



Child Maltreatment: An Overview for Professionals in the Field



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Child Protection Team

Co-Interim Statewide Medical Director

Child Maltreatment Objectives

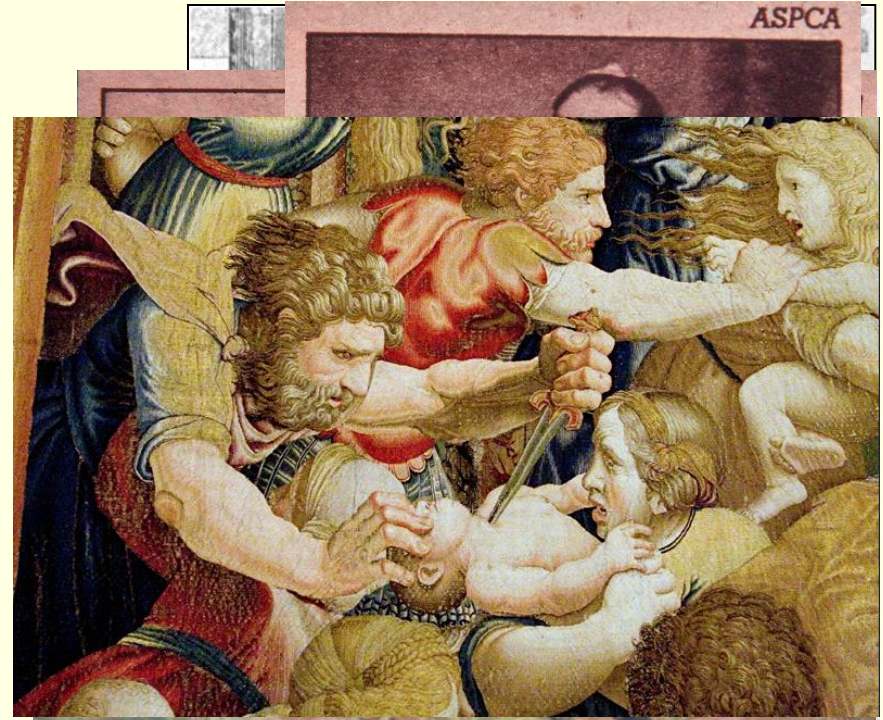


- Review the history of awareness of child abuse as a societal problem
- Review national and Florida child maltreatment statistics
- Discuss strategies for differentiating abusive from accidental injuries
- Review the age-related risks for child maltreatment and strategies for prevention and intervention

History of Child Abuse

Everywhere, All the Time, Rarely Noted

- Ancient Times:
“Exposure” to unwanted infants
- Massacres of the Innocents
- Industrial Revolution:
Children as chattel
- Abroise Tardieu (France
1818-79)
- The Mary Ellen Case (New
York 1874)



Child Abuse

Recent History in Medical Literature



1946 Caffey "Multiple Fractures of the Long Bones in Infants Suffering From

"It is difficult to avoid the over-all conclusion that skeletal lesions having the appearance of fractures - regardless of history for injury or the presence or absence of intracranial bleeding - are due to undesirable vectors of force."

Woolley - 1955

1962 Kempe "The Battered Child Syndrome"

Child Abuse: Statistics

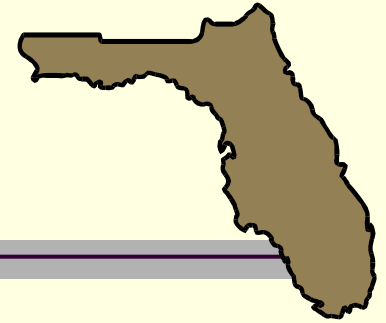
The Bad News – It's Common



- According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, in 2005 there were an estimated 3.3 million referrals for child abuse or neglect
 - Of these, 899,000 children were confirmed to be victims of abuse or neglect
 - Thus 12 out of every 1,000 children (1.2%) up to age 18 in the United States were found to be victims of maltreatment in 2005
- Approximately 1,300 deaths from abuse and neglect in 2005 in the United States

Child Maltreatment in Florida

Statistics Close to Home



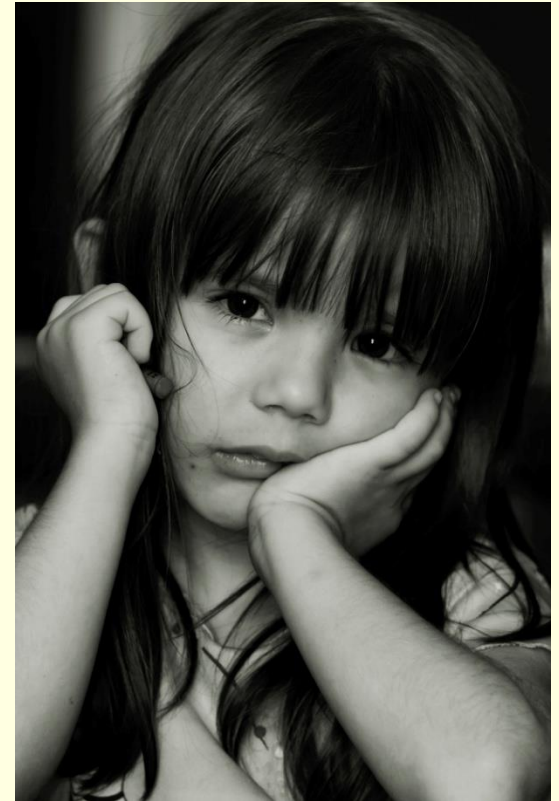
- In Florida it is estimated that in 2010 there were about 51,920 children who were victims of child abuse or neglect.
 - 13% of the victims were less than one year old;
 - 38% of the victims were less than four years old;
- Racial Distribution
 - 47.2% of the victims of child abuse were White
 - 29.4% were African-American
 - 17.2% were Hispanic
- 74% of the victims were maltreated by their parents
- Fatal Abuse: 133 children died as a result of child abuse and neglect

Child Maltreatment 2012, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Child Maltreatment: Statistics

Types of Abuse

- Neglect - 62.8%
- Physical abuse - 16.6%
- Sexual abuse - 9.3%
- Emotional and/or psychological abuse - 7.1%
- Medical neglect - 2.0%
- Other - 14.3%



www.americanhumane.org (2005 Statistics)

Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect

Florida Death Review Program, 2005-2009

Year	Abuse	Neglect	Total
2005	32	62	94
2006	55	115	170
2007	45	118	163
2008	60	138	198
2009	52	140	192
Total	244	573	817

Source: Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee
Annual Reports

Florida Law

Definition of Child Abuse



“Abuse” means

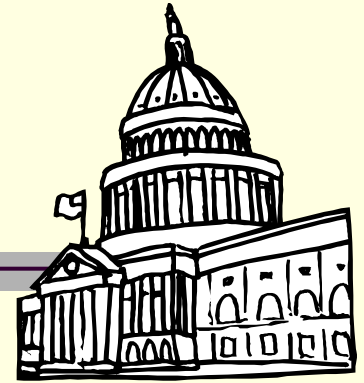
- a) Any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm . . .
- b) Includes acts or omissions
- c) Corporal discipline of a child for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

“Willful” refers to the intent to perform an action, not to the intent to achieve a result or to cause an injury.



Neglect: Legal Definition

Florida Statutes, Chapter 39.01



“Neglect” of a child means:

1. The parent or other person responsible for the child’s welfare fails to supply the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or health care . . .
2. Exposes a child to a controlled substance or alcohol.
3. Engages in violent behavior that demonstrates a wonton disregard for the presence of the child and could reasonably result in serious injury to the child
4. Negligently fails to protect a child in his or her care from inflicted physical, mental or sexual injury caused by the acts of another.

“Harm” includes leaving a child without adult supervision appropriate for the child’s age or mental or physical condition

Recognizing Child Abuse

The Challenge



- Parents who abuse their children will lie to you about it.
- Most will be smart enough to be nice to you.
- The parent you're talking to may really not know what happened.
- You can not tell who has abused a child by how they look or the way they act.

Recognizing Child Abuse

A Process Similar to Making Other Medical Diagnoses

- Gather information
 - History
 - Physical examination
 - Laboratory studies
- Normally in the practice of medicine, the history, physical and laboratory studies will all point in the same direction
- In child abuse there will be significant discrepancies



Recognizing Abuse

Types of Discrepancies Between History and Injury

- The history does not explain the injury found
- Multiple injuries of various types or ages
- Delay in seeing medical attention for an injury which is obviously serious
- No history offered to explain an injury which is serious or typical of abuse



(Continued)

Recognizing Abuse

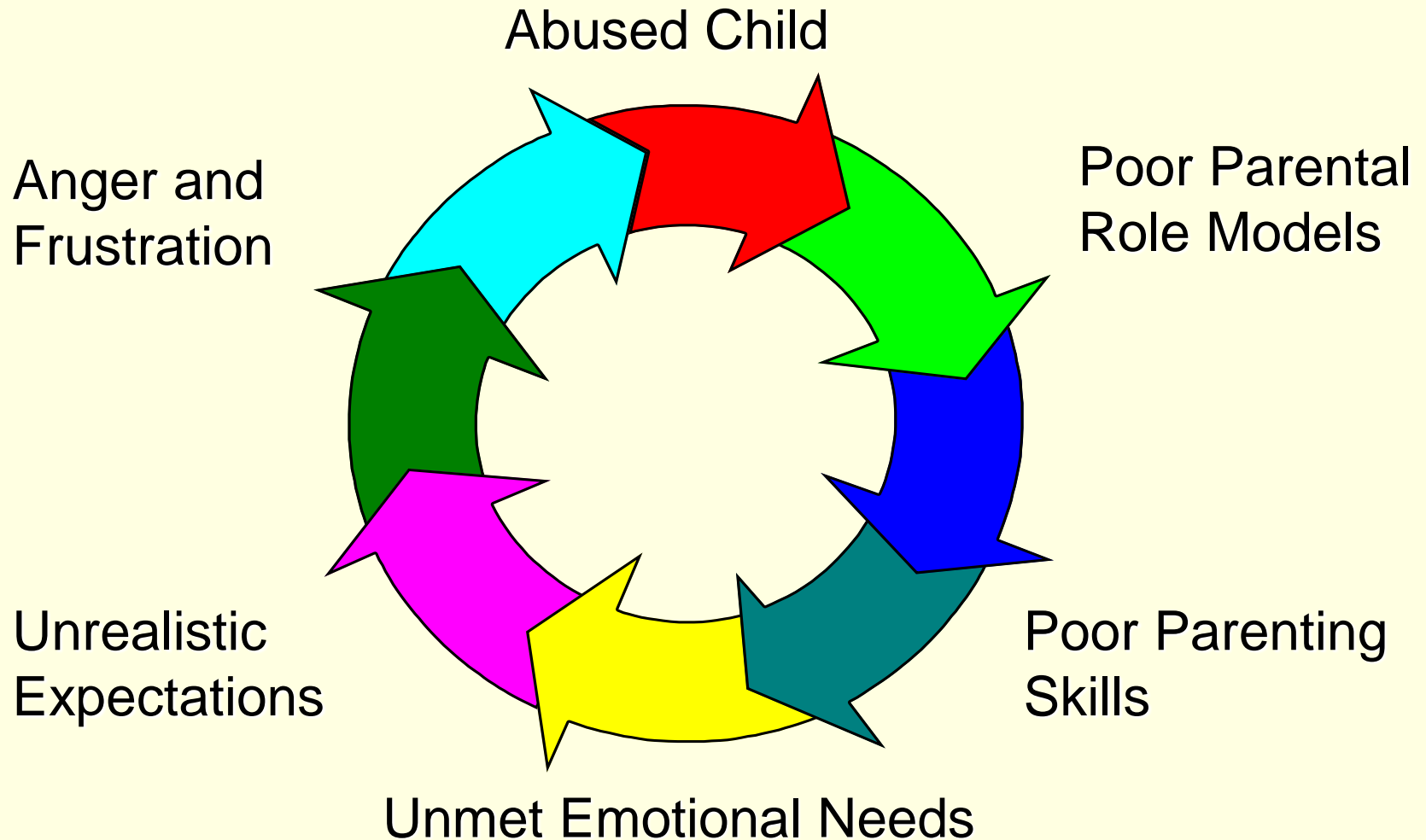
Types of Discrepancies Between History and Injury

