

What Will It Take To Make A Difference? Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect

2008 Child Abuse Conference

METRO HEALTH
SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM

Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District



Objectives

- Recognize the Rights of the Child: The Children's Charter & UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Understand the pathways that affect Children's Rights and lead to abuse and neglect
- Why we don't succeed!

The Children's Charter

- III For every child a home that love and security which a home provides
- IV For every child full preparation for his birth, his mother receiving prenatal, natal, and postnatal care
- V For every child health protection from birth through adolescence, including: periodical health examinations and, where needed, care of specialists and hospital treatment
- VII For every child a dwelling place safe, sanitary, and wholesome, with reasonable provisions for privacy, free from conditions which tend to thwart his development

UNICEF's Convention On The Rights Of The Child

- UNICEF's mission is to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- The Convention protects children's rights by setting standards in health care; education; and legal, civil and social services.
- *The Convention advocates all children should have the right to mental health and substance abuse treatment.*
- *The Convention advocates all children should have the right to a quality education that develops the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities.*

*How do these apply to
San Antonio?*

Texas' Uninsured Children

- Texas' share of uninsured children is higher than the U.S. average.
- 21 percent of Texas children are uninsured, compared to 11 percent nationally. *
- Nearly two-thirds of the uninsured children in Texas are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Nearly three-quarters of uninsured children (73.9 percent) in Texas live in households where at least one family member works full-time, year-round.**

Education Is One Of The Strongest Predictors Of Health*

- Health problems associated with dropping out of school are pregnancy, substance abuse, mental illness and behavioral problems.*
- In Bexar County, the high school dropout rate for Hispanics is 43%, for African Americans is 37%, and for Non Hispanic Whites is 23%**.
- An adequate education contributes to financial security, health literacy, good health and global competitiveness.***



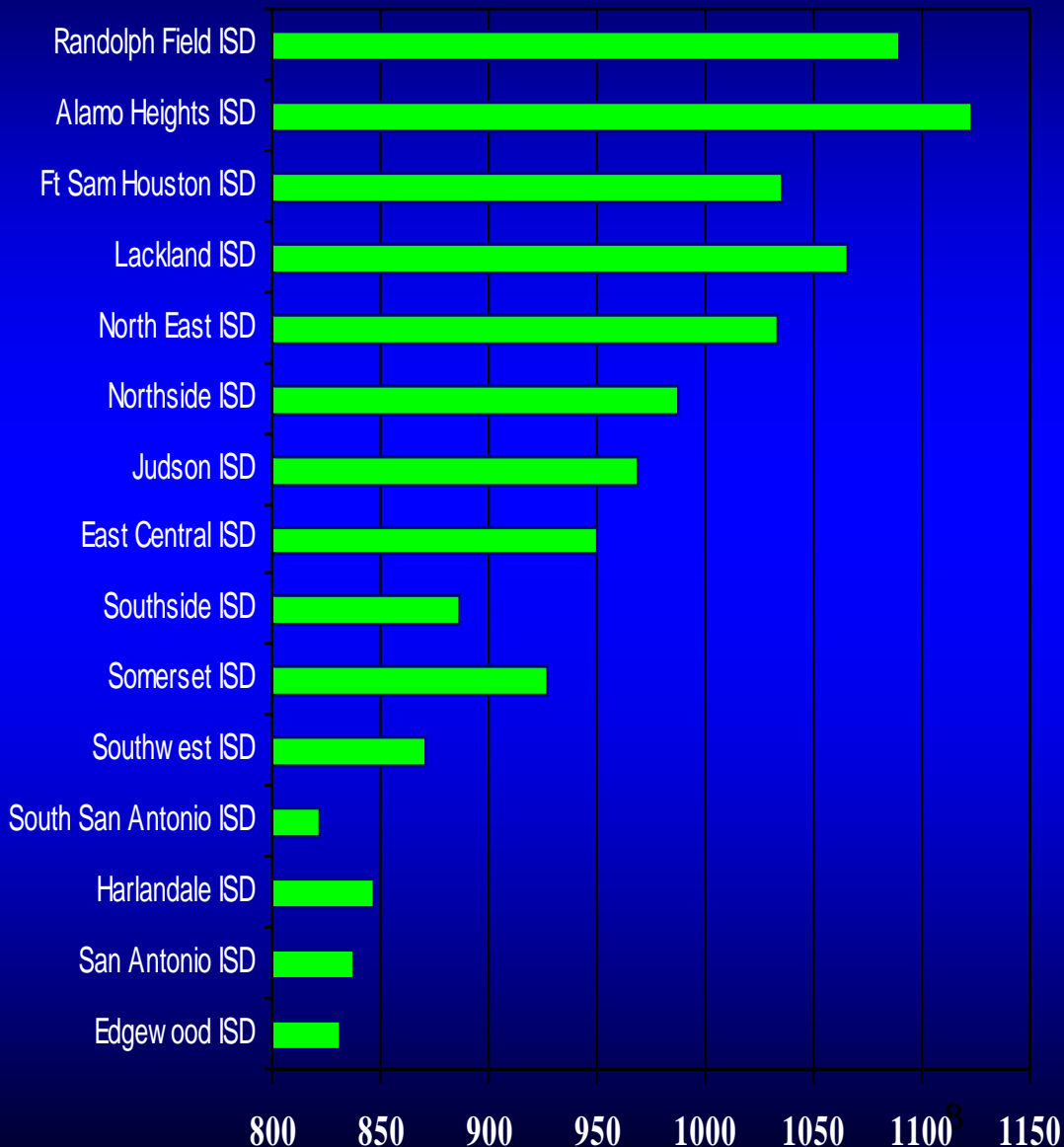
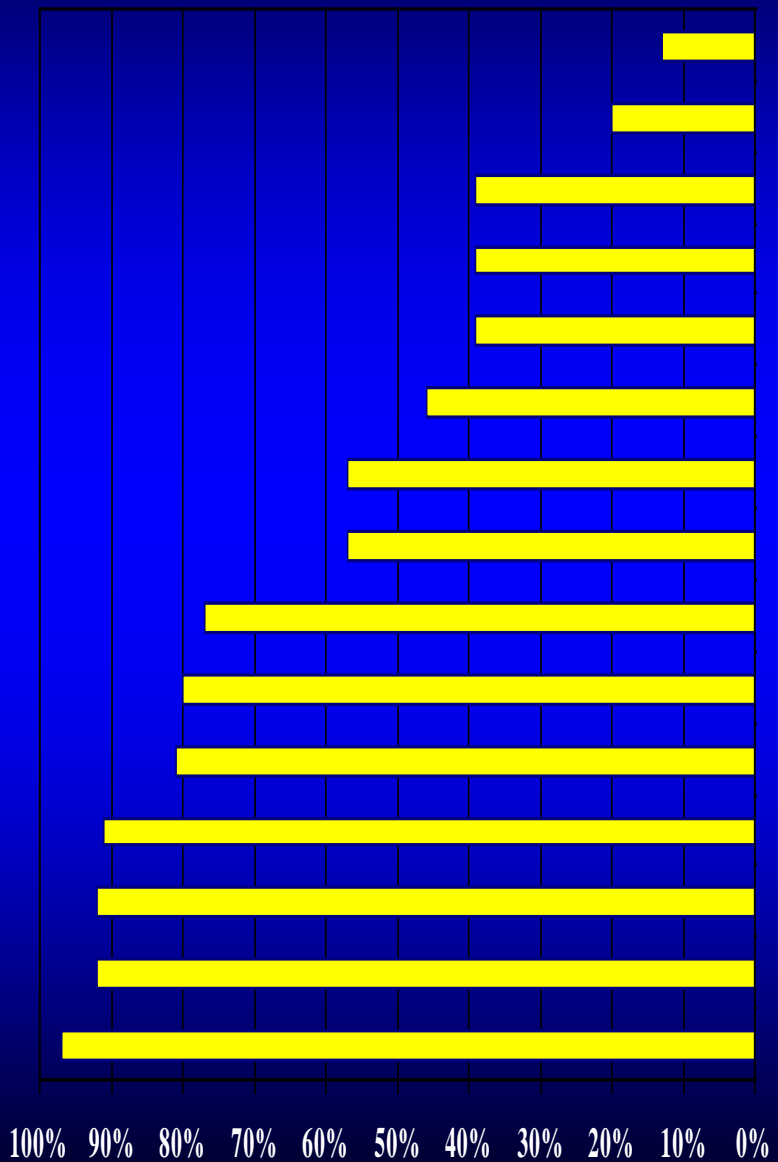
* Freudenberg N, Ruglis J. Reframing school dropout as a public health issue. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2007;4(4).

