

PRESENTER

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Child Protection



Function of the Child Care Board as it relates to child protection

- Provide counseling and other services for the child
- Place children in care if needed
- To make ensure that each child is safe

Child Abuse



Definition of Child Abuse

- **This is the deliberate violence to or sexual assault or exploitation of a child and or the intentional withholding of care.**

An Abused Child

- This is defined as a child whose parent/guardian or other persons legally responsible for his or her care:

An Abused Child

- Inflicts or allow physical or mental harm including injuries to be inflicted on a child as a result of corporal punishment.
- Commits or allows the committal of a sexual offence against a child.
- Failure to supply the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, health care and supervision.
- Abandonment or deliberate desertion of a child such that his/her well-being and chances of survival are threatened.

CATEGORIES OF CHILD ABUSE

COMMON FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Abandonment



PHYSICAL ABUSE

- **Physical Abuse**

Any act which results in non-accidental physical injury, extreme forms of violence towards children.

Source: "Child Abuse : A Regional Problem" 1992

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Possible Physical Abuse Indicators:

- Human bite marks
- Bruises
- Cuts
- Swollen limbs
- Appearance of “unexplained” injury especially after school absence.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- **Behavioral Indicators**

Easily frightened or fearful of adults/parents

Destructive to self or others

Behavior extremes: aggressive, withdrawn, poor social relations

SEXUAL ABUSE

- The Incest Survivors Resource Network 1990 states that :-

“the erotic use of a child, whether physically or emotionally is sexual exploitation in the fullest meaning of the term, even if no bodily contact is ever made”

“Child Abuse: A Regional problem” 1992

Sexual exploitation of a child through violent and non-violent molestation.

SEXUAL ABUSE

This can involve:

- Fondling a child's genitals,
- Making child fondle adult's genitals
- Intercourse
- Incest
- Rape
- Sodomy
- Exhibitionism/
- lewd comments
- Showing a child pornographic materials



SEXUAL ABUSE

- **Possible Sexual Abuse Behavioral Indicators:**
 - Withdrawal and mistrust of adults
 - Suicidal ideations
 - Difficulty relating to others except in sexual or seductive way
 - Unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
 - Running away from home

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Physical Indicators

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Bruises or bleeding in genital area, buttocks or mouth

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- **Emotional Abuse**
- The overt and covert direction of hostility towards a child by repeatedly threatening, withholding affection and belittling the child's capabilities, qualities and desires.
- Source: "Child Abuse: A Regional Problem" 1992

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Emotional Abuse of a child also referred to as maltreatment can include:
 - Ignoring
 - Rejecting
 - Isolating
 - belittling

NEGLECT

- **Neglect**

- Neglect is defined as a parent or guardian's failure / refusal to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical attention and schooling for a child, it also involves leaving a child alone without proper adult supervision for extended periods of time

NEGLECT

- Physical Neglect
- Educational Neglect
- Psychological Neglect
- Medical neglect