- History changes over time or different caretakers give different stories
- Child is developmentally incapable of having acted as described
- Child would not reasonably be expected to have acted as described
- Serious injury blamed on another child



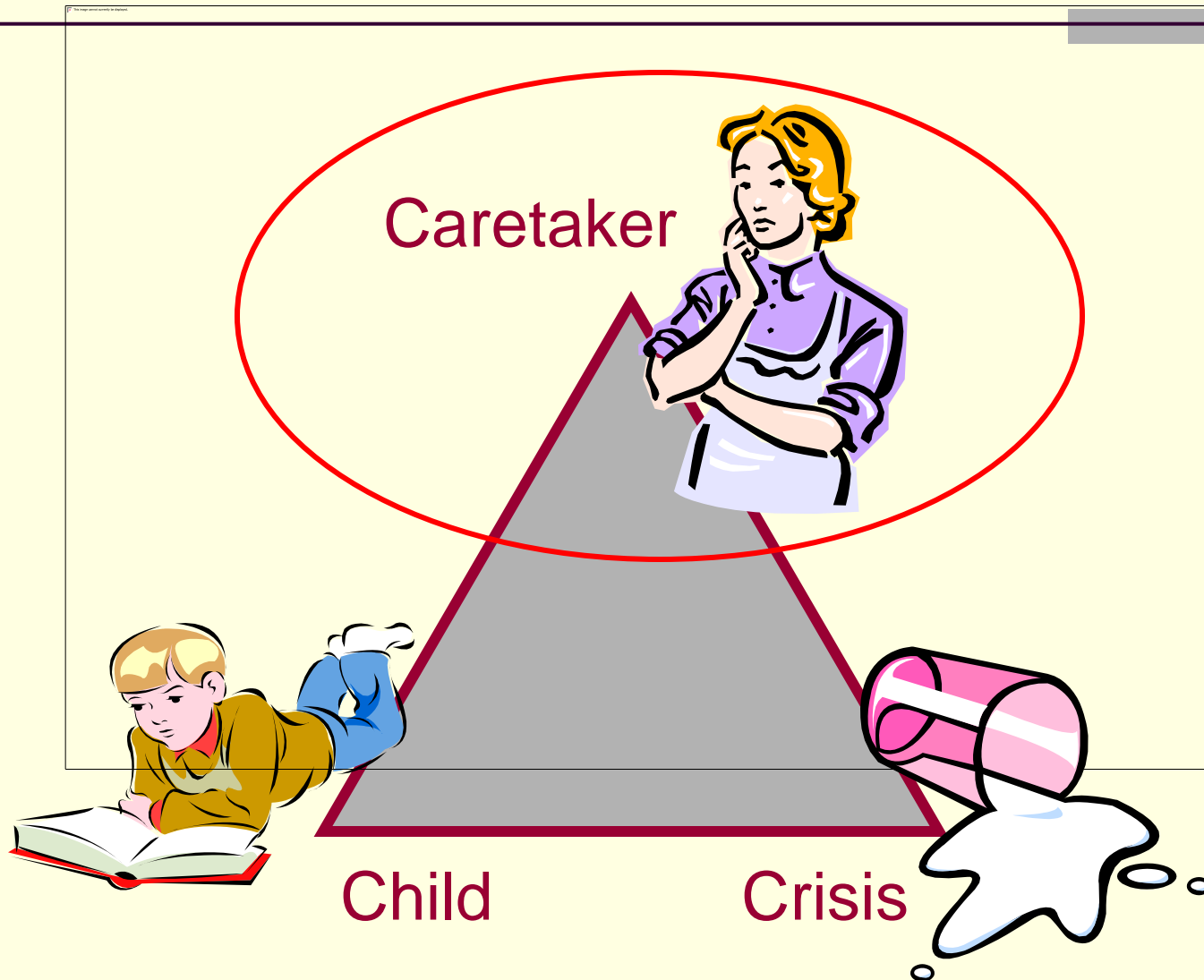
The Abuse Cycle

It Can Be Broken



The Abuse Cycle

Interacting Factors of Varying Weight



Perpetrators

Relationship to Child

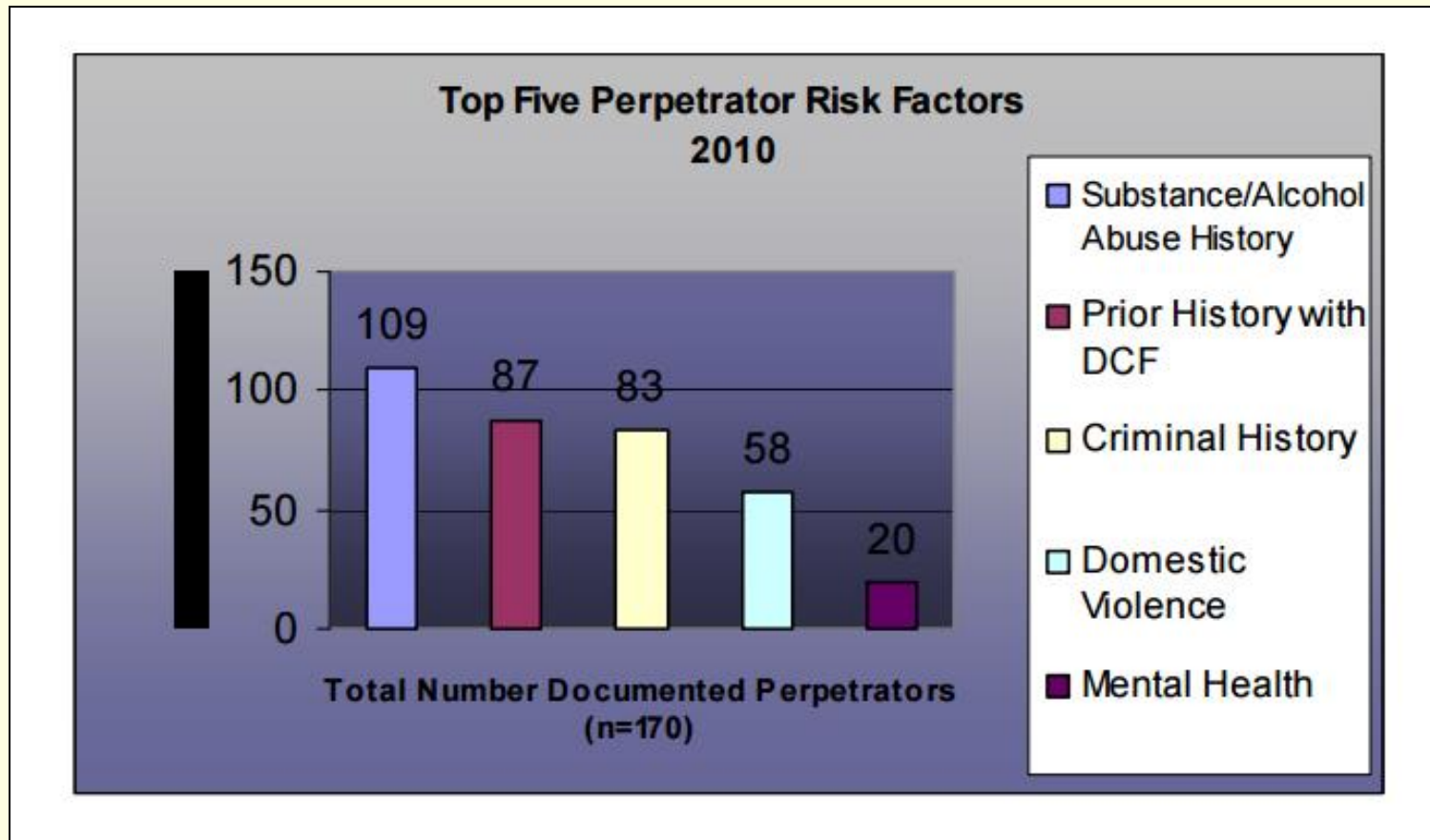
- 76 (44%) were Mothers/Stepmothers
- 60 (34%) were Fathers/Stepfathers
- 12 (7%) were Other Relatives
- 8 (5%) were Other non-relatives
- 5 (3%) were Day care workers
 - Four were licensed facilities
 - One was an unlicensed home day care
- 3 (2%) were Male and Female Paramours
- 1 (0.5%) was a Foster Mother



Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee Report, 2011.

Perpetrator Risk Factors

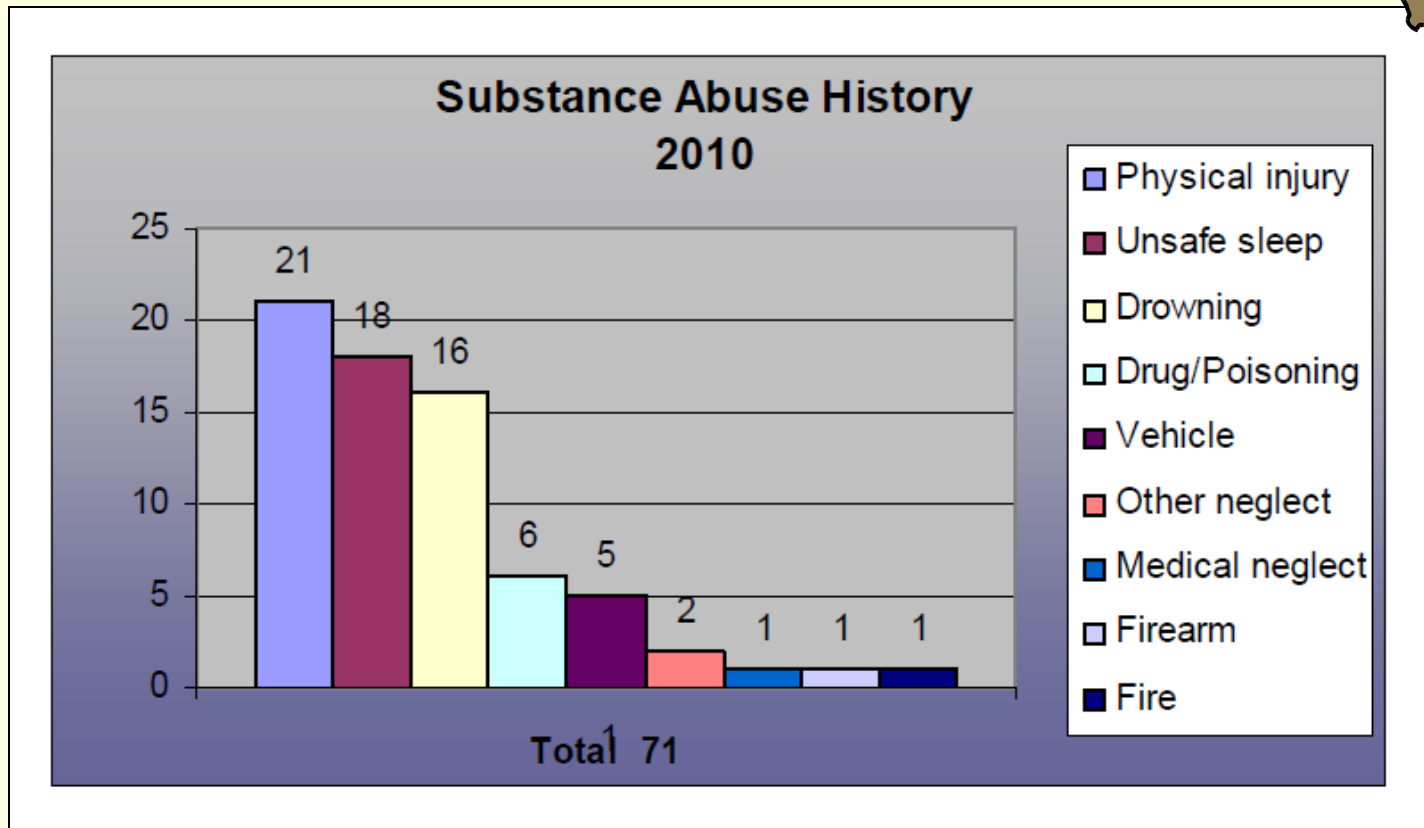
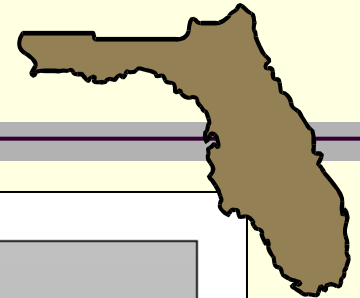
Florida Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths



Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee Report, 2011

Causes of Abuse and Neglect Deaths

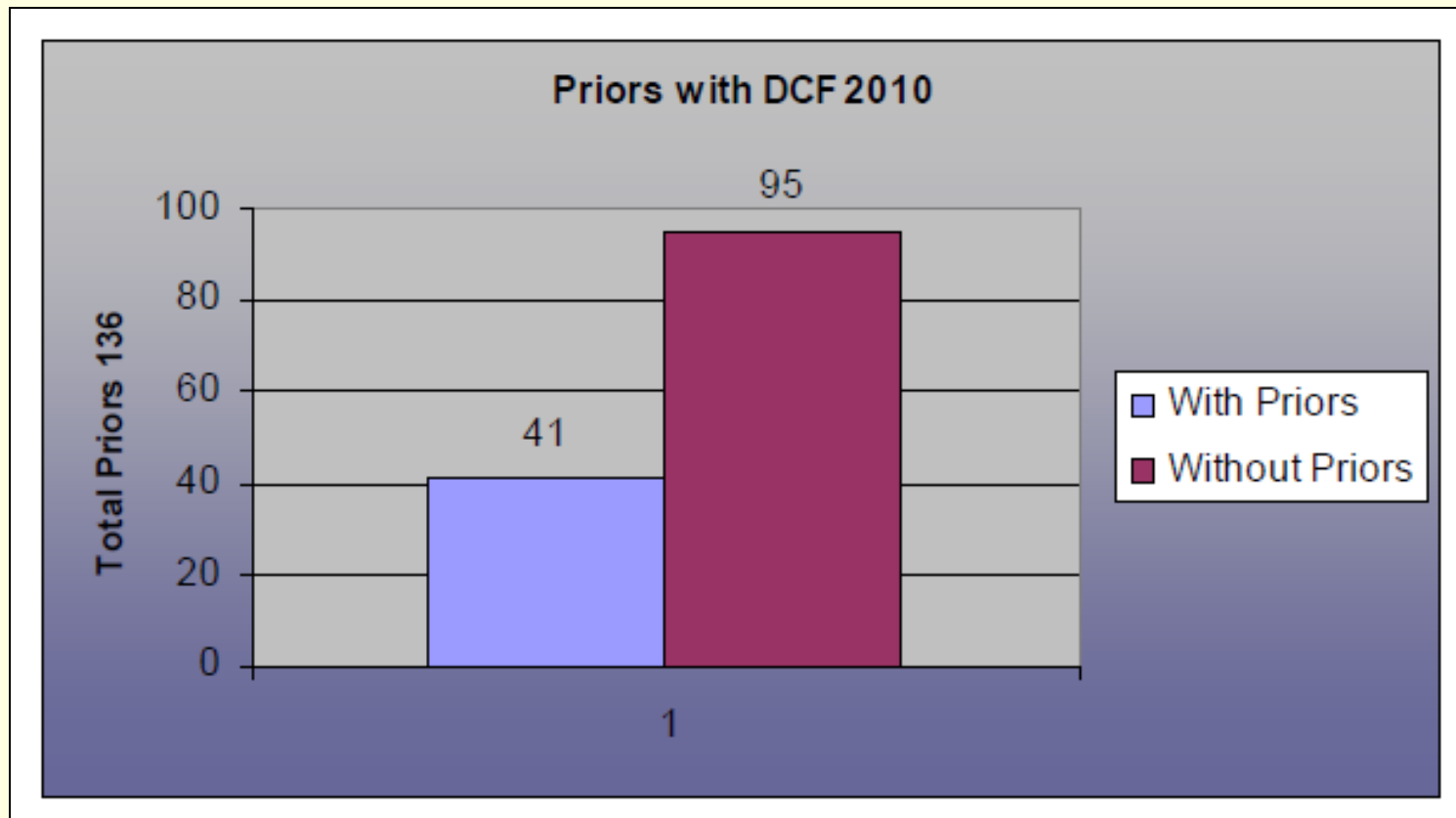
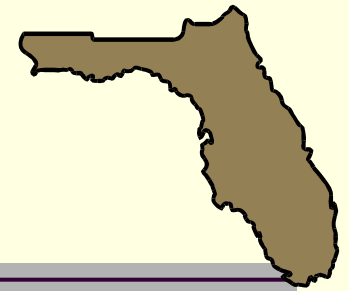
Role of Substance Abuse



State of Florida Abuse Death Review Committee. Annual Report, December 2011, page 13.

Prior Involvement with DCF

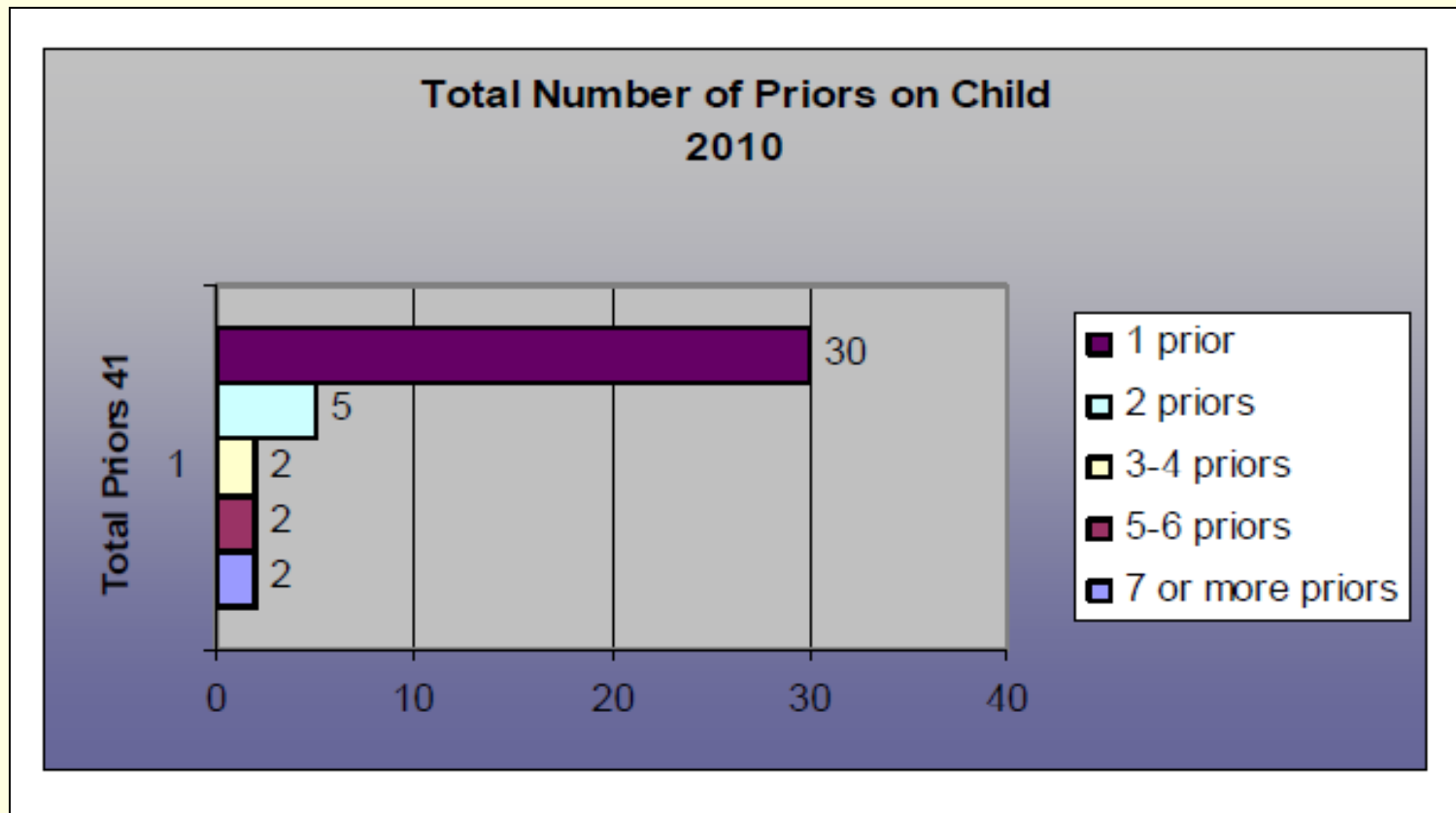
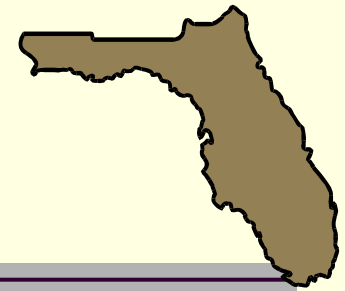
Absent in 95 of 136 Deaths (70%)



State of Florida Abuse Death Review Committee. Annual Report, December 2011, page 14.

Prior Involvement with DCF

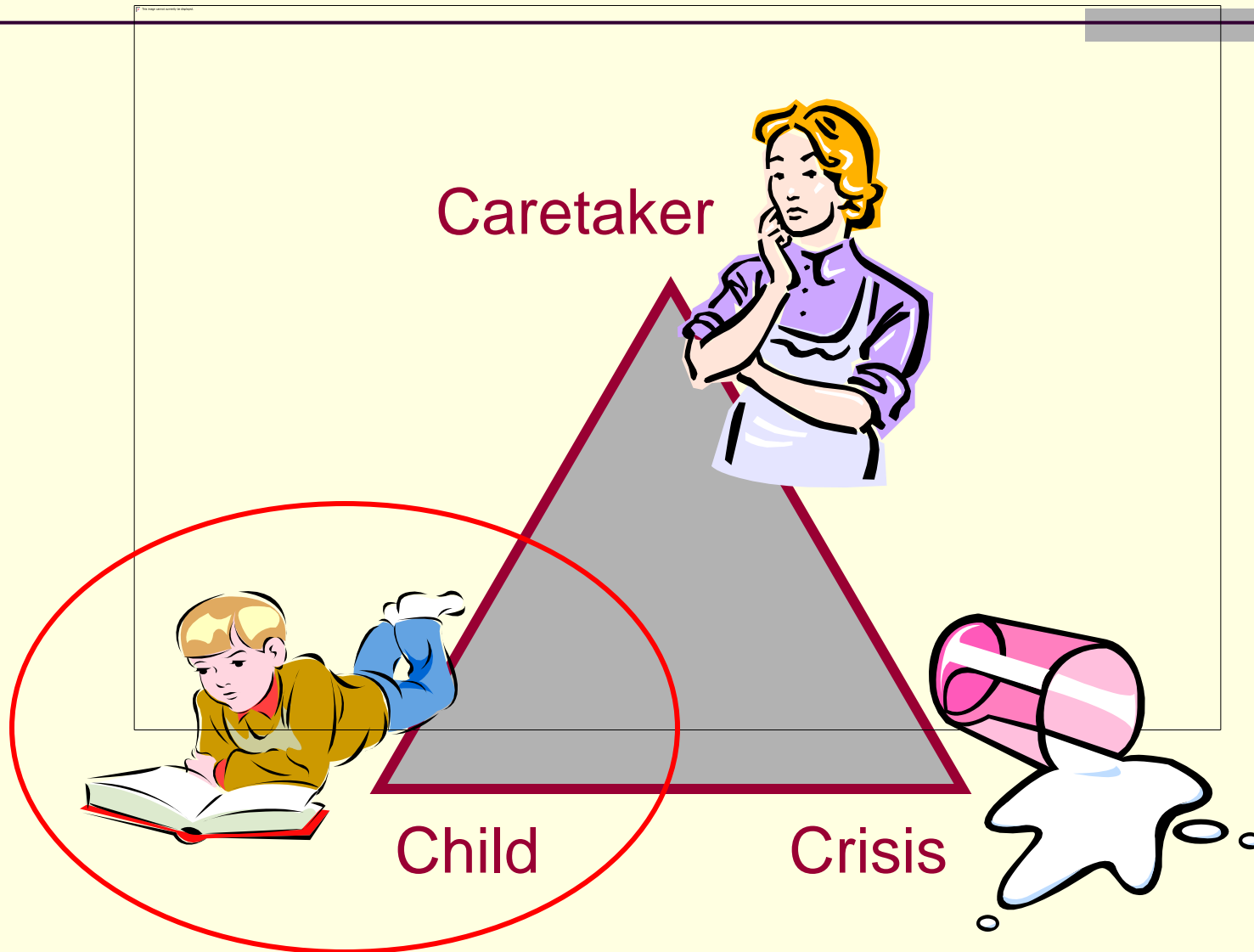
You Often Have Only One Chance



State of Florida Abuse Death Review Committee. Annual Report, December 2011, page 14.