**Intercultural Development Research Association 06 /07 school year

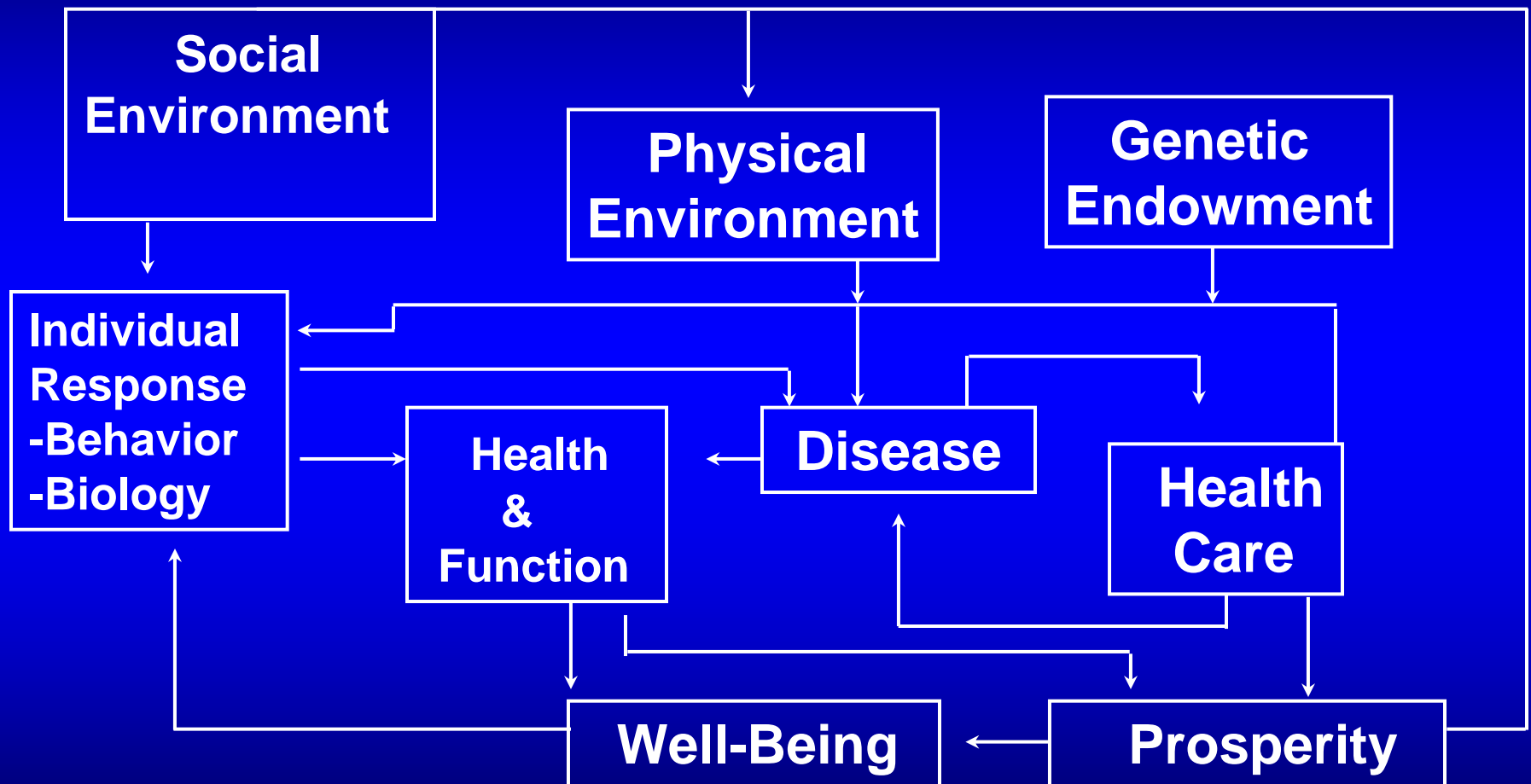
***The Public Health Approach to the Elimination of Disparities in Health, Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.