Neglect in Barbados

Chart 1: Parish Distribution of the 113 Substantiated Cases

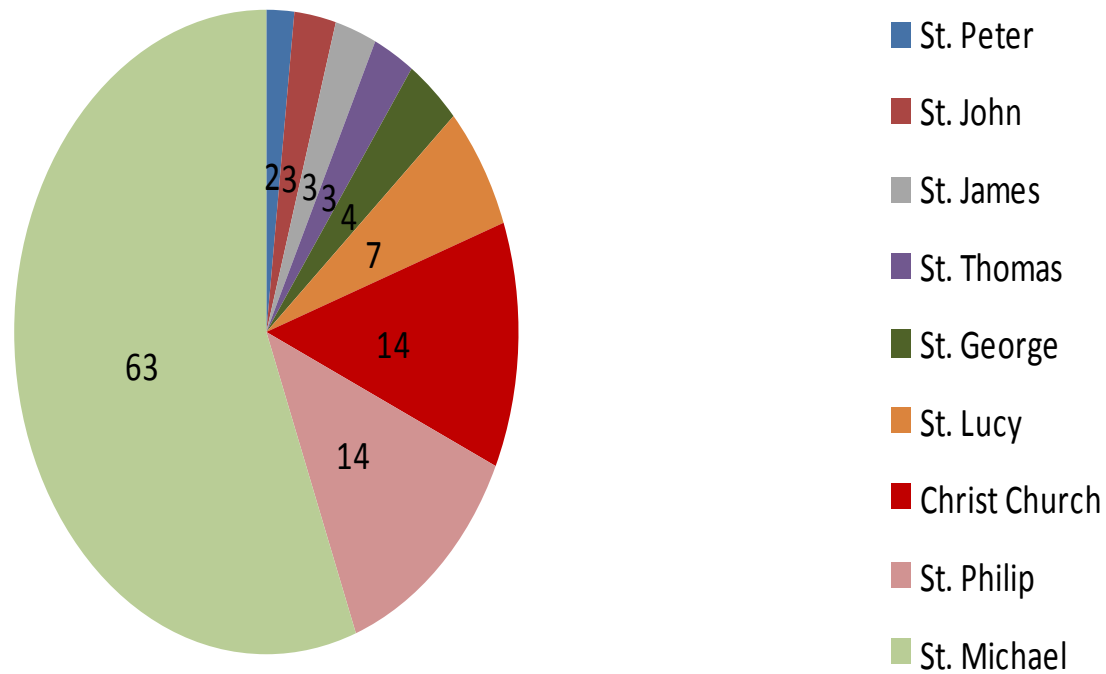
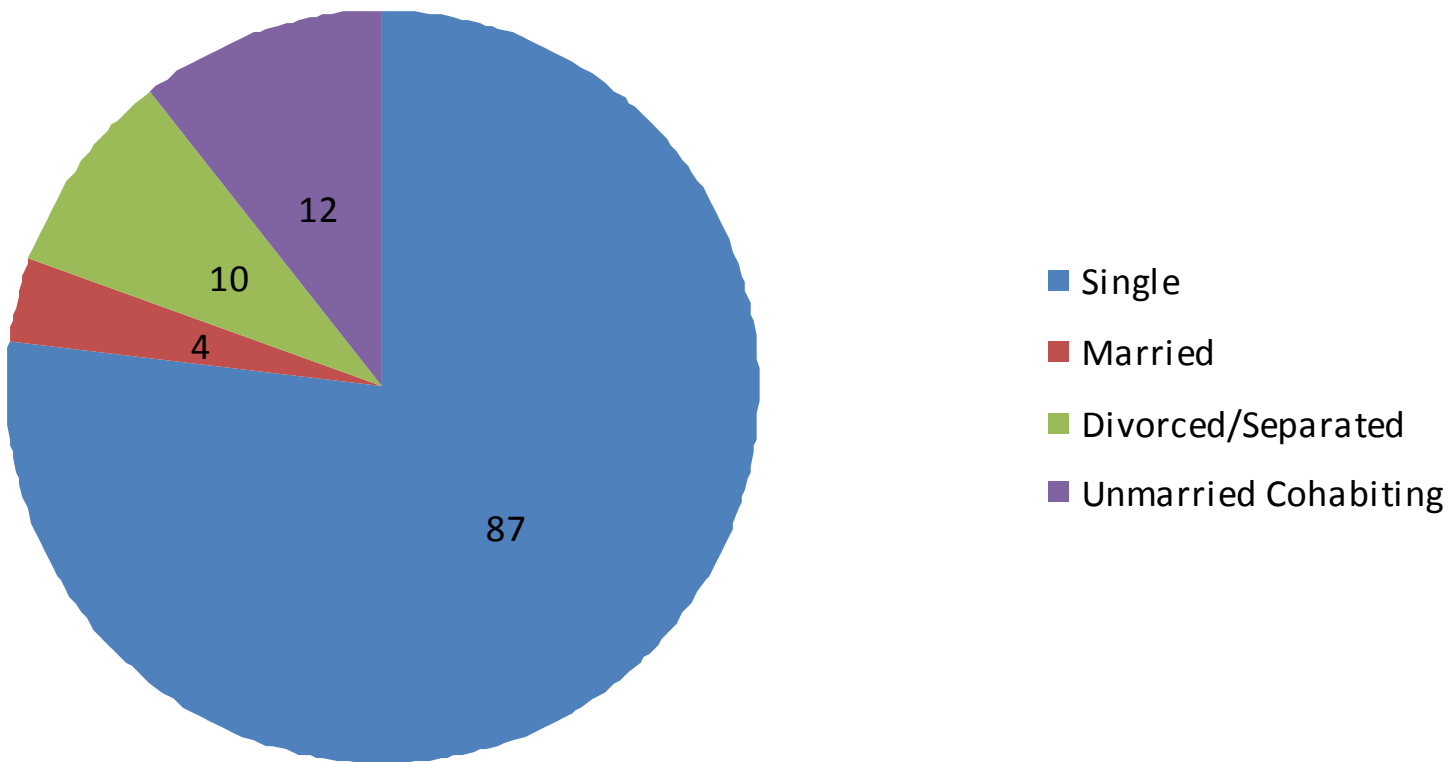


Chart 2 shows that in 87 or 77% of the 113 substantiated cases the perpetrators were single parents, mainly mothers.

