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**Subject:** FW: CDC Announces the Release of Child Maltreatment Surveillance: Uniform Definitions for Public Health and Recommended Data Elements

Dear Colleague:

Child maltreatment is a significant social and public health problem in the United States (U.S.). In 2006, child protective services confirmed that approximately 905,000 children in the U.S. were victims of maltreatment and 1,530 died from abuse or neglect. Unfortunately, these numbers likely underestimate the magnitude of the problem in this country.

Calculation of victimization rates for child maltreatment depends on how the definition is operationalized. Currently, the multiple sectors (child protective services, legal and medical communities, public health officials, practitioners, and advocates) addressing this problem use their own definitions. This limits communication across sectors and hampers prevention efforts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is pleased to announce the publication of *Child Maltreatment Surveillance: Uniform Definitions for Public Health and Recommended Data Elements*. This document provides conceptual definitions of child maltreatment, presents associated terms, and recommends data elements for voluntary use by the public health community in the development of surveillance systems. Hard copies of the publication can be ordered on-line at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/ncipc.aspx>. An electronic copy is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/CMP/CMP-Surveillance.htm>.

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