% Economically Disadvantaged Children by School District 2007-2008

SAT Mean Total Score by School District 2007-2008



A Model Of The Determinants Of Health





How Social Determinants Affect Children's Rights

For example:

- Economic downturn may increase domestic violence
- High levels of emotional stress and drug use may increase child abuse*
- Unsafe Environments
 - Deteriorated Housing stock
 - Natural Disasters

Child Abuse and Neglect Epidemiology

- The rate of child abuse in the U.S. is estimated to be 3 times greater than is reported
- Three million cases of child abuse were reported and 1 million convictions*
- Nationally, 1,530 child fatalities are estimated
- Research indicates that very young children (ages 3 and younger) are the most frequent victims of child fatalities.
- For survivors, these destructive experiences impact the developing child, increasing risk for emotional, behavioral, academic, social and physical problems throughout life

*U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Child Maltreatment Report 2003

**National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System 2006



There Is No Single Profile of a Perpetrator of Fatal Child Abuse

- A Young Adult in His or Her Mid-20s
- Without a High School Diploma
- Living at or Below the Poverty Level
- Depressed, May Have Difficulty Coping With Stressful Situations.
- In San Antonio, the offender tends to be a younger male, often with a history of incarceration in one of our juvenile detention centers.

Leading Texas Child Abuse/Neglect Related Fatalities 2007

- 31 deaths in Dallas County (4.75 per 1,00k)
- 30 deaths in Harris County (2.85 per 1,00k)
- 13 deaths in Bexar County (3.11 per 1,00k)
- 9 deaths in Tarrant County (1.95 per 1,00k)
- 223 deaths in Texas (3.65 per 1,00k)

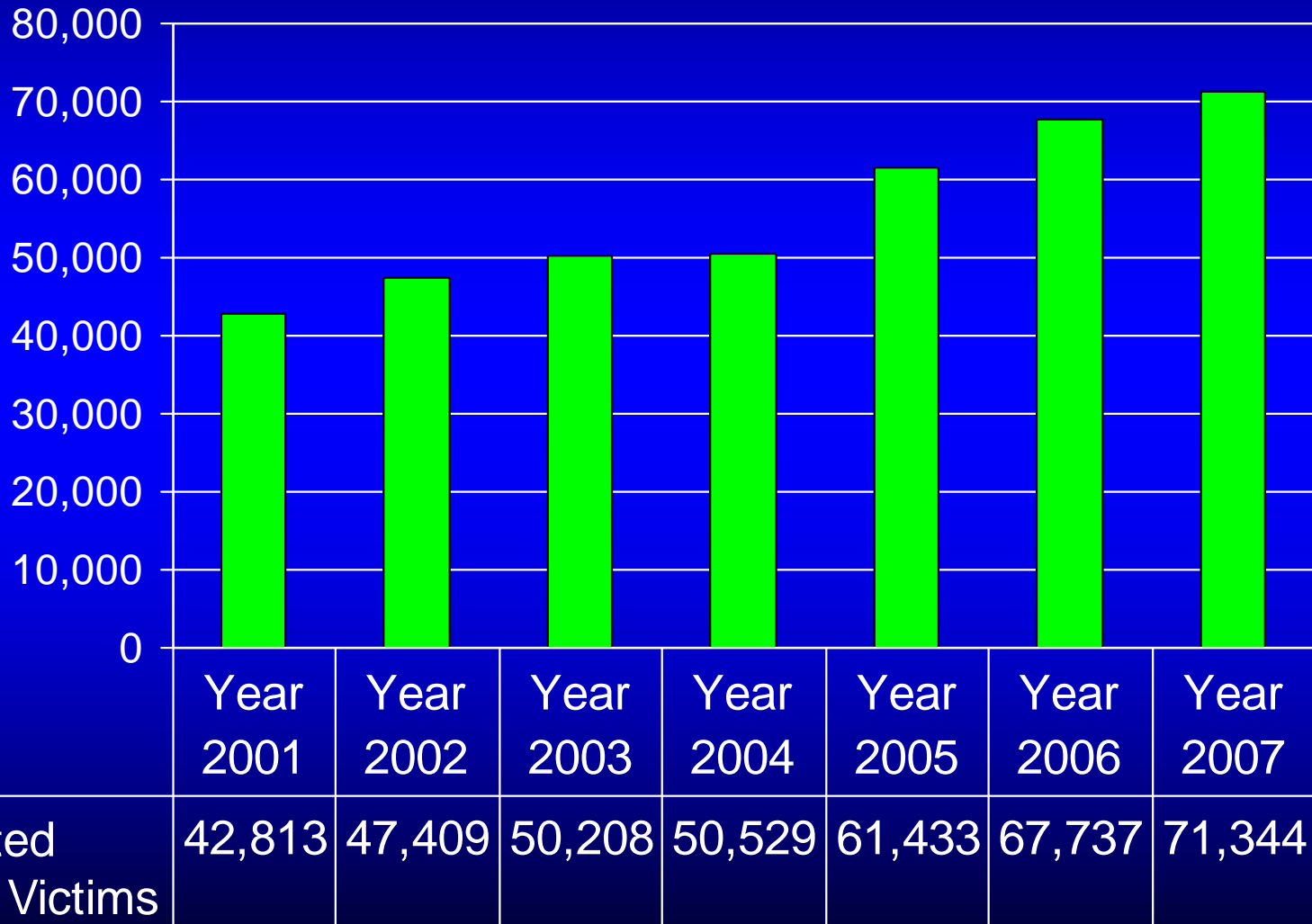
Texas Confirmed CPS Victims and Investigations 2007

