

PRIMARY PREVENTION of Child Abuse and Neglect

All children need safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments to thrive. Achieving this goal requires **bold** strategies that support parents and caregivers to create the conditions for positive child development.

5 of the top 10 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH are associated with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

5 of the original 10 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) **ARE CATEGORIZED AS ABUSE AND NEGLECT**



CHILD MALTREATMENT IS COSTLY.

North Carolina is spending in excess of **\$2 BILLION DOLLARS** every year on a preventable problem¹.



Greater focus on preventing child abuse and neglect before happening in the first place yields significant cost reductions later while simultaneously improving outcomes for children and families. These approaches are known as primary prevention.

KEY PRIMARY PREVENTION STRATEGIES:



Voluntary, evidence-based **home visiting**

e.g., *Family Connects, Nurse Family Partnership*



Parenting education, support, & training

e.g., *Triple P, Circle of Parents, Incredible Years*



Quality, affordable childcare & early education

e.g., *Universal Pre-K, Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership*



Family friendly workplace policies

e.g., *Paid Family & Medical Leave, Pregnant Worker Accommodations*



Economic supports for families

e.g., *Earned Income Tax Credit*



Public awareness campaigns

e.g., *Connections Matter NC*

CREATING A PRIMARY PREVENTION SYSTEM

Primary prevention programs promote healthy child development through strengthening parenting skills and reducing stress, which is a risk factor for child maltreatment.

- **PRIMARY PREVENTION** approaches aim to avert child abuse or neglect before it occurs.
- **SECONDARY PREVENTION** approaches target high-risk families to prevent child maltreatment.
- **TERTIARY PREVENTION** approaches focus on the treatment of children and families after child abuse or neglect has occurred.



¹Gelles, R. J., & Perlman, S. (2012). Estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect. Chicago, IL: Prevent Child Abuse America. https://preventchildabuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/PCA_COM2012-1.pdf