

NO DIRT

The kind of physiological and psychological implications caused to a child through abuse is far more than any of us can fathom. As adults we have the ability, (even though it will be difficult) to put the past behind us and move on. However for a child it is a “difrint” story. They continually ask themselves questions such as why me? What did I do wrong? What did I do to deserve this? Is it my fault? Finally they start to believe that there is something wrong with them and that they did in fact deserved to be “punished” and be treated the way they were/are. This in turn usually results in delinquent behaviour and children then start abusing drugs and getting involved in criminal activity, which further results in children being robbed of their youth and the life they deserved to have lived. As adults, care givers, guardians, and more importantly parents it is our duty to ensure that the children entrusted to us get the treatment and chance in life that they deserve. At NoDirt we implore that you take time out to look into your own life to ensure that your child/children are given the chance in life they deserve. Here are a few scary facts just to enlighten you to the dangers of abuse and to enlighten you to the severity of it:

STATISTICS

- A report of child abuse is made **every ten seconds**.
- Almost **five children die everyday** as a result of child abuse. More than three out of four are under the age of 4.
- It is estimated that between 60-85% of child fatalities due to maltreatment are **not recorded as such on death certificates**.
- 90% of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some way; 68% are abused by family members.
- Child abuse occurs at every socio-economic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.
- Over **60% of people in drug rehabilitation centres report being abused or neglected** as a child.
- About 30% of abused and neglected children **will later abuse their own children**, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse.
- About 80% of 21 year old that were abused as children met criteria for **at least one psychological disorder**.
- The estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States for 2007 is **\$104 billion**.

- Abused teens are **3 times less likely** to practice safe sex, putting them at greater risk for STDs.
- Used children are **25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy.**
- 36% of all women in prison were abused as children
- Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

What we have to take into consideration and remember is, that abuse is not just of a physical or sexual nature but rather that of emotional abuse, malnutrition abuse, medical neglect, psychological maltreatment, neglect, and other forms. For most of us the most valuable thing in our lives are our **children** and our family, so let's put a stop to abuse. We would not want it to ever happen to our children and I guarantee that they would never want it to happen to them either. So what makes your child so "different" from any other child, because as sure you are that night is night and day is day so are we sure at NoDirt that there is not a child in the world that wishes to be abused in any form of the word. So let's stand together and speak up about it. Let's give children the chance in life they deserve and speak up against abuse.