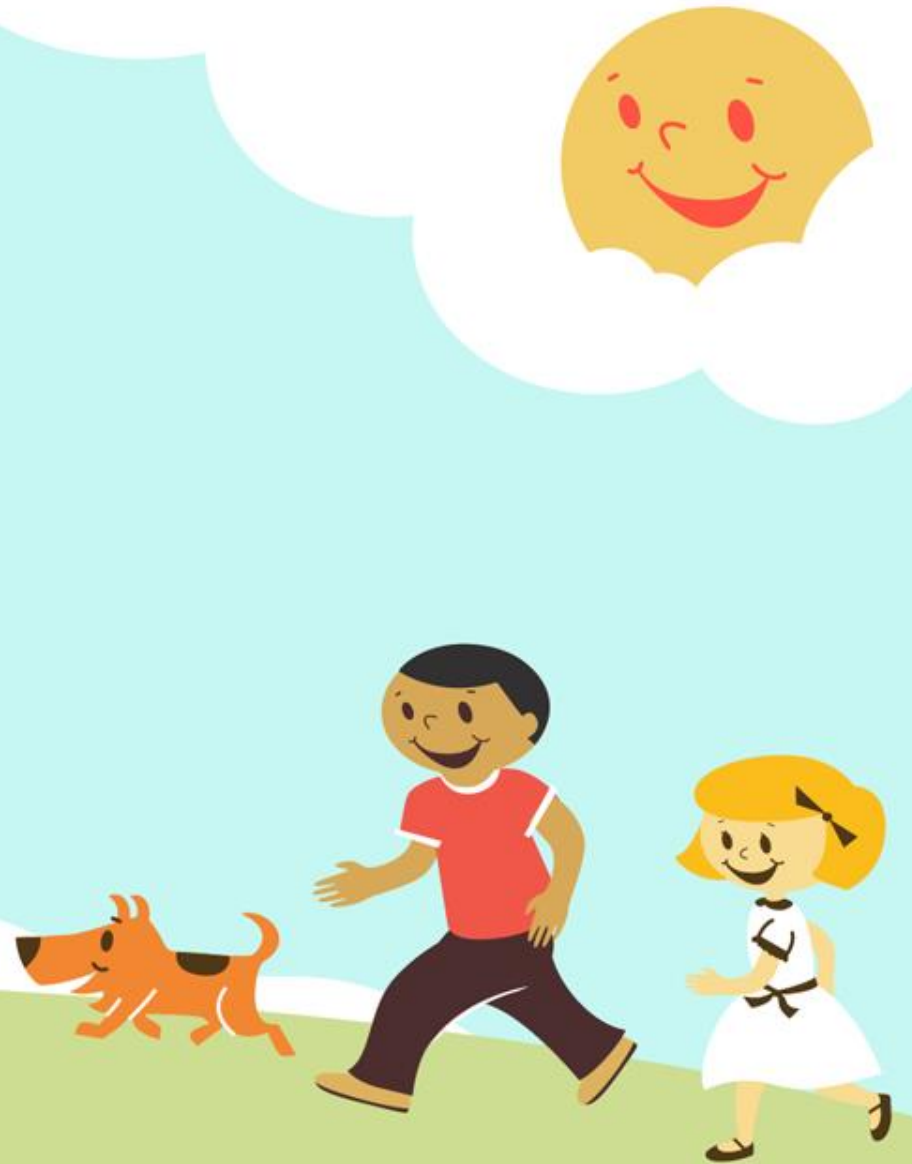


Role of Primary Care Provider in Child Abuse

Jennifer Prince, DO
Pediatric Hospitalist



Question

- True or False?
- Over 3 million child abuse and neglect reports are filed annually in the United States



Answer

True. According to the Child Help National Child Abuse Statistics over 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States; however, those reports can include multiple children. In 2007, approximately 5.8 million children were involved in an estimated 3.2 million child abuse reports and allegations.



Question

- In the United States, how many children are abused daily?
- A – 2,500
- B – 3,000
- C – 5,000



Answer

3,000

According to the Children's Bureau in the United States, there are 3,000 children abused each day and four of them will die. Forty percent (40%) of these children were under the age of six.



Question

- Which age group experiences the highest rates of abuse?
 - 0 – 3 years
 - 4 – 5 years
 - 6+ years



Answer

0 – 3 years

According to the Children's Bureau almost 32% of victims of child abuse and neglect are under the age of four. · No group of children is immune from being a victim of child abuse or neglect, although girls are more often the victims of sexual abuse than boys. For all other types of abuse and neglect, statistics are about equal for boys and girls.



Question

Nationally, the highest form of abuse is:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect



Answer

Neglect

- According to the Children's Bureau and Child Help National Child Abuse Statistics, the highest reported form of abuse is neglect, followed by physical abuse.
- Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions, and at all levels of education.
- In 2007, nearly one-half of all victims of child abuse and neglect were White (46.1%), one-fifth (21.7%) were African-American, and one-fifth (20.8%) were Hispanic.



