

# WHAT INFLUENCES CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Child abuse and neglect are not confined to any particular socioeconomic class, race or ethnicity, or religion. Children younger than 4 are at the greatest risk of severe injury or death. There are a number of situations that place children at particular risk for being abused or neglected, including:

- Parents who were abused as children themselves
- Teenage parents
- Parental or family substance abuse
- Parental depression, stress or other mental health problems
- Family violence, such as intimate partner violence
- Unemployment and poverty
- Community violence
- Family isolation
- Lack of parental knowledge of child development and understanding children's needs
- Lack of caregiver support for dealing with children with disabilities or developmental delays.

If you witness abuse or neglect or have concerns you'd like to discuss, contact the Virginia Department of Social Services' Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (800) 552-7096, the Hearing Impaired Hotline at (800) 828-1120, or outside of Virginia at (804) 786-8536.

For parenting tips and help locating positive parenting resources in your community, contact PAV (Prevent Child Abuse Virginia) through its toll-free parenting tip line: 800-CHILDREN (800-244-5373.)

This information was pulled from the following website:  
<http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/indicators/healthFamily/childAbuse.php>

