

Abuse in the world of CoVID

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Case Scenario

- ▶ 9-year-old male referred to Child Safety Team Clinic for bruising
- ▶ Patient reportedly said that his mother spanked him with a belt because he wasn't doing his homework.
- ▶ During his interview patient reports that he always gets spankings but since he's been doing school at home "things have gotten terrible."

It's happened before:

- ▶ Similar to what we saw during the 2008/2009 Recession
 - ▶ Leading cause of death from trauma changed from MVA to AHT
- ▶ Natural Disasters cause an increase in both IPV and child abuse
 - ▶ Hurricane Harvey 2019

Things to Consider:

- ▶ Increase stress at home
 - ▶ Loss of jobs, strained finances
 - ▶ Disconnected from social support system
 - ▶ Lack of resources
 - ▶ Childcare/Daycare
 - ▶ Food shortages
 - ▶ Increased togetherness
 - ▶ Anxiety about getting sick
 - ▶ Stress of homeschooling
- ▶ Children have less contact with mandated reporters
 - ▶ Teachers, daycare providers
 - ▶ Friends and other family members
- ▶ Calls to child abuse hotlines have gone down
 - ▶ Concern for significant under reporting

Things to Consider:

- ▶ Cases that are being seen tend to have more severe injuries
- ▶ LGBTQ+ youth are at increased risk for family rejection, abuse, homelessness, and serious mental health morbidities (including suicide)
- ▶ Make sure you're talking about gun safety
 - ▶ Increase in home shootings (accidental and intentional)

Intimate Partner Violence

- ▶ Dramatic spike in first two weeks of lockdown
 - ▶ People afraid of being locked down with their partners
 - ▶ Then it started to level off
- ▶ Another spike once restrictions lift
 - ▶ People can get out to get help

Resources in our community

▶ Child Safety Team

- ▶ Always have a provider on call
- ▶ Always available to see physical abuse concerns within 24-48 hours
- ▶ Happy to help triage concerns for sexual abuse

▶ HelpMate

- ▶ Hotline: (828) 254-0516
 - ▶ Three way call
 - ▶ Ask for “Warm Transfer” or Direct Patch Through
- ▶ May 1st opened an auxiliary shelter at an area hotel (Women and Children)
- ▶ Court Advocates still available to help get protective orders

Resources in our community

- ▶ Family Justice Center
 - ▶ Should be there for intake during business hours
 - ▶ Most working from home
- ▶ Our Voice
 - ▶ Crisis Hotline - (828) 255-7576
 - ▶ Counseling Services online or via phone
- ▶ SANE Evaluations
 - ▶ STAT Cases - **828-772-1681**
 - ▶ Still available at both the FJC and Mission Emergency Department