- 5,443 Dallas County (8.4 per 1,000)
- 6,315 Harris County (6.0 per 1,000)
- **6,733 Bexar County (16.2 per 1,000)**
- 5,529 Tarrant County (12.0 per 1,000)
- 71,344 Texas (11.2 per 1,000)

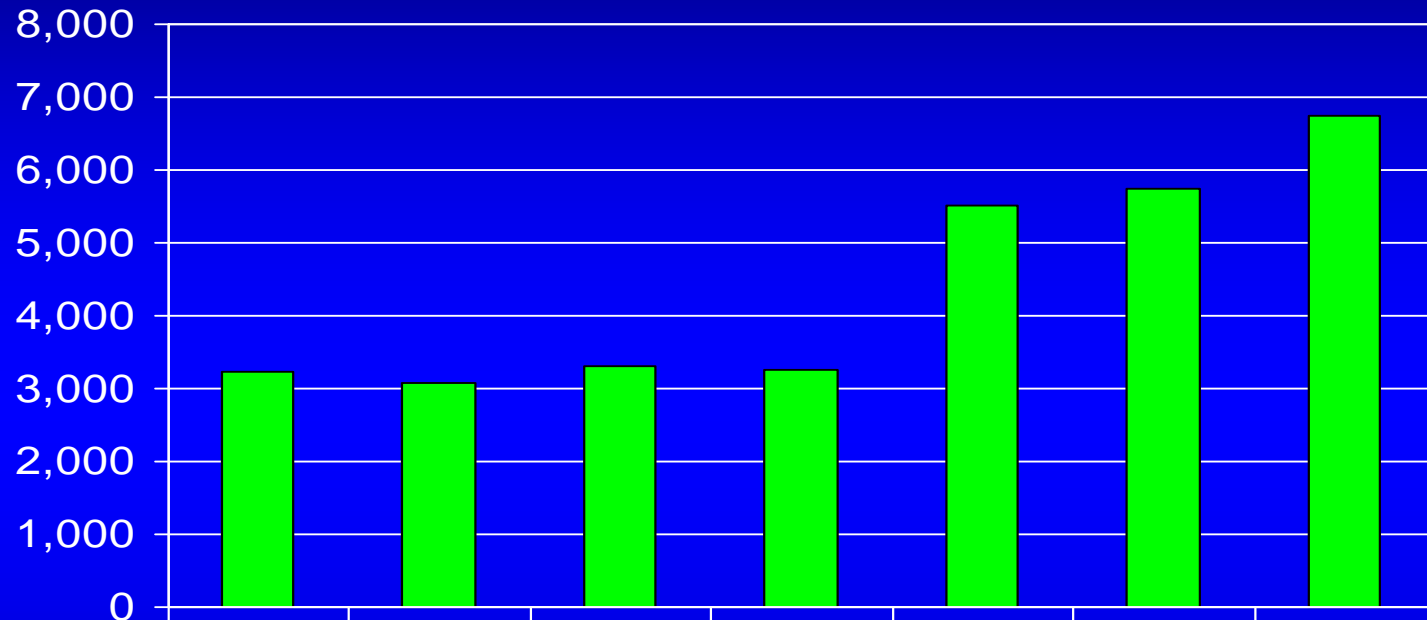
Median household income (in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)

- \$44,815 Dallas County
- \$47,129 Harris County
- \$42,860 **Bexar County**
- \$58,056 Tarrant County (2000 Income)
- \$44,922 Texas

Texas Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect



Bexar County Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect



	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007
■ Unduplicated Confirmed Victims	3,226	3,066	3,305	3,249	5,511	5,755	6,733

Bexar County Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect by Age

Age	FY2001	FY2003	FY2005	FY2007
Under 1 year	484	517	741	1,040
1-4 years	846	861	1,633	2,087
5 to 11 years	1,278	1,254	2,036	2,437
12 to 17 years	615	666	1,081	1,140
Unknown	3	7	20	29

Bexar County Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect by Race/Ethnicity

Race/ Ethnicity	FY2001	FY2003	FY2005	FY2007
Non Hispanic White	525	537	926	899
African American	424	440	754	877
Hispanic	2,196	2,270	3,710	4,684
Native American	8	5	2	2
Asian	18	8	22	10
Other	55	45	97	261





Bexar County Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect by Type of Abuse/Neglect

	FY2001	FY2003	FY2005	FY2007
Abandonment	71	30	57	28
Emotional Abuse	56	34	54	56
Medical Neglect	188	187	303	237
Neglectful Supervision	1516	1631	3465	4937
Physical Abuse	959	935	1113	1197
Physical Neglect	398	291	650	685
Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility	33	52	83	47
Sexual Abuse	496	598	667	553