The Abuse Cycle

Interacting Factors of Varying Weight



Characteristics of the Child

Race and Gender

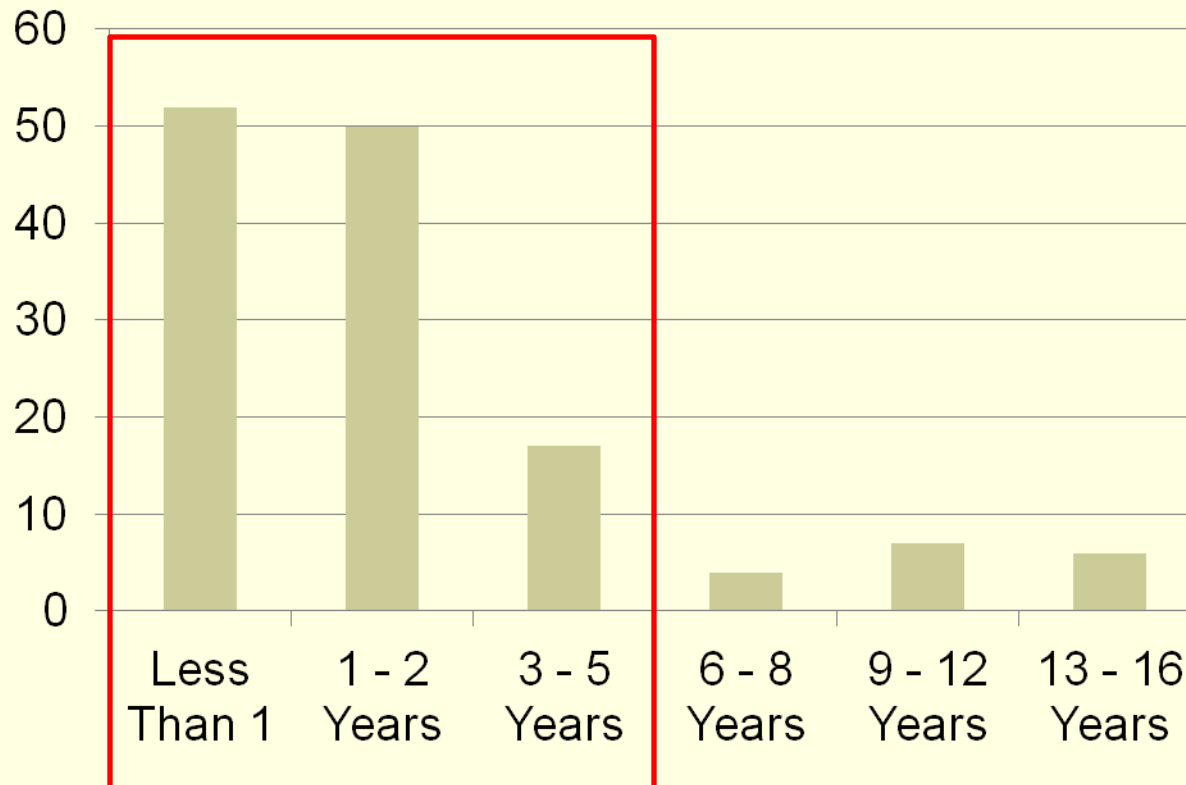
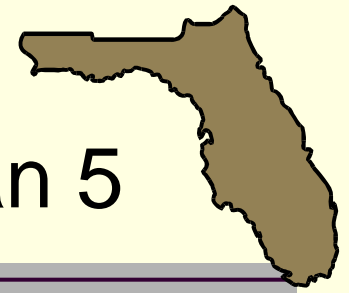
- Gender of Child
 - 92 (70%) were male children
 - 44 (30%) were female children
- Race/Ethnicity of Child
 - 62 (46%) were White
 - 39 (29%) were Black
 - 11 (8%) were Hispanic
 - 10 (7%) were Multi-racial
 - 9 (7%) were Haitian
 - 3 (2%) were Asian Pacific
 - 2 (1%) were Middle Eastern



State of Florida Abuse Death Review Committee. Annual Report, December 2011, page 11.

Abuse and Neglect Deaths

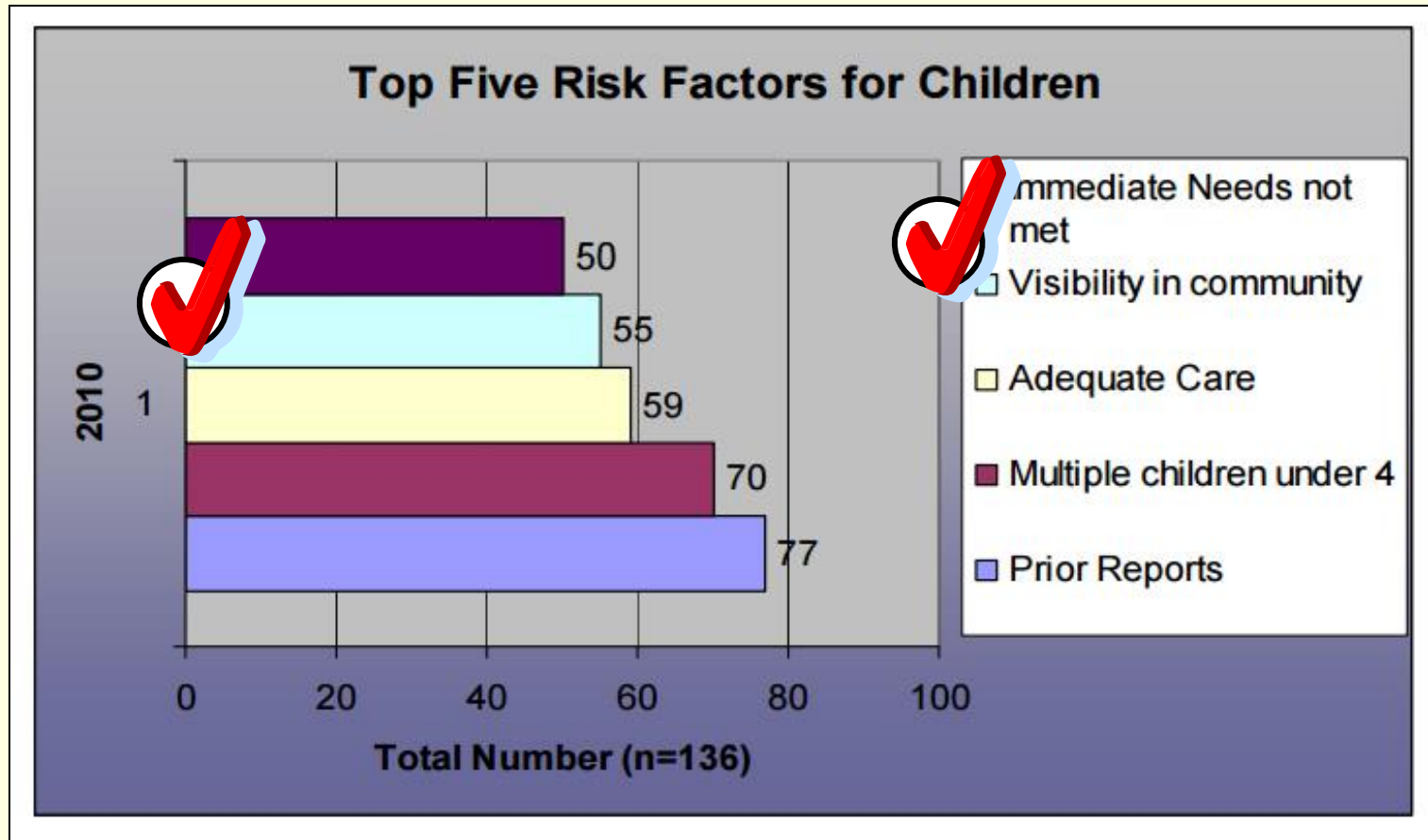
119 of 136 Deaths (88%) Less Than 5



State of Florida Abuse Death Review Committee. Annual Report, December 2011, page 10.

