Benefits of Prevention

Child maltreatment is not just a personal problem. It comes at a high financial cost to our state, and weakens our community.

**Cut Costs to the State:** Each substantiated case of child maltreatment costs an estimated $830,928 over the victim’s lifetime.

**Improve Mental Health:** 80% of child maltreatment victims met the criteria for at least one psychological disorder by age 21.

**Improve Academic Performance:** Victims of child maltreatment are 25% more likely to experience low academic achievement.

**Reduce Teen Pregnancy:** Child maltreatment victims are 25% more likely to become pregnant during their teenage years.

**Create a Safer Utah:** Victims of child maltreatment are 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

“Children are one third of our population and all of our future.”

Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health, 1981

Each year Utah experiences

Nearly **10,000** substantiated cases of child maltreatment

10.6 victims per 1,000 children (higher than the national average)

11 DEATHS from child maltreatment

**2x** higher rates of child maltreatment among children younger than 1 year old, African Americans, & American Indians

**State Plan Strategies**

- **Strengthen Economic Support to Families**
  Financial problems were identified as a risk factor in 21% of Utah’s child maltreatment cases.

- **Change Social Norms to Support Positive Parenting**
  41% of Utah parents seldom or never seek help with caring for children when needed.

- **Provide Quality Care & Education Early in Life**
  57% of Utah children (ages 3-4) aren’t enrolled in any kind of school.

- **Enhance Parenting Skills to Promote Child Development**
  30% of Utah parents seldom or never help their child express themselves with words when they are angry or frustrated.

  6% of Utah parents use physical discipline daily or almost daily.

- **Intervene to Reduce Harm & Prevent Future Risk**
  26% of child maltreatment cases in Utah involved the child’s caretaker using alcohol.

  32% of Utah child maltreatment cases identified domestic violence as a risk factor.

To ensure safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children, we must create conditions where parents and caregivers can successfully meet the basic physical and psychological needs of the family.