

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 427 887

PS 027 392

TITLE Child Abuse and Neglect: Protecting Massachusetts Children.  
INSTITUTION Massachusetts KIDS COUNT, Boston.  
SPONS AGENCY Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, New York, NY.; Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.  
PUB DATE 1998-00-00  
NOTE 13p.  
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom (055) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)  
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.  
DESCRIPTORS \*At Risk Persons; Change Strategies; \*Child Abuse; Child Health; \*Child Neglect; \*Child Welfare; \*Children; Demography; Social Indicators; Stress Variables; Violence; Well Being  
IDENTIFIERS Indicators; \*Massachusetts

ABSTRACT

This Massachusetts Kids Count report focuses on child abuse and neglect in the state of Massachusetts and presents recommendations for alleviating stressors contributing to child maltreatment. The report presents incidence information and identifies the impact of child abuse on future risk status. In addition, the report differentiates the 12 Massachusetts cities/towns with the highest and lowest child maltreatment reporting rates with regard to factors associated with child maltreatment such as poverty and teen birth rate. The report describes how Massachusetts responds to reports of suspected and confirmed abuse and neglect cases. It also details strategies to alleviate the stressors contributing to child maltreatment in Massachusetts, including: (1) bringing children out of poverty; (2) enhancing efforts to address domestic violence; (3) incorporating strength-based family support as a child protection response; and (4) expanding the role of multidisciplinary assessment teams and including families in identifying needed supports. The report concludes with suggestions for citizen advocacy.  
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