Chart 2: Perpetrator's Marital Status



Manifestations of Neglect



It was observed that 88 or 78% of the 113 substantiated cases had indications of physical neglect,

67 or 59% of the cases had indications of emotional abuse,

92 or 81% had indications of supervisory neglect,

35 or 31% had medical neglect

75 or 66% had indications of environmental neglect.

NEGLECT

- **Possible Behavioral Indicators**
 - Developmental lags
 - Begs / Steals food – forages through garbage
 - Always hungry
 - Destructive to self and others
 - Aggressive / withdrawn
 - Delinquent behavior
 - Seeks attention / affection
 - Can't concentrate in class/Sunday schools

NEGLECT

Physical Indicators of Neglect

- poor growth pattern
- Malnutrition
- Poor hygiene
- Consistent lack of supervision; especially for long periods

Abandonment

- Deliberate desertion of a child such that his/her well being and or chances for survival are threaten. (Source: “Child Abuse: A Regional Problem” 1992)

Child Protection Laws of Barbados

- Prevention of Cruelty to Children's Act – CAP. 145
- Sexual Offences Act – 1992-3
- Protection of Children – 1990-36 – CAP 146A Protection of Children from exploitation
- Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) 1993 – CAP. 130

STATISTICS (children)

- Total Children Referred

Year	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Abuse	Abandonment	Total
2008 – 2009	247	166	613	62	3	1091
2009 – 2010	268	225	617	137	4	1251
2010 – 2011	224	165	690	106	2	1187
2011-2012	227	256	582	119	0	1184

Myths or Facts

- Children need a good spanking to show who is boss
- Having sex with a young child can cure AIDs
- Women never sexually abuse children
- Strangers are the biggest threat to children
- Child sex offenders are dirty old men
- Children don't make the same mistake again if they are given a good lashing

Discussion:

- Who are child abusers?
- Can these forms of abuse manifest themselves in a football setting?

Things to consider

How do children generally view their coaches?

Do football coaches unknowingly engage in child abuse?

PREVENTING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM CHILD ABUSE

- **HOW CHILD ABUSE CAN MANIFEST ITSELF IN FOOTBALL**



Emotional Abuse

- Constantly shouting at children
- Swearing at the children
- Belittling children e.g. telling child he/she they are fat and lazy, calling a child a stupid idiot, telling a boy he is playing like a girl
- Giving a child an un-wanted nickname e.g. popeye, chicken-breast, midnight, fat-man, butter-fingers
- Favouritism in a particular child or children
- Inappropriate response after defeat in a football match.



SEXUAL ABUSE

- Inappropriately touching a child when demonstrating football techniques
- Watching children while changing
- Indulging in inappropriately sexual conversation
- Showing phonographic materials
- Taking a shower with a child



Physical Abuse

- Intentionally harming a child. eg: Kicking a child because he did not follow instructions.
- Hitting or slapping child
- Forcing a child to play although injured
- Excessive aggressive, example: (elbowing,
 - encouraging a child to inflict injure on another)
- Giving a child too strenuous exercises without taking consideration to their level of development. E.g. giving a seven year old 200 push ups





Neglect

- Insufficient water breaks
- Inadequate supervision
- Allowing child to play without the necessary protective gear
- Child playing when hungry or ill
- Inadequate response to injury



What to do if a child discloses that he/she was being abused

- Listen carefully and uncritically at child's pace
- Reassure child that he/she was right to tell
- Tell child that you must pass the information on
- Maintain the appropriate confidentiality
- Make sure the child is OK
- Make a careful record of what the child said to you

What not to do if you suspect a case of child abuse

- Do not ignore the child
- Do not investigate the report
- Do not make false promises to the child
- Do not jump to conclusions, be dismissive or react with shock, anger, horror etc.
- Do not speculate or accuse anybody
- Do not fail to pass on the information to the correct person or agency



What can be done if you suspect a child has been abused?

