



The Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053

[Home](#) [Membership](#) [Branch & Community Info](#) [ACT-SO / IndyWIN](#) [Education](#) [F.Y.I.](#) [NAACP News](#) [Photo Gallery 1](#)



Child Abuse Prevention Forum



The Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053's IndyWIN Committee
presented a Child Abuse Prevention Forum
Monday, April 20, 2015, 5pm - 7pm
at the College Avenue Branch Library

Featured during the program were presenters Sandy Runkle, Estefania Magana, and Jane Bisbee from organizations that deal with child and domestic abuse. Topics discussed during the forum were the signs of and ways to prevent child abuse and the many sources of help available in our community.

Other participants in the program were: Ellynn Osborne - IndyWIN Chair, Ira Mai Steele - IndyWIN Co-Chair, Chrystal Ratcliffe - Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053 President, Rev. Dr. Samuel Murray - LWCC, Marc Bessiake - LWCC, and Carolyn Stanback - IndyWIN Chaplain.



Featured Speakers/Presenters:
Left to right

Estefania Magana
Latino Affairs Liaison, Latino Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence Inc.

Sandy Runkle
Director of Programs at Prevent Child Abuse Indiana
See Sandy Runkle's comments on Child Abuse in the Indianapolis Recorder:



Beware: Not All Child Abuse Is Obvious

Jane Bisbee
Deputy Director of Dept. of Child Services Field Operation

Child Abuse Statistics & Facts:
[Click here for graphic: https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/](https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/)

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Raising Awareness and Fostering Solutions

Each year in the United States, more than four children die each day as a result of child abuse. Most are under the age of three. In 2013, an estimated 1,520 children died as a result of child abuse and neglect.

Child abuse, as defined by Childhelp, is when a parent or caregiver, through action or a failure to act, causes injury, death and emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a child. There are many forms of maltreatment including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, and emotional abuse.

According to the National Children’s Alliance, an estimated 679,000 children in the U.S. were victims of abuse and neglect in 2013. Of all reported child abuse fatalities, 80 percent were caused by one or more of the child’s parents. Sometimes it is easy to ignore the unseen epidemic that happens within the homes of others. People may believe it’s not their business or that it could never happen to their child. But the numbers reveal something else, and the reality of this widespread problem not only affects the child and their family, but society as a whole. To have a society that truly respects humanity and the welfare of children, it is everyone’s responsibility to get involved and protect the defenseless.

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana offers some reasons to get involved:

- * To help prevent child fatalities caused by abuse.
- * To help prevent child abuse victims from repeating the same acts on their own children.
- * To help prevent the short- and long-term consequences from which a child may suffer, such as brain damage; developmental delays; aggressive behaviors; depression and other mental health issues; and problems forming relationships.
- * To help build a society full of compassion, and to support the valuable lives that will make our world a better place tomorrow. As a community, we must encourage safe, stable and nurturing environments. This means improving parent-child relationships by teaching positive parenting skills, like good communication, appropriate discipline, and response to children’s physical and emotional needs. Support systems must be created for parents, and linking families to services, resources, and opportunities is critical.

If you suspect a child is being harmed, immediately contact Child Protective Services at 1-800 - 800-5556 or the National Child Abuse Hotline, available 24-hours a day, at 1-800-4-A-CHILD. All reports are confidential and can remain anonymous. Under Indiana law, every person in the state is considered a mandated reporter. Anyone who has reason to believe a child is a victim of abuse or neglect has the responsibility to make a report. The Marion County Public Health Department’s Social Work department has a professional and compassionate staff, including highly-trained social workers who are able to offer support and counsel.

Any Marion county resident who is experiencing problems or concerns related to social, financial, psychological, and environmental needs should call 317-221-2364. The Mother Baby Healthline is a free, confidential information and referral telephone service provided by the Marion County Public Health Department. A professional social work staff member can help provide information and referrals to various resources and agencies including, but not limited to, the WIC program, prenatal care, Medicaid, pediatrics, infant supplies, parenting classes, mental health, and more. To get connected, please call 317-221-BABY (2229).

(Sources: Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, National Children’s Alliance, Childhelp)

