

Risk Factors for Child Abuse Victimization

Individual Risk Factors

- Children younger than 4 years of age
- Children with special needs that may increase caregiver burden (e.g., disabilities, mental health issues, and chronic physical illnesses)

Risk Factors for Perpetration

Individual Risk Factors

- Caregivers with drug or alcohol issues
- Caregivers with mental health issues, including depression
- Caregivers who don't understand children's needs or development
- Caregivers who were abused or neglected as children
- Caregivers who are young or single parents or parents with many children
- Caregivers with low education or income
- Caregivers experiencing high levels of parenting stress or economic stress
- Caregivers who use spanking and other forms of corporal punishment for discipline
- Caregivers in the home who are not a biological parent
- Caregivers with attitudes accepting of or justifying violence or aggression

Family Risk Factors

- Families that have household members in jail or prison
- Families that are isolated from and not connected to other people (extended family, friends, neighbors)
- Families experiencing other types of violence, including relationship violence
- Families with high conflict and negative communication styles

Community Risk Factors

- Communities with high rates of violence and crime
- Communities with high rates of poverty and limited educational and economic opportunities
- Communities with high unemployment rates
- Communities with easy access to drugs and alcohol
- Communities where neighbors don't know or look out for each other and there is low community involvement among residents
- Communities with few community activities for young people
- Communities with unstable housing and where residents move frequently
- Communities where families frequently experience food insecurity

Content source: [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention](#)