

# **Giving Our Attention to Child Maltreatment**

**STUDENT CREATIVE ARTS AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM  
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# What Is Child Maltreatment?

- **Definition:** Any type of abuse or neglect which harms a child; often perpetrated by a parent, caregiver or other person who has authority in a child's life
- **Common types:** neglect, physical, sexual
- **Prevalence:**
  - 1 in 7 children experienced child abuse or neglect
  - In 2020, 1,750 children died of abuse and neglect

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022)

# Reasons Child Maltreatment Occurs

- Parent or caregiver factors
- **Family factors**
- Environmental factors

(Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 2022)

# Outcomes of Child Maltreatment

- **Health and physical effects**
- **Developmental delays (cognition)**
- **Emotional, psychological and behavioral consequences**

# Policies Used to Prevent and Intervene Child Maltreatment

- **Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA)**
- **Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 2000**

# Challenges Experienced by Professionals Who Work with Families

- **Clear policy and guidance in dealing with child abuse**
- Willingness of professionals to intervene
- **Assessing if child abuse is actually occurring**

(Gershun & Tierrebonne, 2018; Tumwesigye, 2021)

# Recommendations for Policy and Practice

- Better definitions on how to define and deal with child maltreatment
- **Better policies in place to assist outlets such as schools and places where child maltreatment is first suspected**

(Gershun & Tierrebonne, 2018)

# References

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**Thank you!**