Child Risk Factors

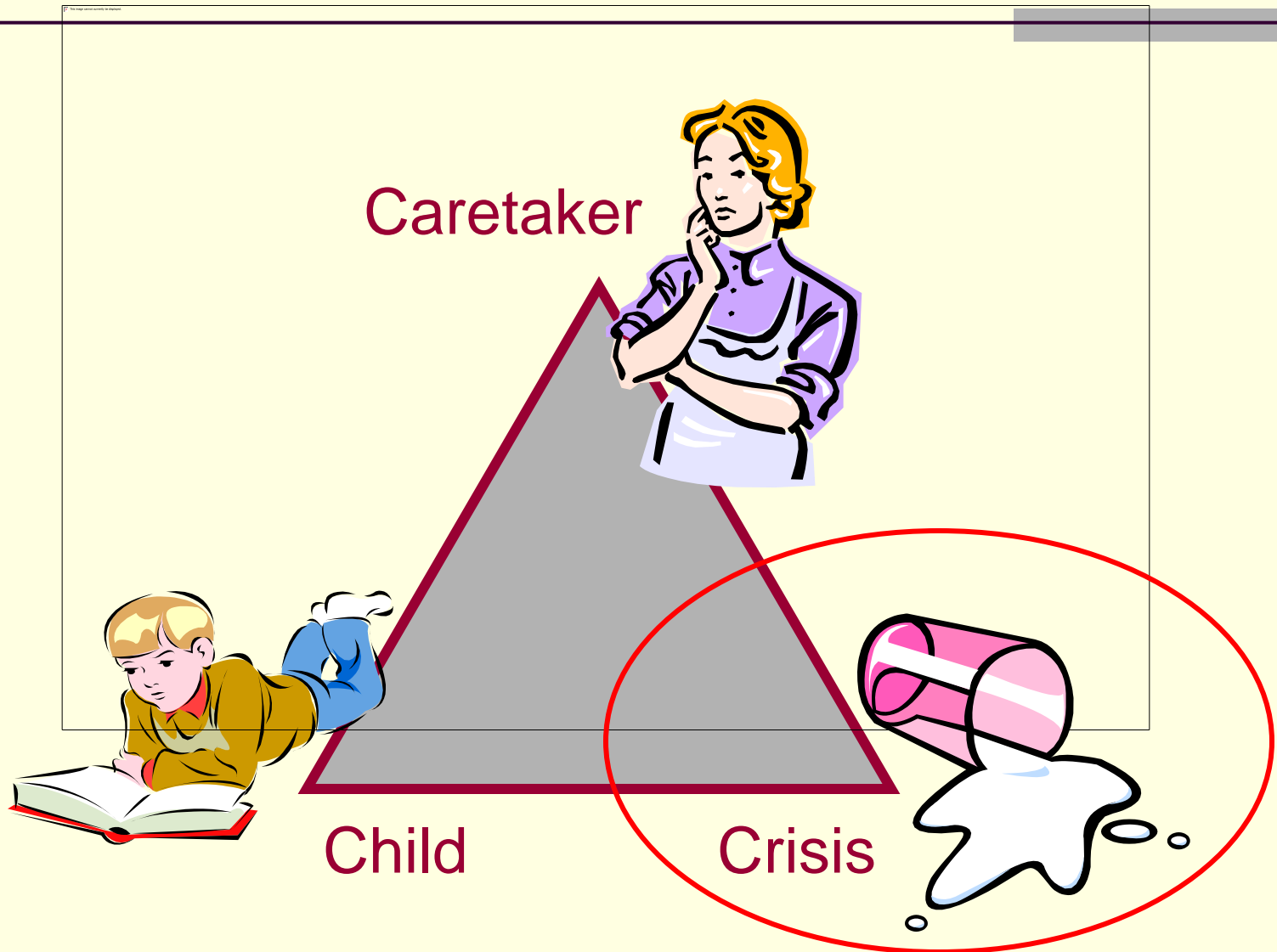
Some Can Be Addressed



Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee Report, 2011

The Abuse Cycle

Interacting Factors of Varying Weight





Hand-Slap Bruises to Face

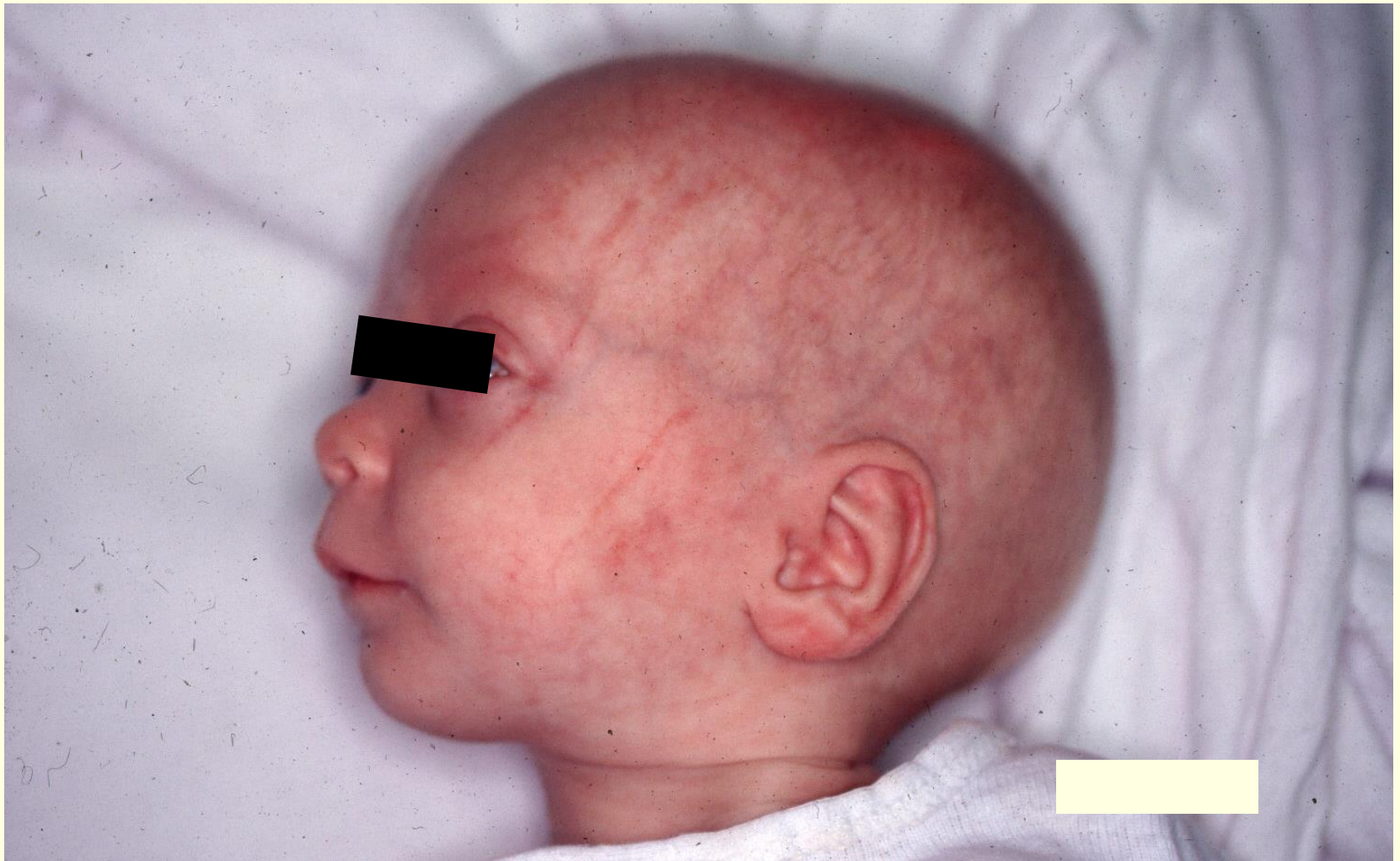
Identify Children at High Risk for Future Injury



Characteristic bruise resulting from forceful slap

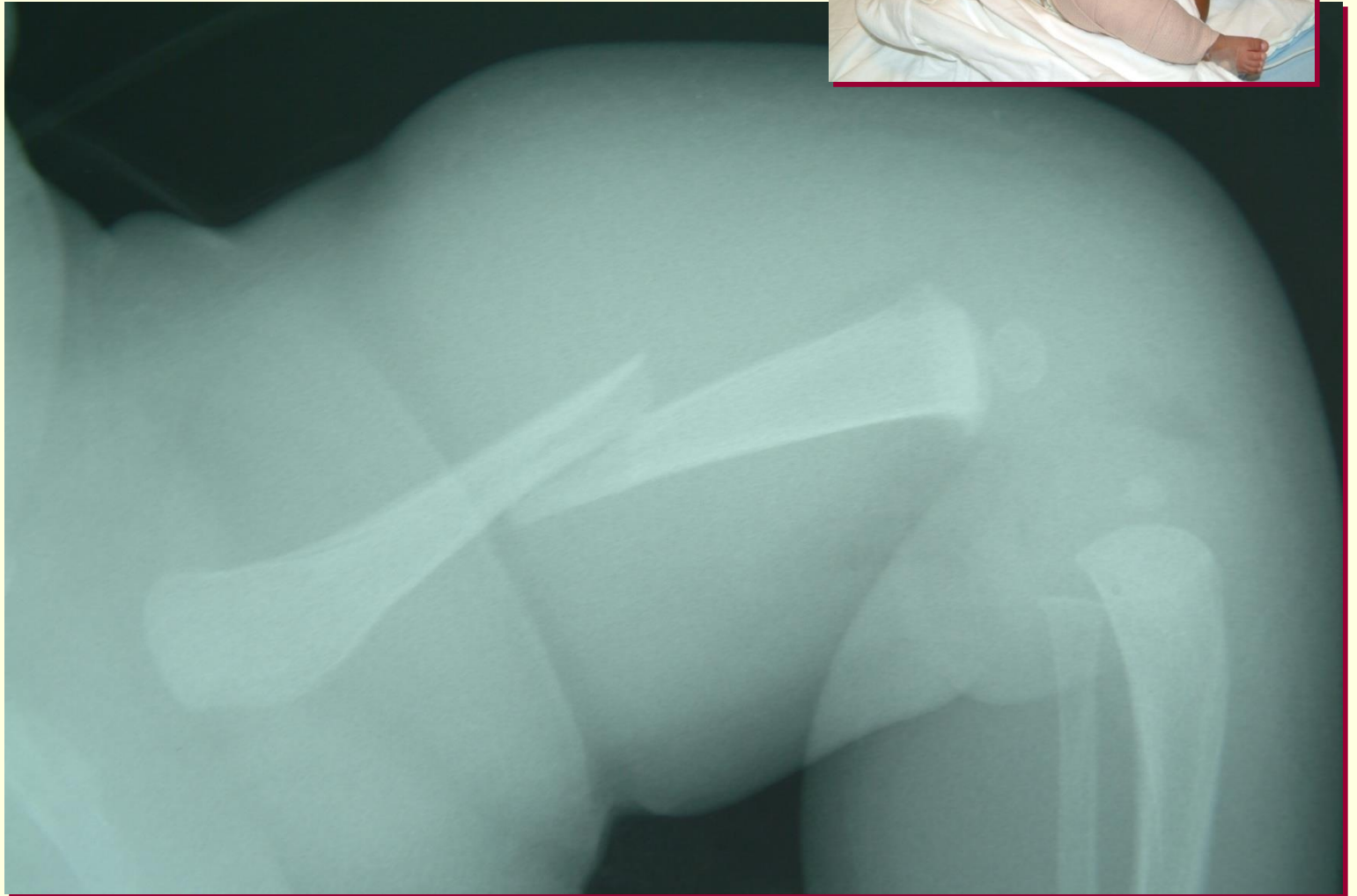
Hand-Slap Bruises to Face

Identify Children at High Risk for Future Injury

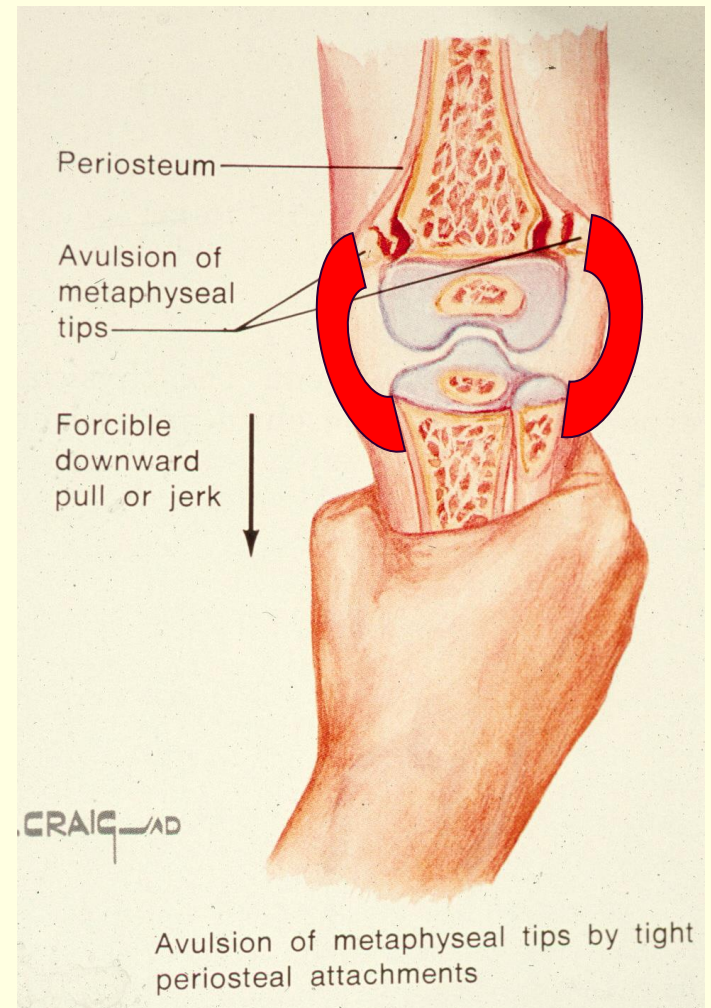
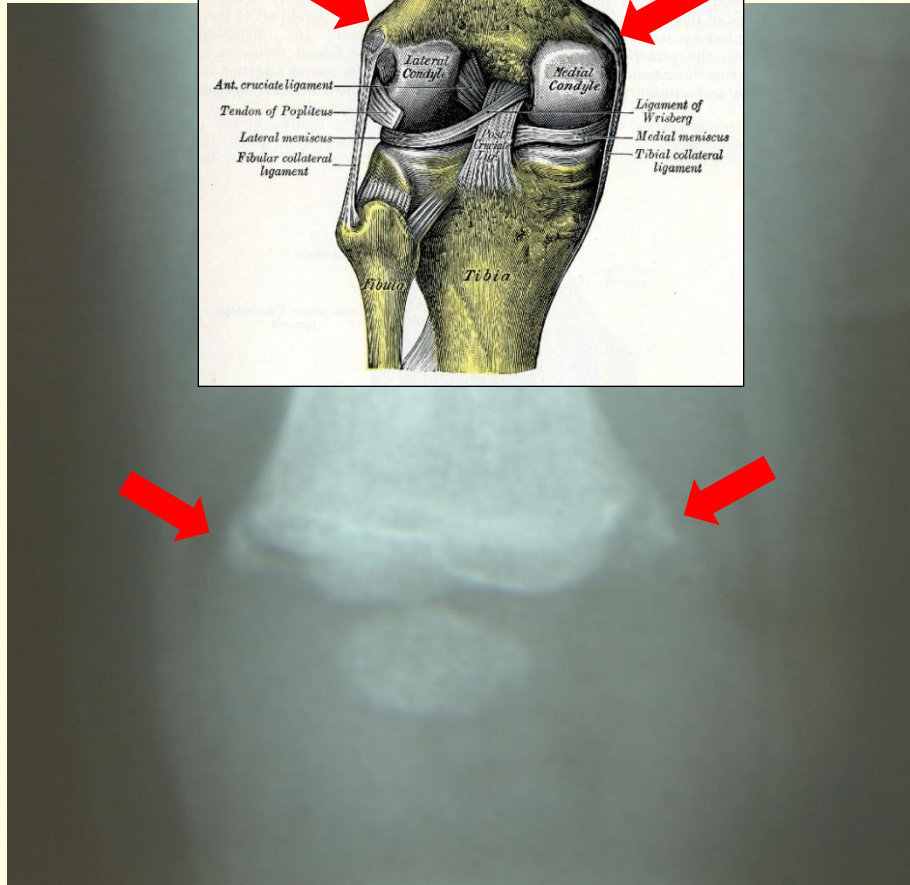
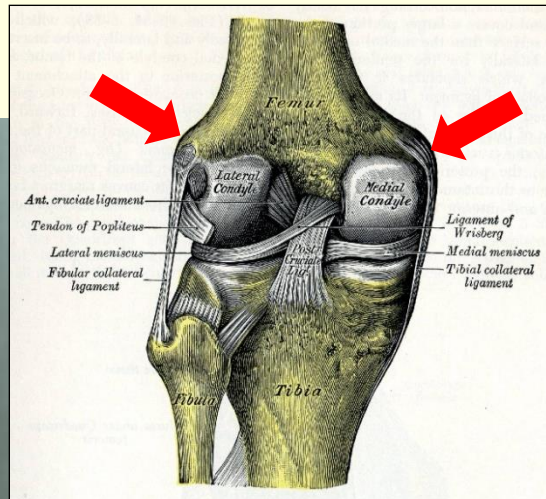


