

# Cost of Child Abuse & Neglect in U.S. Estimated at \$258 Million Per Day

In 2001, Prevent Child Abuse America released a report estimating that the United States spends \$258 million each day as a direct or indirect result of the abuse and neglect of our nation's children. The estimate includes the direct costs associated with intervening to help, and treating the medical and emotional problems suffered by abused and neglected children, as well as the indirect costs associated with the long-term consequences of abuse and neglect

to both the individual and society at large. The annual costs are equivalent to \$1,461.66 per U.S. family.

The data used to obtain the total cost to society was based on research from a variety of sources, which was then compared with data relating to child abuse and neglect. Since conservative estimates were used, the actual annual cost of child maltreatment in the United States could be higher than its estimate of \$94 billion per year.

## Total Daily Cost of Child Abuse & Neglect in the United States

Direct Costs	Estimated Daily Cost
Health Care System	
Hospitalization	\$17,001,082
Chronic Health Problems	\$8,186,185
Mental Health Care System	\$1,164,686
Child Welfare System	\$39,452,054
Law Enforcement	\$67,698
Judicial System	\$934,725
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$66,806,430</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	
Special Education	\$612,624
Mental Health and Health Care	\$12,678,455
Juvenile Delinquency	\$24,124,086
Lost Productivity to Society	\$1,797,260
Adult Criminality	\$151,726,027
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$190,938,452</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$257,744,882</b>

*Note:* Citations should refer to full report, available at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)  
Fromm, S. (2001) Annual Cost of Child Maltreatment, Prevent Child Abuse America

