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STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canadian study on Corporal Punishment Raises Questions about Long Term Harm

CHICAGO, IL, February 10, 2012- Corporal punishment may cause cognitive impairment and impact the areas of the brain relevant to intelligence testing, according to a study published this week in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/lifestyle/02/08/12/spanking-kids-can-cause-long-term-harm-canada-study>).

In addition, Dr. Joan Durant a co-author of the study said, "What people have realized is that physical punishment doesn't only predict aggression consistently, it also predicts internalizing kinds of difficulties, like depression and substance use... There are no studies that show any long term positive outcomes from physical punishment."

The study further provides parents and caregivers with information illustrating the importance of a life long bond with their child, a fundamental element of healthy child development and a successful transition to be a contributing member of society

"The results of this study illustrate the importance of intensive home visitation services, such as our signature program, Healthy Families America (HFA)," stated James M. Hmurovich, President & CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America. "HFA services provide parents and caretakers with positive discipline the appropriate developmental information and options for both raising and disciplining their children, such as giving time-outs, explaining rules, or taking away privileges, which have long been shown to be more effective than corporal punishment."

In an era where budget cuts in the United States are continually under discussion, the analysis is also a reminder that our nation's ability to develop future generations today is more beneficial than fixing both individuals and society later.

"This study lends tremendous support to the vision of our federal policymakers for funding home visitation funds as contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," added Hmurovich. "The benefits that result from thriving children eventually translate to communities that are better equipped to be competitive in a global economy and to the perception that our nation can be seen as one that establishes child and family well-being as a fundamental right of its citizens."



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ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972, works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide while recognizing that child development is a building block for community development and economic development. We believe that communities across the country are doing innovative things with great results to prevent abuse and neglect from ever occurring, and what we need to do as a nation is commit to bringing this kind of ingenuity to communities everywhere. Based in Chicago, Prevent Child Abuse America has chapters in 49 states and over 400 Healthy Families America, home visitation sites in 37 states, the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and Canada. For more information, please visit www.preventchildabuse.org and www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org.