Fractures

Twisted Arms and Legs

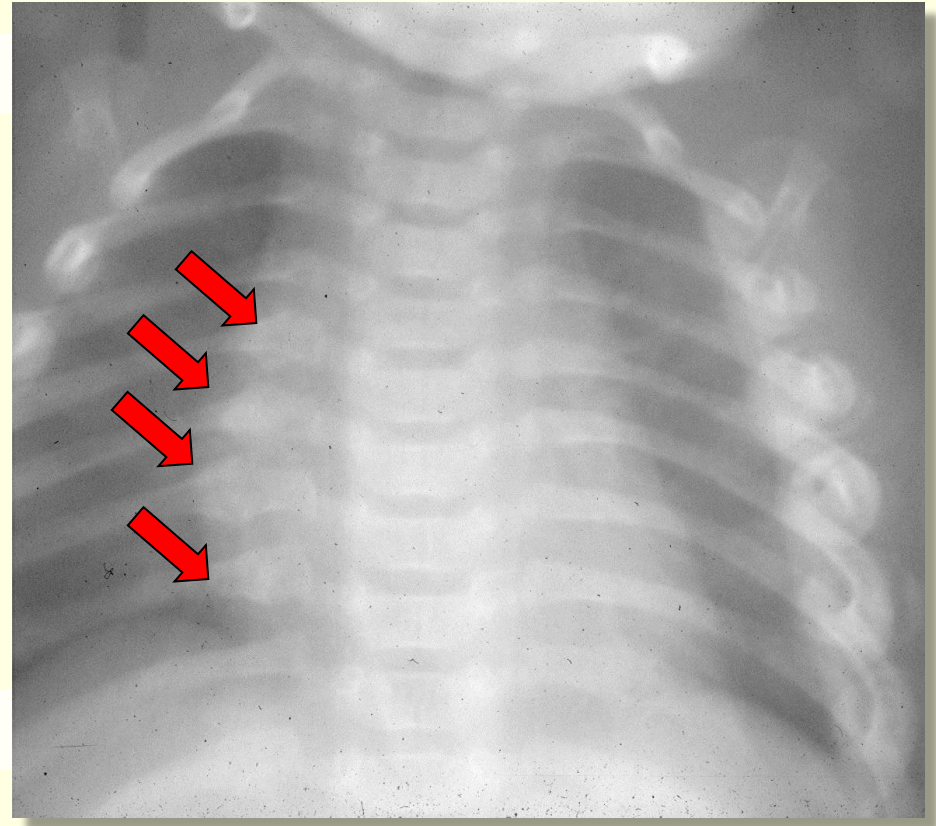
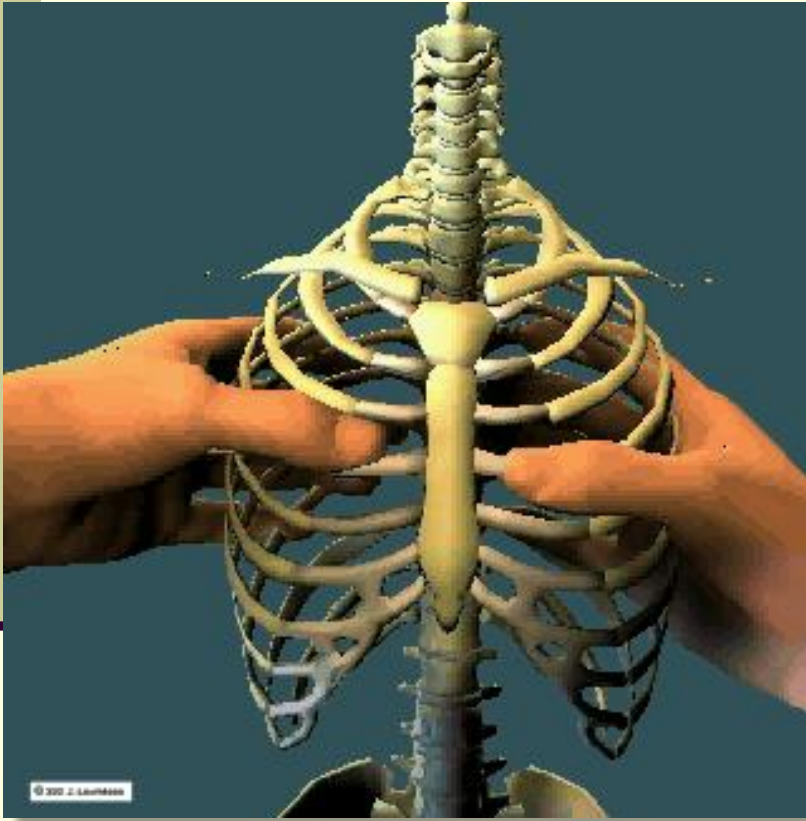


Chip Fractures in the Arms and Legs “Classic Metaphyseal Lesions”



Posterior Rib Fractures

Highly Specific for Abuse



Abusive Head Trauma

Devastating Brain Injuries from Shaking and Slamming



HOURS OF FUSSING
PER 24 HRS.

Normal Crying

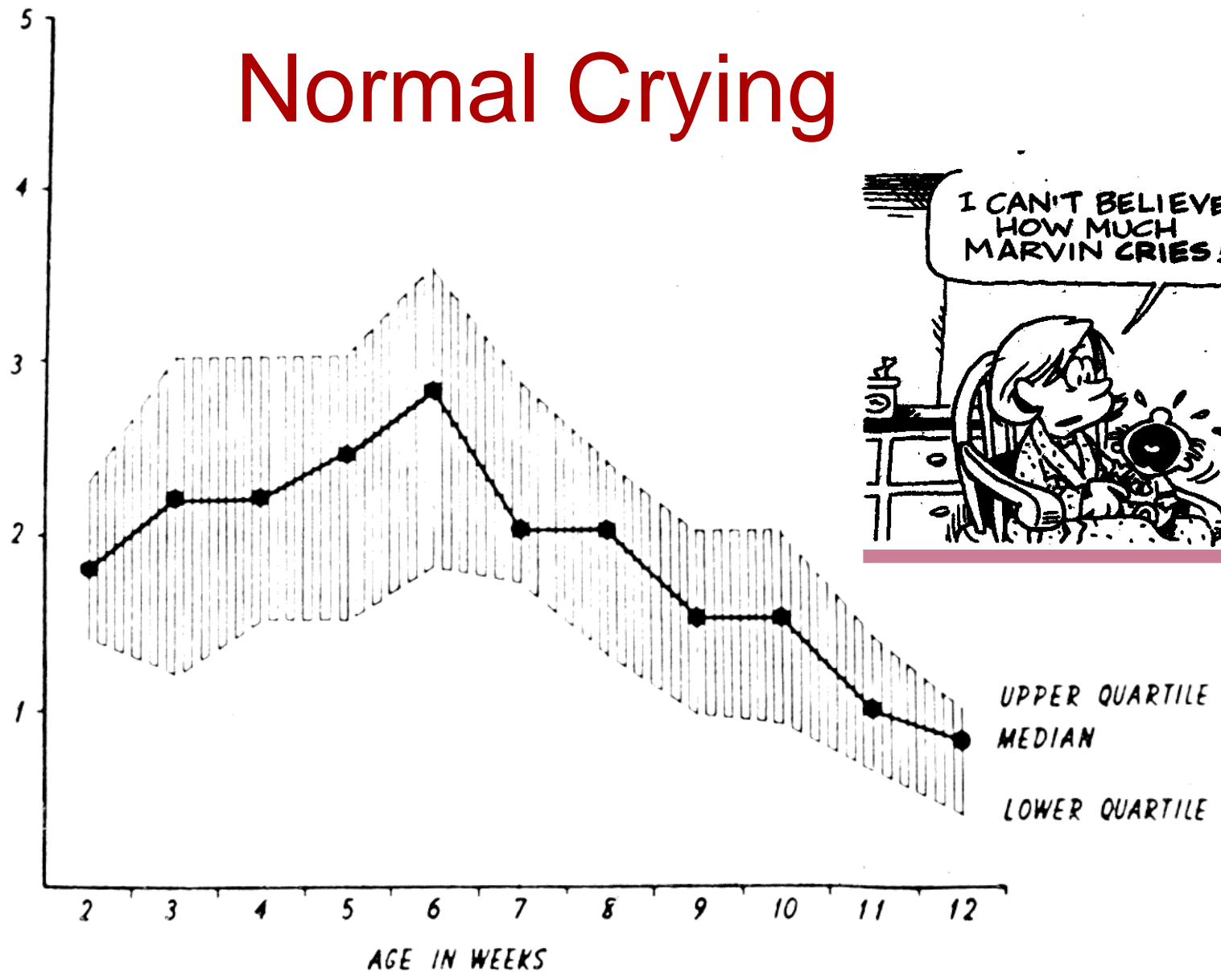


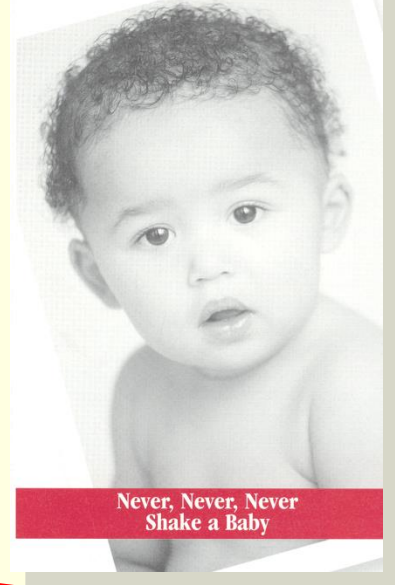
FIG. 2. Summary of the total crying time of the 80 infants studied.

Coping with Normal Crying

Advice for Stressed Parents

- Know what's normal
- Don't take it personally
- It's okay to hold a crying baby
- It's okay to let them cry
- When all else fails, leave the room

One Shake
Can Last
a Lifetime.