- Put the welfare of the child first above that of winning a game
- Be observant and listen to what the child has to say
- Keep logged records about suspected dates and circumstances of suspected abuse
- Report the incident to the your manager/supervisor
- Inform parents about suspected abuse depending on the situation.
- Serious cases should be reported to the Police and the Child Care Board.

The “Do’s” of coaching

- Do give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Do take into account the environmental conditions of the ground and also the weather
- Do set boundaries between coaches and children that may never be crossed
- Do ensure that you never enter a child’s room or invite them in your room when travelling
- Do ascertain whether a child has a medical condition that may impact on their play

The “Don’ts of Coaching”

- Avoid taking children to your home or transporting them alone in your car
- Take part in, or tolerate behaviour that frightens, embarrasses, demoralises or affects a child’s self esteem
- Do not allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comment to a child’ even in fun
- Allow bullying to take place unchallenged

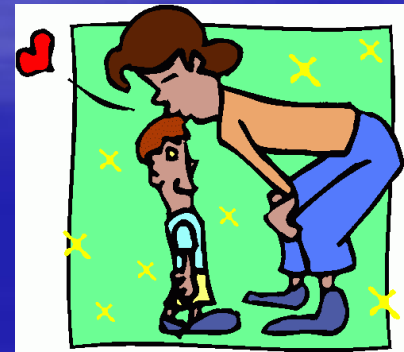
HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELVES FROM BEING ACCUSED OF CHILD ABUSE



- Avoid being in secluded areas with a child
- Do not inappropriately touch children. Engage in rough physical or sexually provocative games
- Be aware of technology. Taking pictures and texting can be misinterpreted
- Be carefully of the language use around children
- Liaise with parents and not child when having to call a child's home
- Reward children publicly if giving a gift

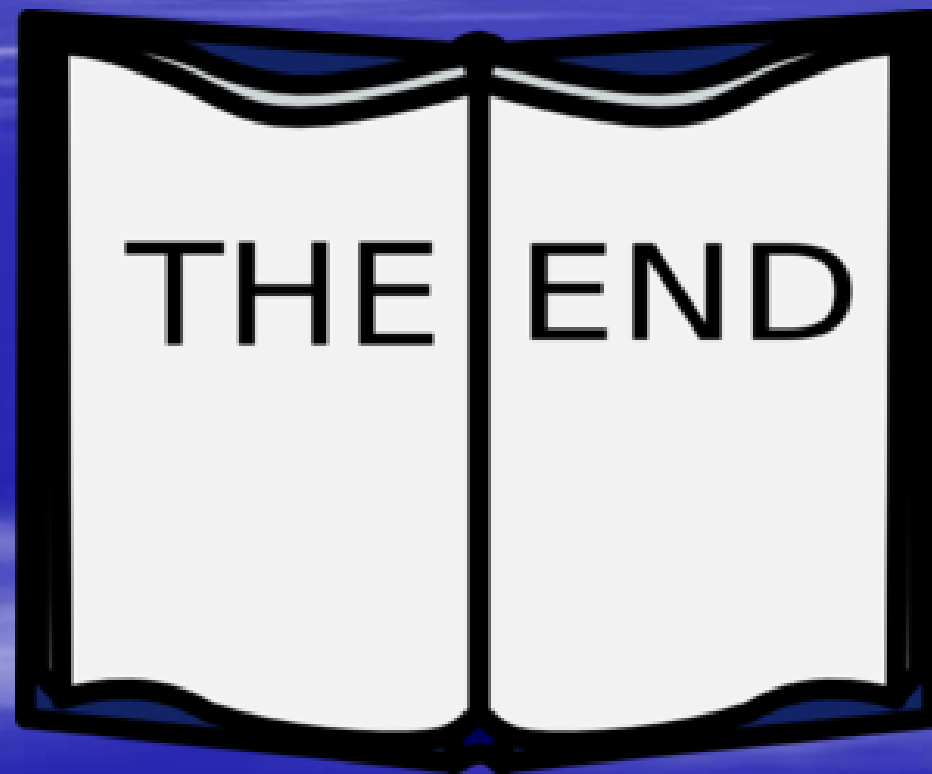
What can coaches do to prevent child abuse?

- Reframe from calling children nick names.
- Ensure the grounds are properly prepared to avoid injury
- Be aware of persons interacting with children
- Do not send children into secluded areas
- Do not engage in sexual gestures



Question

- Do you believe there is a role for football coaches to play in preventing child abuse?



THE

END