Source: Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services

**Each confirmed case may involve more than one type of abuse

Bexar County Scorecard – Maternal Health

Maternal Indicators	YR 2007	HP 2010	Status
Total Births	27,156		
Mother's Age <18	1,393 5.1%	5%	
Low Birth Weight <2500g	2,546 9.4%	< 5%	
Late Prenatal Care > 1st Trimester	7,421 27.3%	<10%	
Births to Single Mothers	11,836 43.6%		
Premature <37 Weeks	3,465 12.8%	7.6%	
Medicaid Births	13,619 50.2%		
Births to mothers BMI 30 & above before pregnancy	6,797 25.0%		
Births occurring < 24 mos previous birth	4,745 17.5%		
Births to mothers with < high school / GED education	7,513 27.6%		

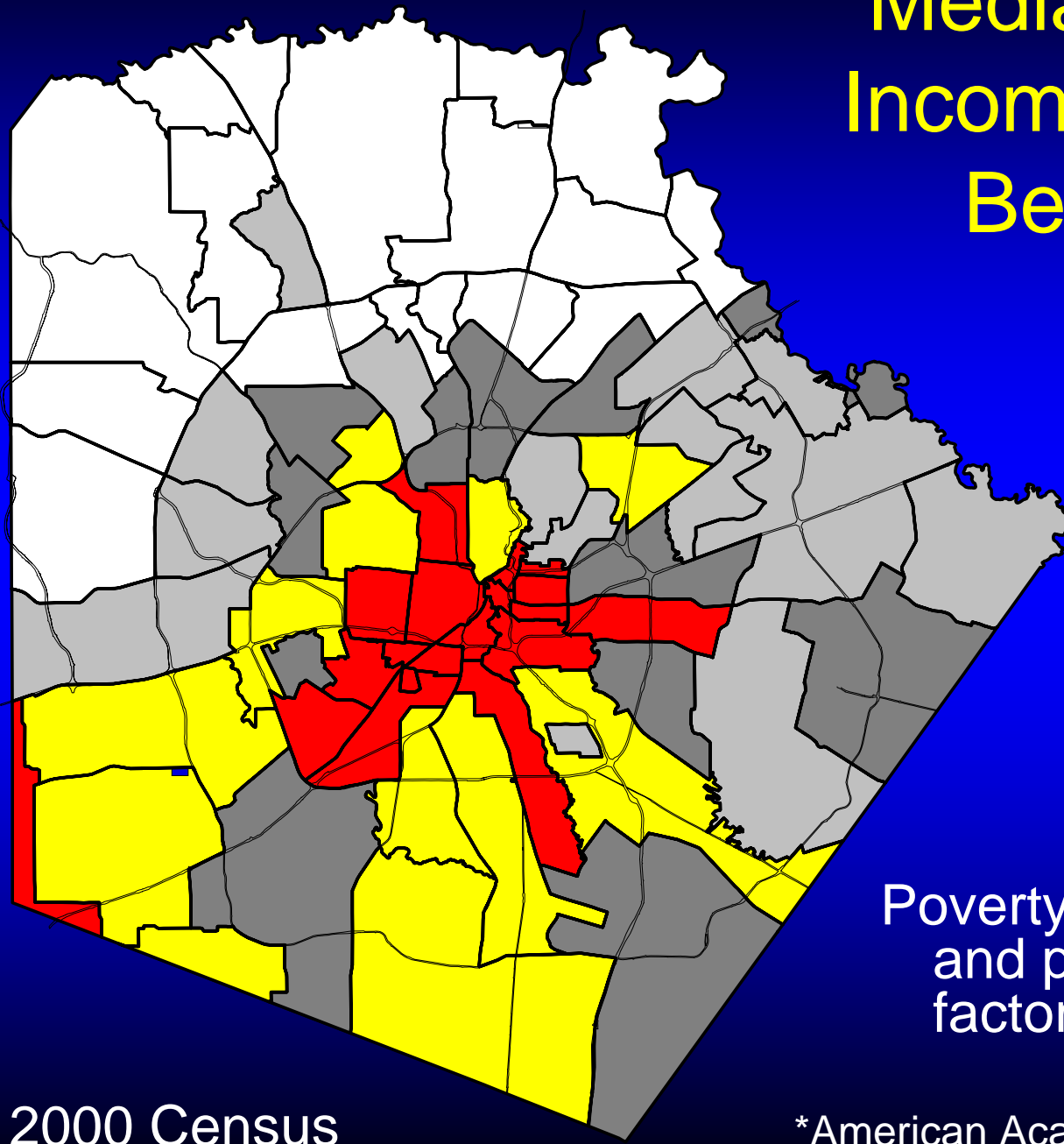
* Preliminary data subject to change.

Bexar County 2007 Births to all Mothers <22 Yrs. by Birth Order and Age

Birth Order	1	2	3	4	5	6	not given	Total
Age of Mother								
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
14	62	1	-	-	-	-	-	63
15	196	9	-	-	-	-	-	205
16	372	42	3	-	-	-	-	417
17	552	130	11	3	1	-	1	698
18	742	227	58	3	-	-	-	1,030
19	874	346	102	17	1	-	-	1,340
20	807	484	192	41	9	-	-	1,533
21	646	527	234	83	25	3	-	1,518
Total	4,261	1,766	600	147	36	3	1	6,814