Never, Never, Never
Shake a Baby

Exploratory Behavior

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

PARENTS!!
LOOKING FOR
SOME FUN?
PLAY THE NEW GAME



KIRKMAN
& SCOTT

© 1981 COLUMBIA TRIANGLE INC. 1-15

Bruises from Spanking

Angry Over-Reactions to Normal Exploring



Abusive Injuries

Angry Over-Reactions to Normal Exploring



Hot Water Immersion Burns

Often the Result of Touching Things



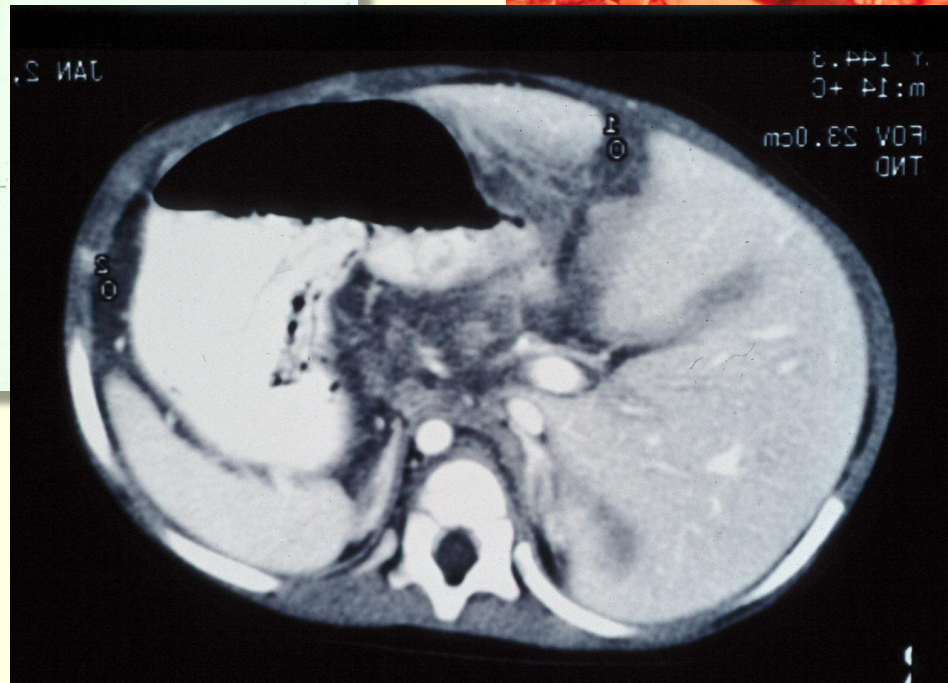
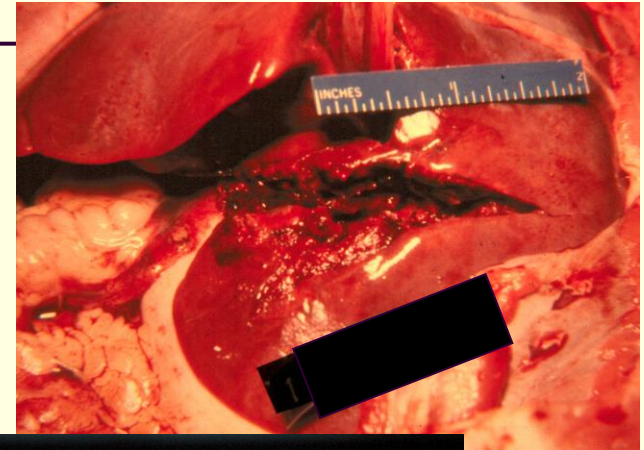
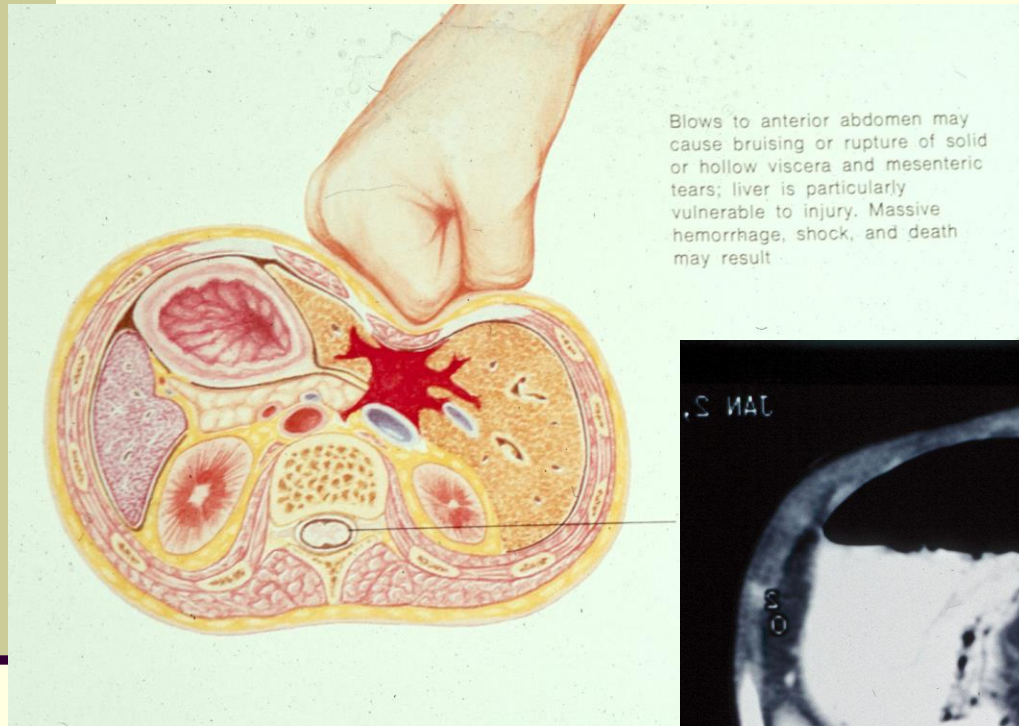
Abusive Fractures

From Normal Exploratory Behavior



Abdominal Injuries

Serious and Frequently Life-Threatening



FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



8-2-95

1975, The Register
and Tribune Syndicate

®

Bil Keane

“Why don’t you have any things
on these bottom shelves,
Grandma?”

Discipline for Creepers, Cruisers and Crawlers: An Important Precedent

Step 0 Childproof the house

Step 1 “No” with a firm voice and a frown

Step 2 Pick up, move to another location
and distract with another activity

Step 3 Confine to playpen

The Playpen

Many Uses Other Than Play

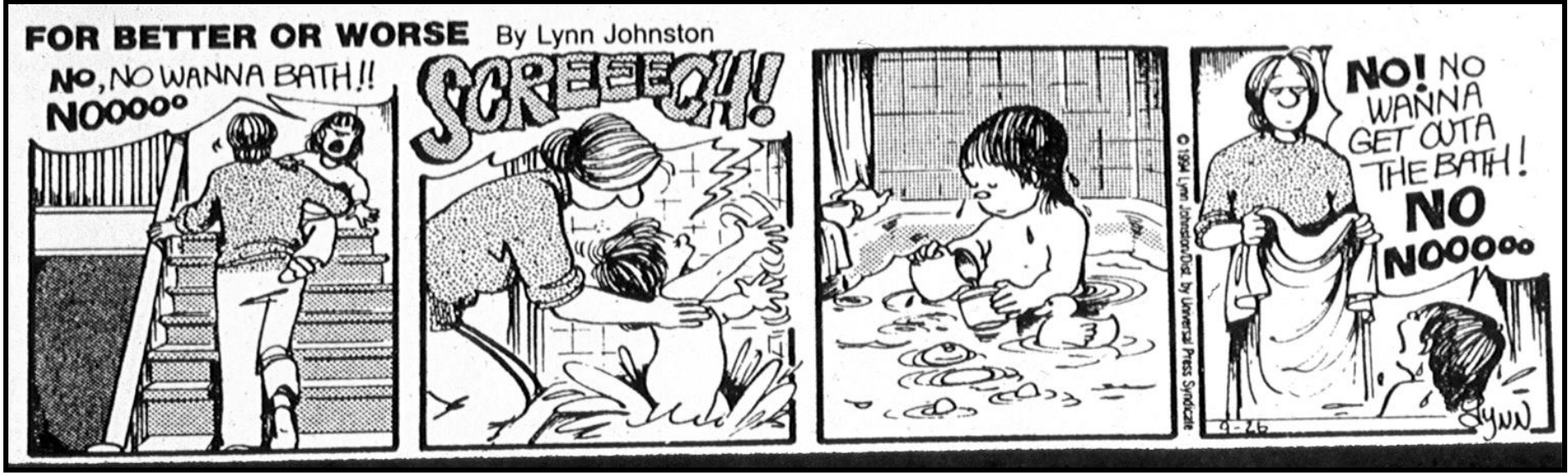
MARVIN By Tom Armstrong



The Negative Two-Year-Old



The Negative Two-Year -Old



Bruises Are Injuries

Blood in Tissues from Torn Vessels



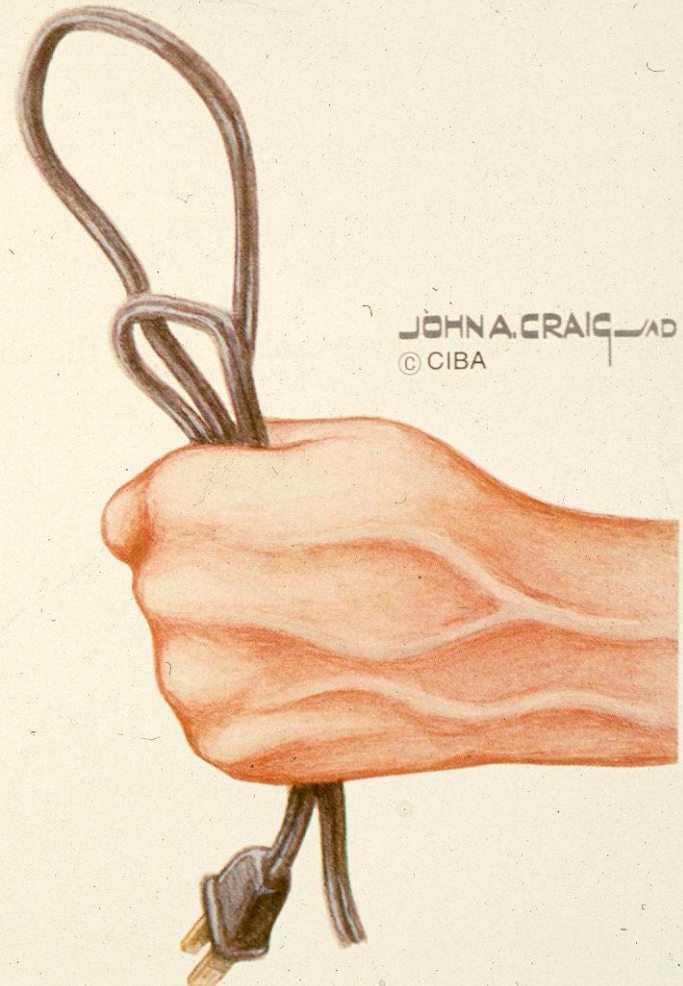
Bruises from Belts and Cords

Identify Children at High Risk for Future Injury



Bruises from Belts and Cords

Identify Children at High Risk for Future Injury



Discipline for the Negative Two-Year Old



- See independence as a healthy development
- Pick your battles - and win the battles you pick
- Offer choices whenever possible
- Don't offer choices when they don't exist
- Notice and reward good behavior
- Use Time Out as primary negative reinforcer

McIntosh BJ. The Spoiled Child Syndrome. Pediatrics 83:108, 1989.

Being Smarter Than a Two-Year -Old

FOR BETTER OR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



Using Time-Out

Most Effective Technique for Pre-Schoolers

- Select Time-Out area
- Explain procedure to child
- Implement with brief explanation
- Hold in place if necessary
- Use timer to keep track
- Release with word of encouragement
- Repeat as often as needed
- Stay calm and be realistic
- Expect child to test the system



Toilet Training



Toilet Training Can Be Lethal



Woman held in death of daughter

By ROGER MALONE
Staff Writer

A Jacksonville woman has been charged with killing her 21-month-old daughter while trying to toilet-train the infant, police said today.

Shirley Ann Jefferson, 23, of the 1400 block of Van Buren Street, was booked in the Duval County Jail just before noon today and was being held without bond, police spokesman Sgt. Charley Hill said.

She was arrested after she carried her dead child, Priscilla, in her arms two miles to University Hospital for treatment, Hill said.

The woman beat her child with a belt last night before the child died, Hill said. The girl was beaten on the back, shoulders, genitals, stomach, buttocks and head, he said.

At one point, the child urinated in the living room, and Mrs. Jefferson placed her in the bathtub, Hill said. When Priscilla continued to urinate, Mrs. Jefferson hit the child, pushing her into the faucet, which struck her head, he said.

The baby then slipped in the bathtub and struck her head again, Hill said.