Question

- The percentage of child sexual abuse victims that know their perpetrator in some way is:
 - 40%
 - 65%
 - 80%
 - 90%



Answer

90%

- According to the Child Help National Child Abuse Statistics 90% of child sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator in some way and 68% are abused by family members



Child Abuse

- In 1999, the WHO Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention compared definitions of abuse from 58 countries and drafted the following definition:
- “Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”



Definitions of Child Abuse

“The physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child’s welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened.”

--Child Welfare Act

“Words, or overt actions that cause *harm, potential harm, or threat of harm* to a child”

--CDC

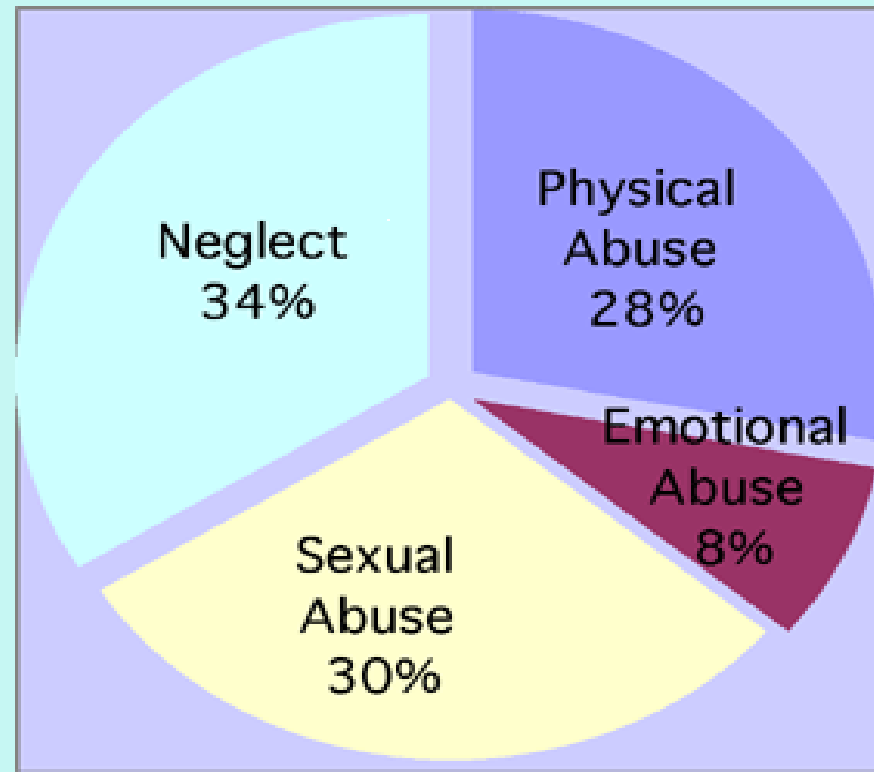
“...all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, *resulting in actual or potential harm* to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

- WHO



Types of Child Abuse

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect



Physical Abuse

- Physical abuse is any non-accidental injury to a child under the age of 18 by a parent or caretaker. These injuries may include beatings, shaking, burns, human bites, strangulation, or immersion in scalding water or others, with resulting bruises and welts, fractures, scars, burns, internal injuries or any other injuries.



Emotional Abuse

- Emotional abuse includes the failure of a caregiver to provide an appropriate and supportive environment, and includes acts that have an adverse effect on the emotional health and development of a child.
- Such acts include restricting a child's movements, denigration, ridicule, threats and intimidation, discrimination, rejection and other nonphysical forms of hostile treatment.



Neglect

- Neglect refers to the failure of a parent to provide for the development of the child – where the parent is in a position to do so – in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions.
- Neglect is thus distinguished from circumstances of poverty in that neglect can occur only in cases where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver.



Sexual Abuse

- Child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child or adolescent for the sexual gratification of another person.
- May include:
 - Voyeurism
 - Fondling
 - Child prostitution
 - Child pornography
 - Intercourse
 - Sodomy
 - Oral-genital stimulation
 - Verbal stimulation
 - Exhibitionism



Health Consequences of Child Abuse

Health consequences of child abuse

Physical

- Abdominal/thoracic injuries
- Brain injuries
- Bruises and welts
- Burns and scalds
- Central nervous system injuries
- Disability
- Fractures
- Lacerations and abrasions
- Ocular damage

Sexual and reproductive

- Reproductive health problems
- Sexual dysfunction
- Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS
- Unwanted pregnancy



Health Consequences of Child Abuse (Cont.)