* Birth order of infant not given in birth record

Median Household Income by Zip Code Bexar County



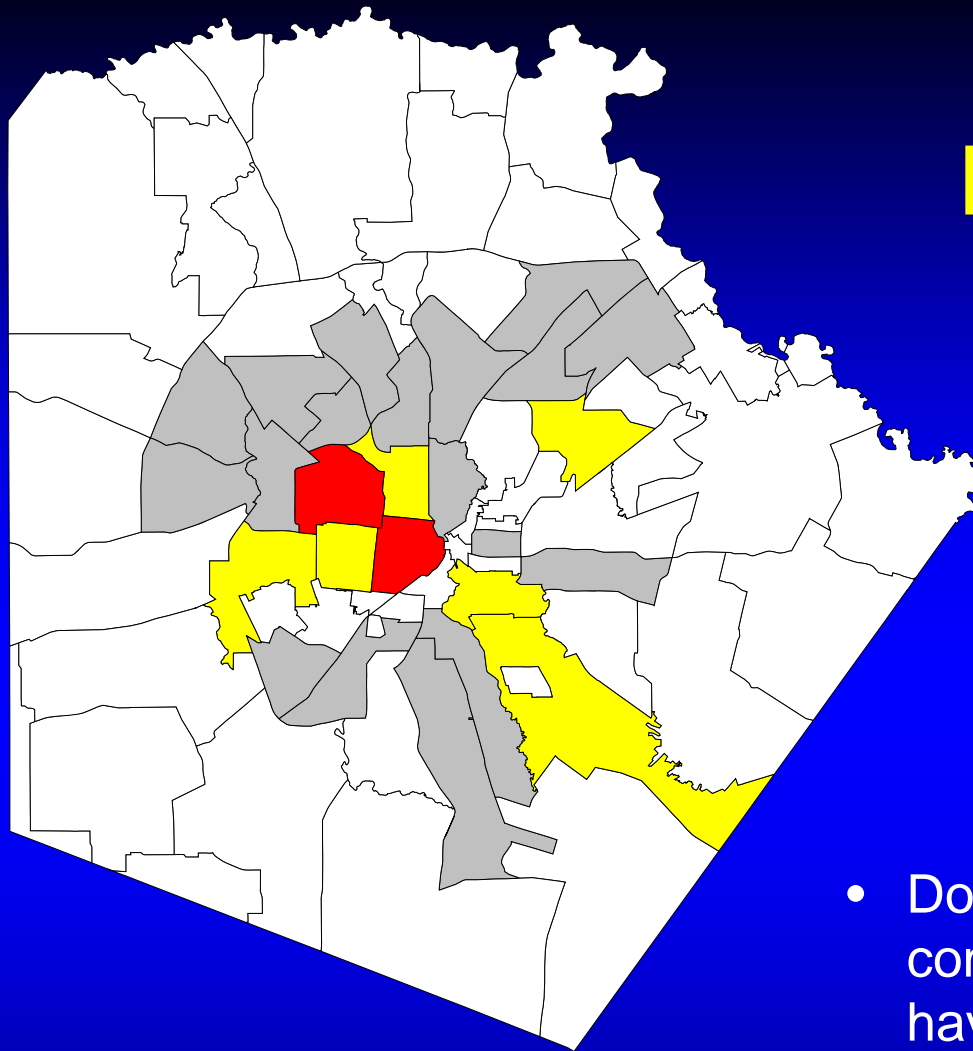
- Red: < \$27,999
- Yellow: \$28,000 to \$32,999
- Dark Grey: \$33,000 to \$44,999
- Light Grey: \$45,000 to \$57,999
- White: \$58,000 to \$101,000

Poverty is the most frequently and persistently noted risk factor for child abuse.*

2000 Census

*American Academy of Family Physicians 23

2007 SAPD Domestic Violence by Zip Code



Number of cases

600 to 817

400 to 599

200 to 399

1 to 199

11,914 Total

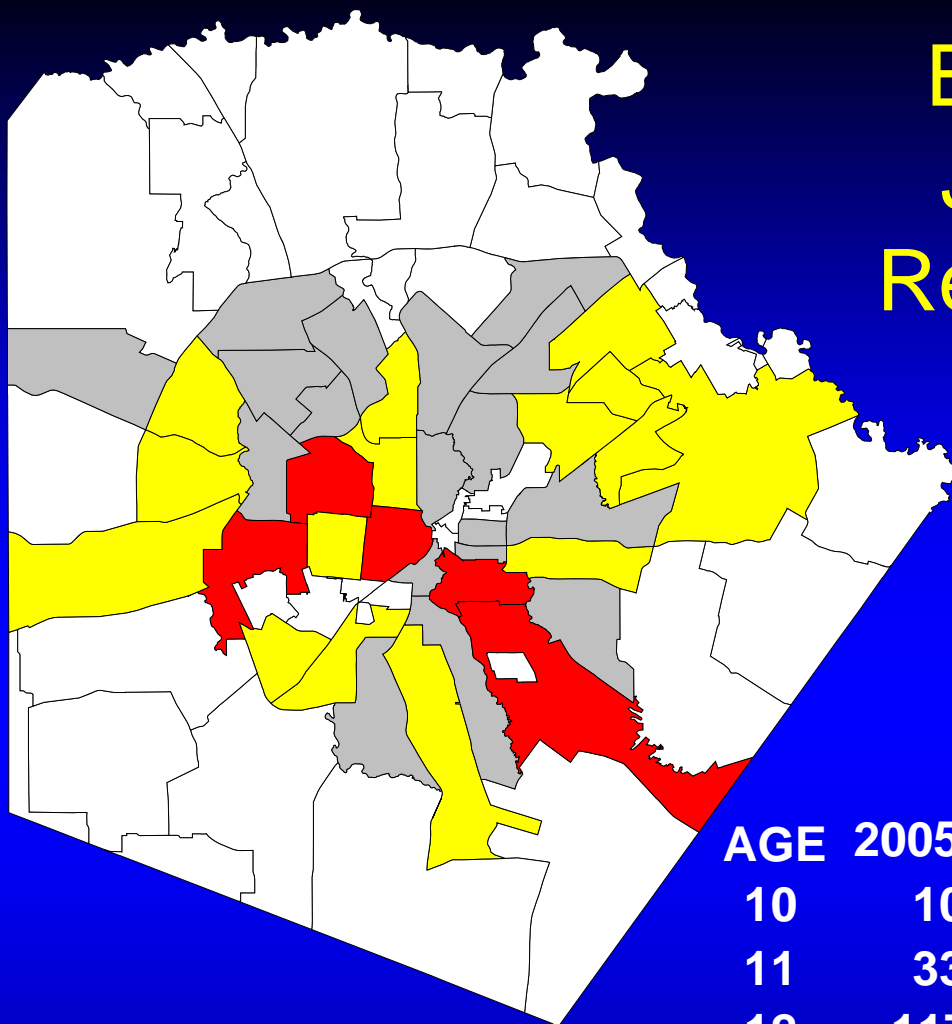
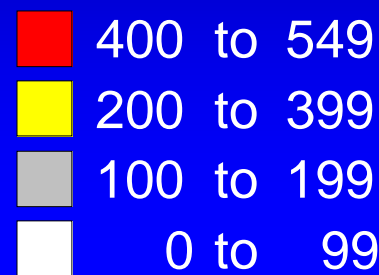
- Domestic violence: Half of men who commit acts of domestic violence also have substance-abuse problems.*
- Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present.**