Later, the woman told police, she placed the child on the sofa. But the girl fell off, striking her head again, Mrs. Jefferson told officers.

Potty training death case baby seized

Associated Press

BARTOW — State welfare workers immediately seized the baby born to a jailed Lakeland woman charged with first-degree murder in the death of her 2-year-old son.

Sheryl McGee Coe, 20, gave birth to the child about 10 p.m. Friday nearly nine hours after being transferred from her jail cell to Lakeland Regional Medical Center, said Polk County sheriff's spokeswoman Lynne Breidenbach.

State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services spokesman Steve Konicki refused to give details of the birth but said the state is the newborn's legal guardian.

"The child is going to be in our custody until we determine exactly what will be the appropriate placement for the child, which will be done in concert with juvenile court," he said. "We will do it the same we do any other child."

Mary Coe Anders, the infant's

grandmother, said tests revealed the baby would be an 8- or 9-pound girl, but officials refused yesterday to confirm the sex or condition of the baby.

Mrs. Coe and her husband Thomas Coe, 22, are accused of killing her son Bradley McGee by repeatedly plunging him head-first into a toilet bowl for soiling his diapers July 28. The boy died of a brain hemorrhage.

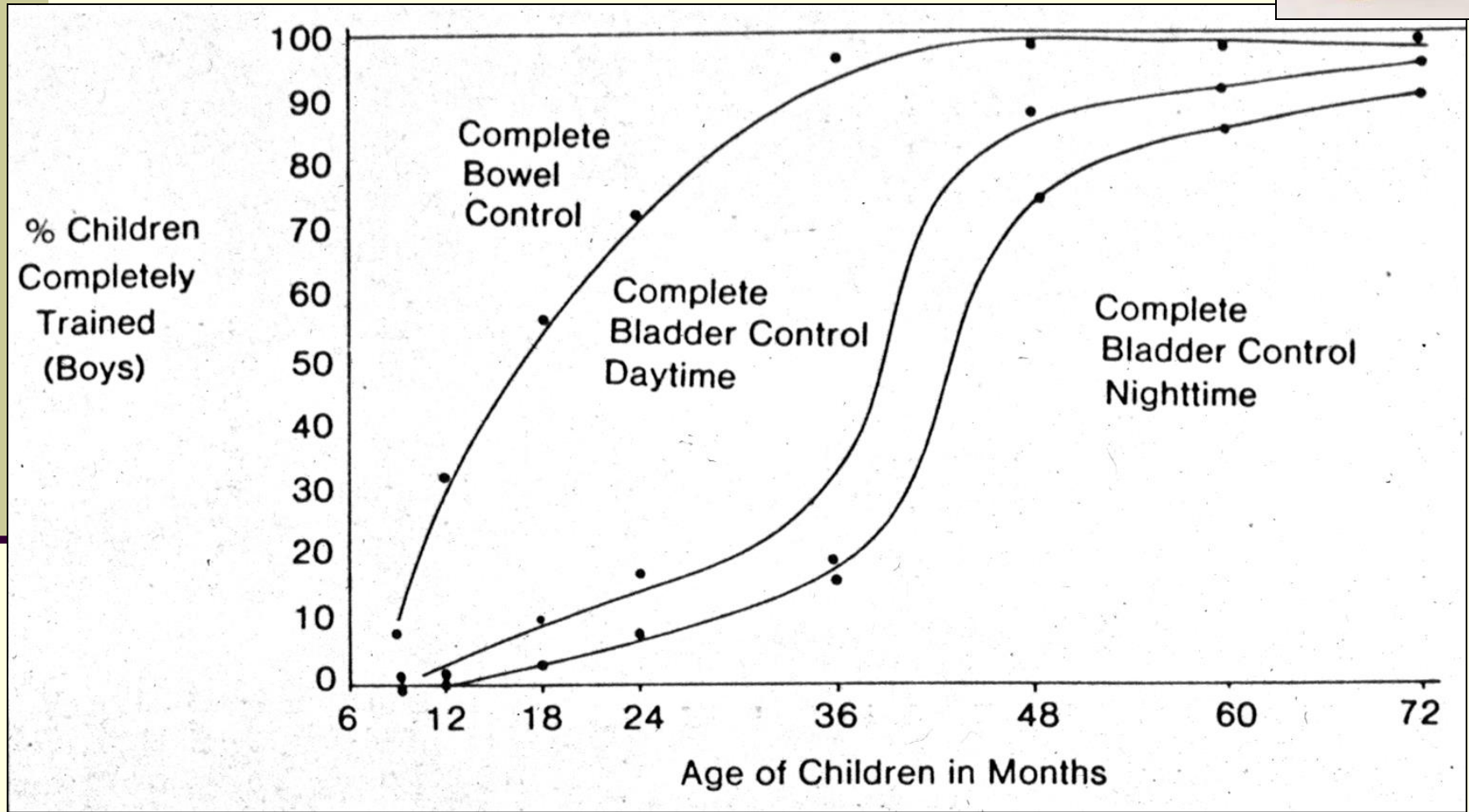
HRS workers took custody of Mrs. Coe's second child, 13-month-old Rebecca, after the boy's death.

One former and three current state social workers were indicted last week on criminal charges for allegedly failing to report signs of abuse in the Coe home.

Bradley was abandoned by his mother shortly after birth and was raised by foster parents who warned welfare workers that they suspected the child was being abused.

Toilet Training

Reasonable Expectations



Toilet Training

A Developmental Accomplishment of the Child

- Wait for signs of readiness
- Emphasize “grown up” aspects
- Encourage to begin using toilet
- Reward success
- Ignore lapses
- Expect regressions
- No corporal punishment



Bed-Wetting Alarms

Cheapest, Safest and Most Effective Treatment

- Work on the basis of conditioned response
- Cost: One-time purchase price of \$45-60
- Effectiveness: Over 70%, with relapse rate of only 10%
- Education of parent and child in appropriate use of device is important to success
- No corporal punishment or shaming for bed-wetting accidents



School-Aged Children

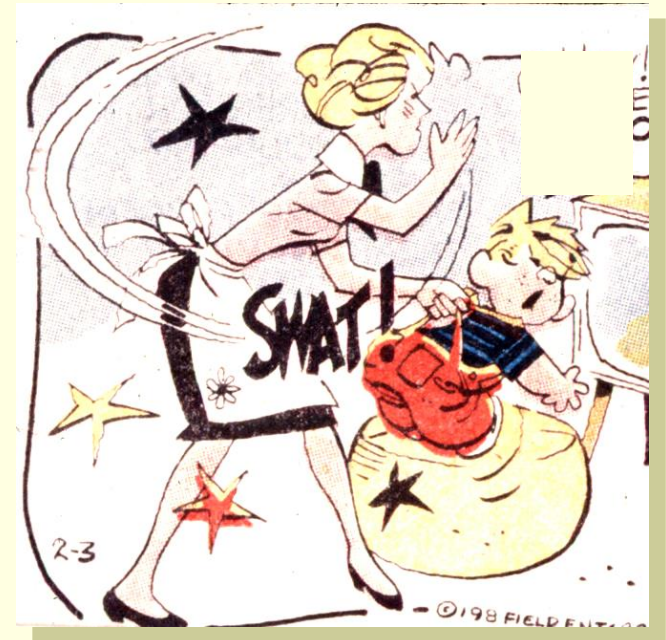
Talking Back, Not Doing Chores, Bad Report Cards



Spanking: Problems with its Use

But 80 - 90% of Parents Approve

- Risk of injury
- May increase oppositional behavior in some children or fearfulness in others
- Short term effectiveness discourages learning better alternatives
- Power eventually runs out



Discipline for Pre-School and School-Aged Children

- Many techniques more effective than spanking
 - Clearly and consistent limits
 - Family rules
 - Natural consequences
 - Restriction of privileges
 - “When...then...” choices
- Notice and reward good behaviors

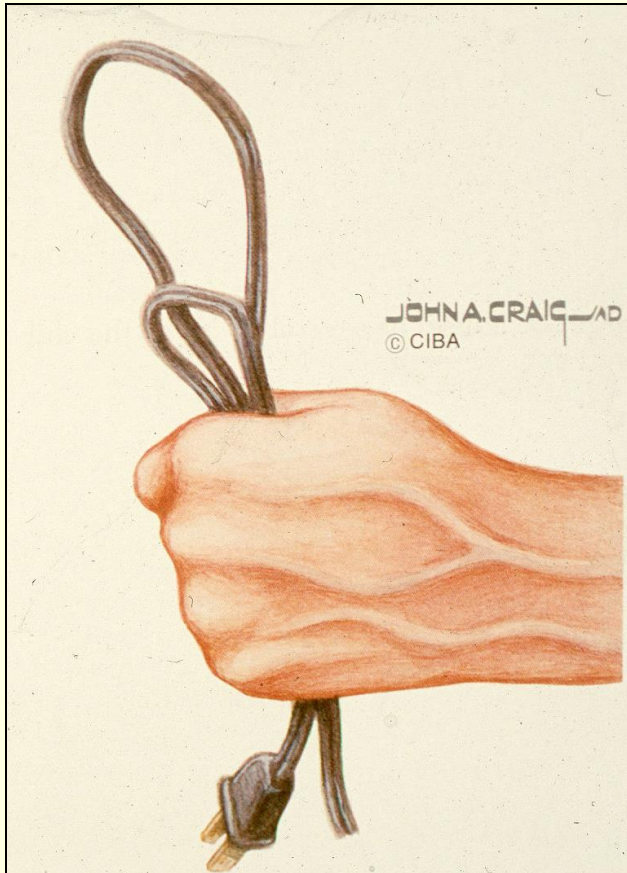


Discipline and Adolescents



Beating with Belts and Cords

Useless in Older Children and Teens



Beating with Belts and Cords

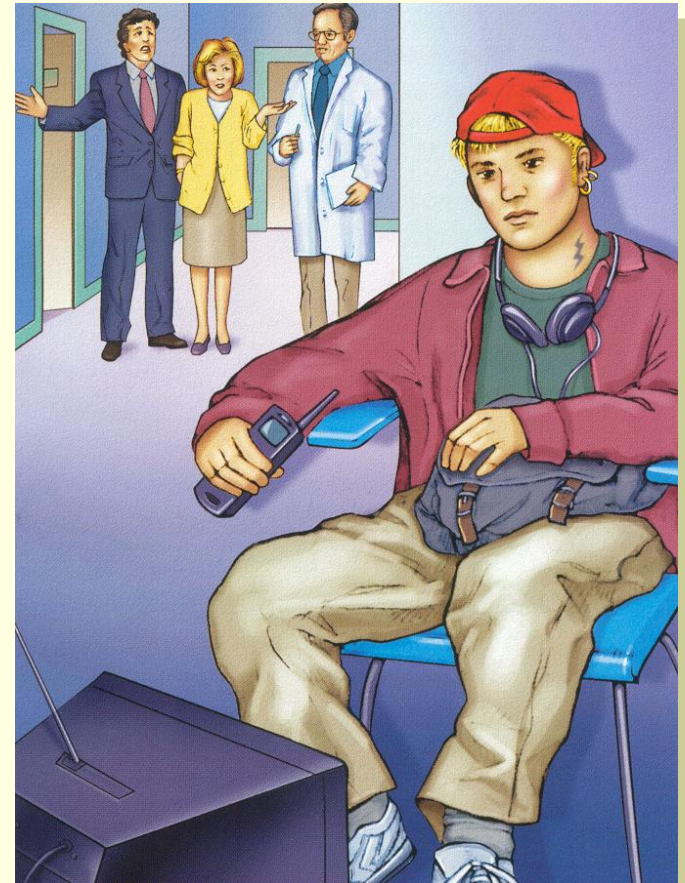
Useless in Older Children and Teens



Discipline and Adolescents

It's Payback Time!

- Discipline built on the positive relationship that has been built over time
- Parents must be realistic and accept some limits to their control
- Some flexibility and negotiating are appropriate
- Restrictions of carefully selected privileges most useful technique



Intervening in Child Abuse

Address the Underlying Issues

- Education on normal childhood development
- Education on behavior modification techniques
- Impulse control/anger management training
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Domestic violence interventions
- Day care for child
- Other services as needed
- Sheltering in an alternative safe, nurturing environment