Psychological and behavioural

- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Cognitive impairment
- Delinquent, violent and other risk-taking behaviours
- Depression and anxiety
- Developmental delays
- Eating and sleep disorders
- Feelings of shame and guilt
- Hyperactivity
- Poor relationships
- Poor school performance
- Poor self-esteem
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Psychosomatic disorders
- Suicidal behaviour and self-harm



Roles of Healthcare Providers in Child Abuse

- Protect
- Suspect
- Inspect
- Collect
- Respect



Protect

- Patient/family and team safety are paramount.
- Protect the life of the patient as well as as much evidence as possible.



Suspect

- Does the history fit what you are seeing- either injury or illness?
- Is this a repeat patient or family member of a repeat patient?
- Is there a history of family violence?



Collect

- Collect as much information as possible from caregivers.
- Do not question child
- Collect Evidence - Photograph any bruises or injuries. Children heal quickly!



Respect

- Respect diversity
- Respect privacy



Identifying Physical Abuse

- Skin Injuries
- Human Bite Marks
- Hair Loss
- Falls
- Head, facial, oral injuries
- Shaken baby Syndrome



Human Bites

- ✉ Strongly suggest abuse
- ✉ Easily overlooked

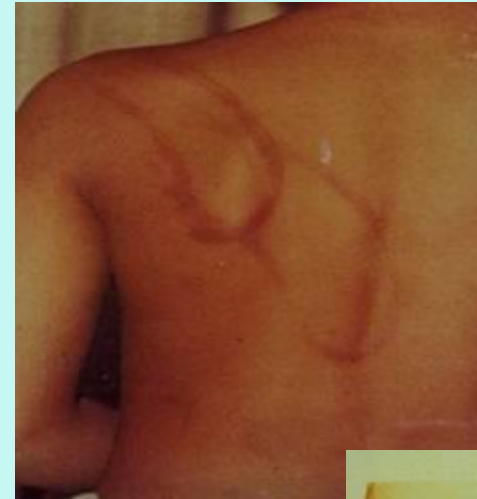


Bruises: Ten-4 Rule

- Be aware of any bruising to the:
 - Torso
 - Ears
 - Neck
- AND Bruising anywhere on a child 4 months old or younger. These bruises are significant indicators of abuse.
- Bruising on babies is not normal! Those that do not cruise, DO NOT Bruise.



Pattern Bruises



Burns

- Abusive Burn Patterns
- Scald: Immersion & Splash Burns
- Flexion Burns
- Contact Burns