*U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

**American Academy of Family Physicians

Bexar County 2007 Juvenile Probation Referrals by Zip Code

of Referrals



Females

Males

AGE	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
10	10	4	6	42	55	44
11	33	32	42	110	103	100
12	117	110	125	306	318	252
13	259	290	283	571	595	635
14	442	436	481	822	940	962
15	584	580	614	1,170	1,219	1,268
16	552	531	667	1,235	1,345	1,466
Total	1,997	1,983	2,218	4,256	4,575	4,727

Source: Bexar County
Juvenile Probation

Bexar County Special Education Services By Disability 2007-2008

Learning Disability	14,649
Speech Impairment	7,245
Other Health Impairment	4,626
Emotional Disturbance	4,011
Mental Retardation	2,054
Autism	1,809
Auditory Impairment	405
Orthopedic Impairment	379
Noncategorical Early Childhood	300
Visual Impairment	182
Traumatic Brain Injury	76
Total	35,736

Disabled children are physically abused at twice the rate of other children, sexually abused at nearly twice the rate and emotionally neglected at almost three times the rate*

Bexar County Total Student Population 299,943

* National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect 1993.

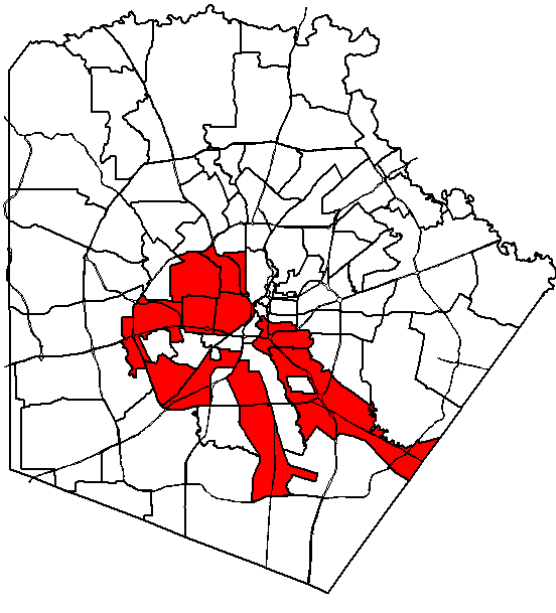
Place Matters



- Mothers with less than a high school education / GED, teen mothers, single mothers and low-income mothers are concentrated in the ten zip codes.
- Researchers have connected this cohort with domestic violence, juvenile crime, alcohol abuse, drug addiction, and school failure.
- The physician who is concerned for the welfare of children should be an advocate for more accessible, affordable and high-quality child and health care in the local community

2007 Health Disparities

10 Zip Codes of 72 (area in Red), account for 30% of population,
% of Bexar County Totals



82% Hispanic, 3%
African American
Median Household
Income \$26,824

	% of County
Births to mothers with < HS/ GED ed.	50.2%
Births To Mothers Age <18	49.9%
Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse/Neglect	44.5%
Medicaid Births	43.5%
Single Mother Births	42.6%
Domestic Violence	41.7%
Juvenile Probation	40.2%
Births To Mothers BMI 30+ before pregnancy	38.7%
Births within 24 Months Of Previous Birth	38.6%
Late Prenatal Care Births	38.1%
Premature Births <37 Weeks	36.4%
Low Birth Weight Births	34.8%

“Take Time Out!”
“Don't Take It Out on Your Child”



