63 (50%)	41 (60%)	31 (48%)	6 (43%)
TOTAL	126	68	64	14

$\chi^2 = 2.87$
No significant difference.

TABLE 35
SEX OF VICTIM BY
TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE

Victim	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Molest	Other
Male	73 (57%)	37 (54%)	9 (14%)	2 (14%)
Female	55 (43%)	32 (46%)	55 (86%)	12 (86%)
TOTAL	128	69	64	14

$\chi^2 = 39.71$
Significant at .01 level.

Highlights:

- Girls are more likely to be victims of sexual abuse than boys (86% vs. 14%).

END