

RURAL CHILD ABUSE

The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire recently released an issue brief that compares the incidences of reported child abuse in rural areas of the country to those in urban areas of the country.

The writers of the report looked at data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being. Their analysis shows that, “types of child maltreatment in rural families tend to mirror child abuse in urban places...however, those rural families who have been reported to Child Protective Services are more likely than those reported in urban areas to experience high family stress and financial difficulties.”¹



For more information

Prevent Child Abuse America
<http://www.preventchildabuse.org>

Similarities

According to the report, child neglect (failure by the caregiver to provide needed age-appropriate care), is the most common type of reported child maltreatment in rural areas. Child neglect accounted for 46.3% of reports in rural areas. This is very similar to the 46.5% of child neglect reports in urban areas.

The profile of risk factors associated with child maltreatment in both urban and rural areas was also found to be similar in a number of ways including: almost one-half of families had a prior Child Protective Services (CPS) report; almost one-half of the caregivers had mental health issues and more than 60% of caregivers (both urban and rural) reported low social support.

Differences

The researchers found statistically significant differences between rural and urban areas. They noted in particular that 60% of rural caregivers reported high family stress compared to 50% of urban caregivers; almost one in three rural families who were reported to CPS had trouble meeting basic financial needs compared to slightly over one in five urban families and drug use was less common in homes of rural children reported to CPS (8% vs. 13% in urban homes).

Conclusion

The researchers conclude that rural families are facing chronic stressors that may be compounded by geographic isolation and the lack of support services. The report suggests that making child abuse prevention services such as home visitation programs more accessible in rural areas would be beneficial.

For the full report

¹Marybeth J. Mattingly and Wendy A. Walsh, “Rural Families with a Child Abuse Report are More Likely Headed by a Single Parent and Endure Economic and Family Stress” Carsey Institute, Issue Brief No. 10, Winter 2010. <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/FS-Mattingly-Childabuse.pdf>

ENTER MONTH/YEAR

**UPDATE ON THE
FARM & RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE
NETWORK**

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill (Section 7522). It is designed to provide stress assistance programs to persons engaged in farming, ranching and other agriculture-related occupations through farm telephone hotlines and websites, professional behavioral health counseling, community education, support groups, outreach services and home delivery of services when necessary.

Although authorized the FRSAN has not yet been funded. This year Congress is again taking up the matter of funding existing services in the Midwest, expanding a New York program and initiating services in Texas. Eventual expansion to all agricultural areas of the country is planned.

Congress is considering funding for this authorized program during its committee meetings. If you would like to register your opinion about the FRSAN, please contact your senator or representative. To locate contact information you may visit:

U. S. Senate

<http://www.senate.gov/>

U.S. House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov/>

INSERT TEXT OR LOGO HERE.

www.website.com

OVERALL WOMEN CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 4-5, 2010

Join other women involved in or affected by agriculture at the 6th annual Overall Women Conference set for Feb. 4-5, 2010. The conference, coordinated by Iowa State University Extension, will take place at the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf. The conference began in 2005 in an effort to meet the needs of rural women, whether they are managing their own farm operation, as a business partner impacted by the farm economy or just wanting to learn more about today's agriculture. Cyndi Young, farm director and manager of Brownfield Ag News will give the keynote address entitled "Stand Up for Agriculture". More than 20 breakout sessions will be offered covering topics ranging from agritourism to tax planning to grain marketing. Sure to engage and inspire, make plans now to attend!

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/overallwomen/home.html>