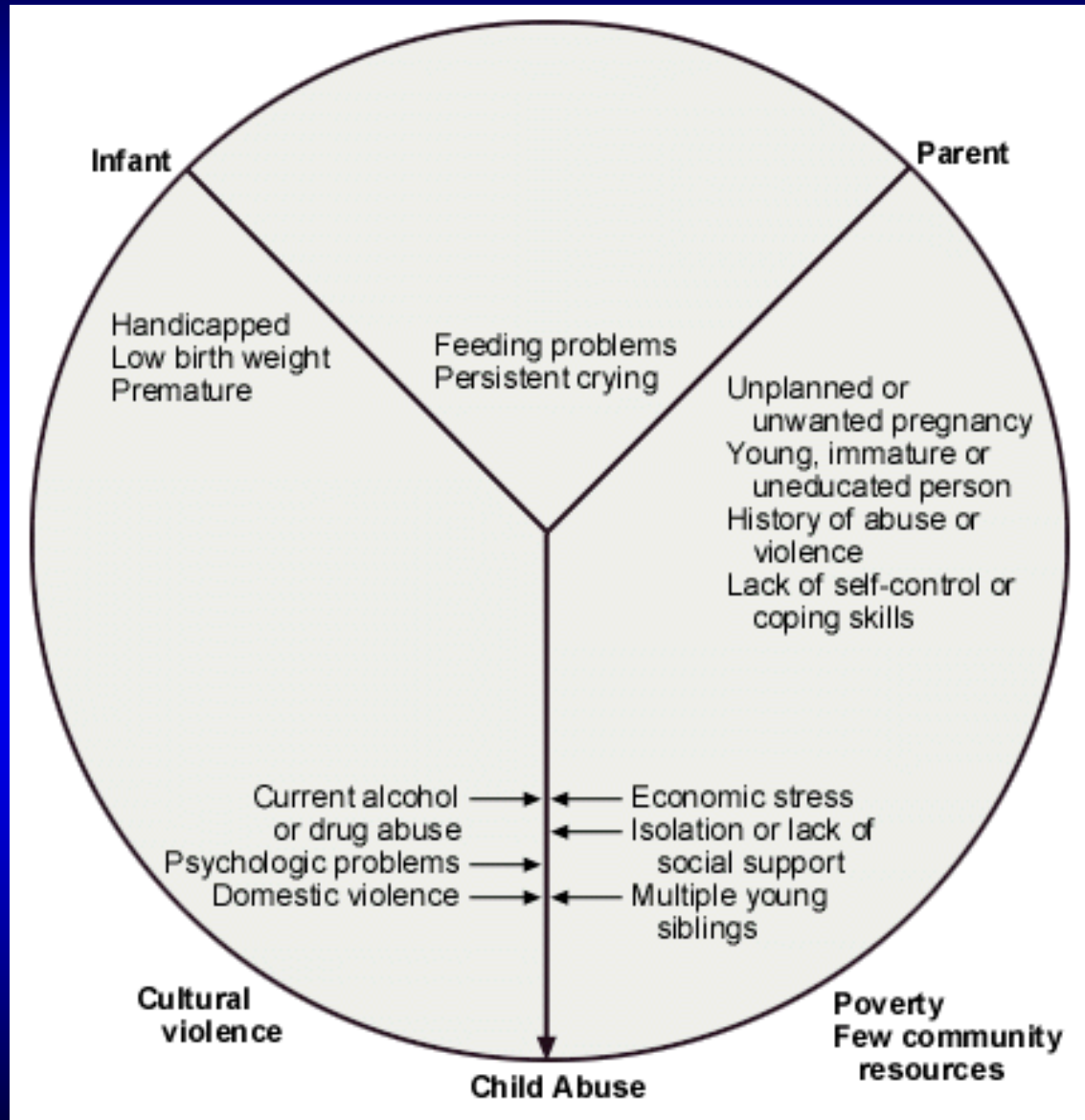
Causes of Child Abuse

- Research initiated by the National Research Council's Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect signal the first important step away from simple cause-and-effect models.
- To replace the old static model, the panel has substituted what it calls an "ecologic" model. This model considers the origin of all forms of child abuse to be a complex interactive process with poverty being a common contributor
- This ecologic model views child abuse within a system of risk and protective factors interacting across four levels: (1) the individual, (2) the family, (3) the community and (4) the society.

Risk Factors for Child Abuse

- Parent-related
 - Lack of social support
 - Domestic violence
 - Lack of parenting skills
 - History of mental health problems
 - Multiple young children
 - Unwanted pregnancy
 - Denial of pregnancy
 - Teenage parents
 - Single parent
 - Emotional immaturity
 - Poor coping skills
 - Low self-esteem
 - History of substance abuse
 - Personal history of abuse as a child
- Community/societal
 - High crime rate
 - Lack of or few social services
 - High poverty rate
 - High unemployment rate
- Child-related
 - Prematurity
 - Low birth weight
 - Handicap

“Ecologic” Model, Risk Factors for Child Abuse



Primary prevention prevents child abuse before it occurs (community level)

- Make children a priority
- Insure an adequate education and increase the economic self-sufficiency of families
- Make health care more accessible and affordable, expanding and improving coordination of social services
- Improve the identification and treatment of psychological problems, and alcohol and drug abuse
- Provide more affordable child care and prevent the birth of unplanned/unwanted children.
- Integrate data from various sources for public health surveillance, reporting, policy-making, and allocation of resources.

Primary prevention prevents child abuse before it occurs (family level)

- In all actions consider the best interests of the child
- Both parents have responsibilities for the upbringing of the child.
- Help parents meet their basic needs. The first thing parents need is assistance in meeting their basic requirements for food, shelter, clothing, safety and medical care.
- Identify problems of substance abuse and spouse abuse. Other issues that need attention include financial concerns, and employment and legal problems
- Educate parents about child behavior, discipline, safety and development.

San Antonio Predictive Model

- A team of physicians, public health professionals and statisticians are working on developing models which will identify those factors which have the greatest impact on predicting child abuse.
- The process starts with a referral to an organization or person. This depends on recognizing signs of child abuse and understanding appropriate referral.
- Intake forms: should be standardized or they may not identify common risk factors.
- Integrate data from various sources for public health surveillance, reporting, policy-making, and allocation of resources.
- A predictive model would supply local factors that impact child abuse. San Antonio's young mothers (<22) may play a key role in our high rates of child abuse.

Recommendations

- Advocate for quality, affordable and universally available child care
- Advocate for community respite care for parents accessible 24 hrs a day
- Reduce unplanned and unwanted childbearing
- Advocate for community alcohol and drug treatment, mental health, and spouse and child abuse centers
- Integrate data from various sources for public health surveillance, reporting, policy-making, and develop predictive modeling approaches to prevent abuse/neglect.
- Support universal health care for children.
- Nurse Family Partnership

“If a man or society taints a child’s childhood, brutalizes it, strikes it down, and corrupts it with fear and bad dreams, then he maims that child forever and the judgment on that man or society will be terrible and eternal.”

Ned O’Gorman, “Storefront”



If you have any questions, call John
Berlanga 210-207-6976 or email
john.berlanga@sanantonio.gov