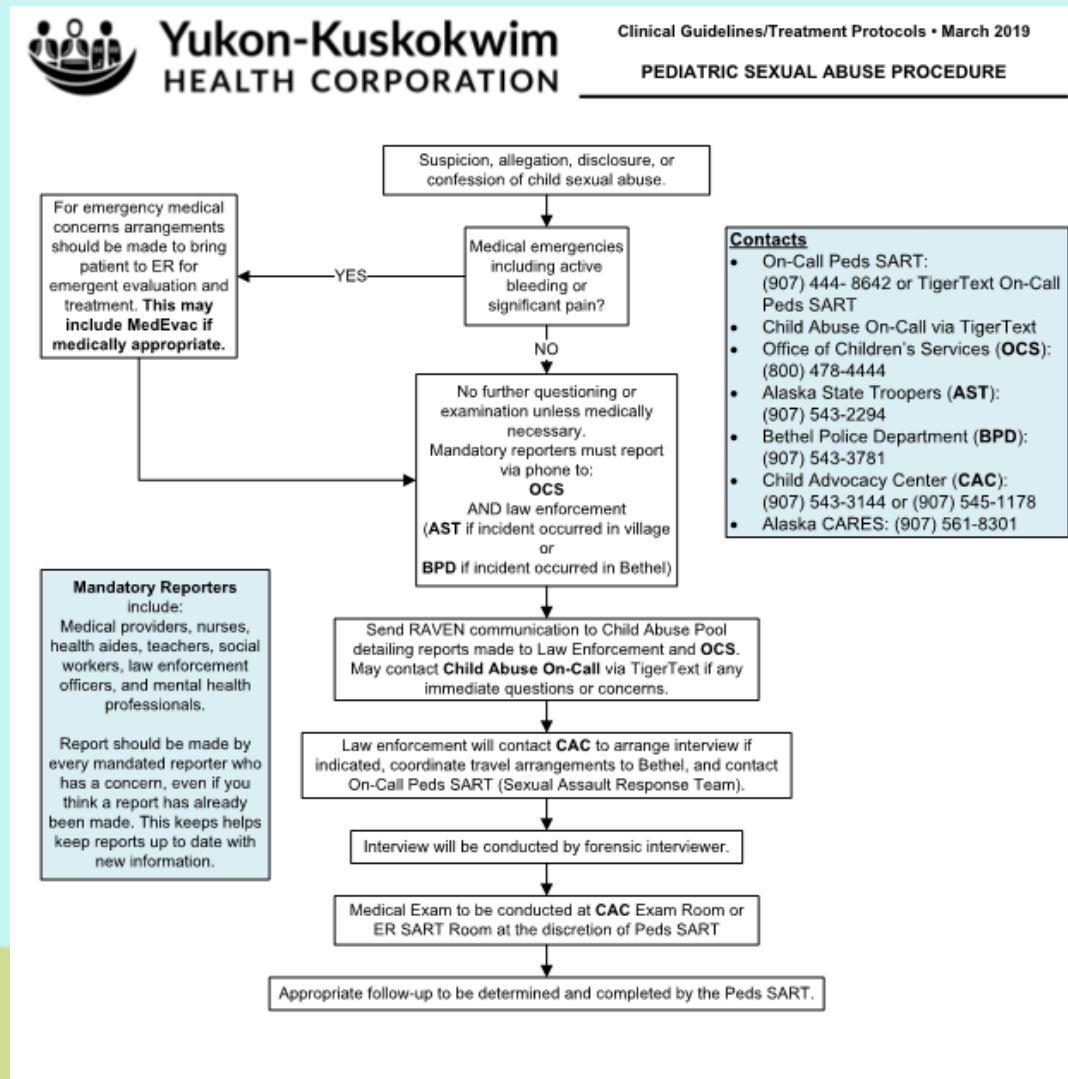
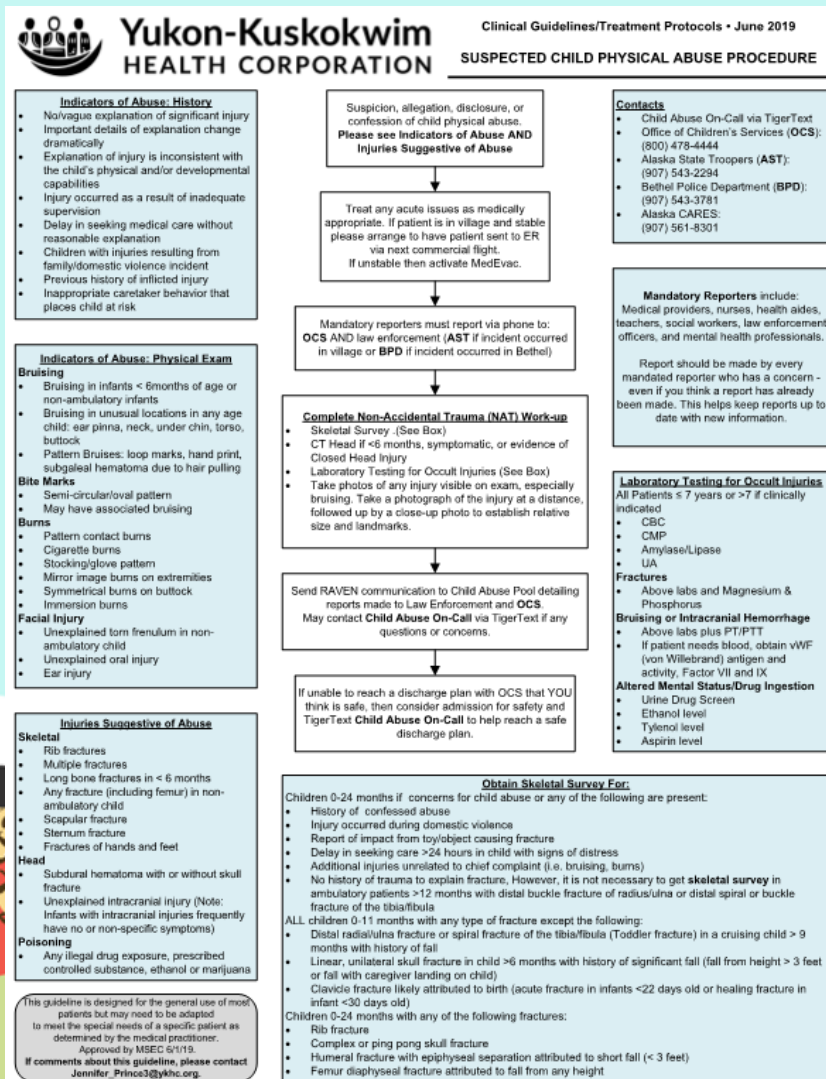


Head, Facial, and Oral Injuries

- Head is a common area of injury.
- Approx. 50 % of physical abuse patients have head or facial injuries.
- Injuries to the sides of the face, ears, cheeks, and temple area are highly suspicious for abuse.
- Mouth/lip/teeth injuries



Resources – Guidelines/Protocols



Still Have Questions?

- TigerText: Child Abuse on Call
- Raven Communication: Child Abuse Pool
- Alaska Cares On-Call: 907-561-8301

