

Child from A1

lingering stigma of charity among those in need could be lifted with this service.

Extent of Abuse

Child abuse remains a pervasive issue worldwide and continues to be a problem in the U.S. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, an estimated 674,000 children were victims of child abuse or neglect nationally in 2017, a 2.7 percent increase over the previous four years.

Each year in Oregon, a little more than half of received reports are referred for investigation and a quarter of those are founded for abuse or neglect. Oregon totaled 7,063 cases and 11,077 victims in 2017. Other reported cases were either dismissed or handled with alternative methods such as parental assistance.

Though definitions of abuse differ state by state, these numbers are reflective of nationwide trends and tend to stay relatively proportional as they scale more locally.

While the number of received reports across the nation scores in the millions, nearly half are screened out of the system, lending suspicion to a lack of understanding about when abuse is taking place. Indeed, public attention toward child abuse often skews in the direction of the more emotionally evocative forms of physical or sexual abuse.

"It's one thing to be phys-

ically or mentally abusive," said Nordquist, "but if the child is neglected and their basic needs aren't being met and they're not healthy or given the support and love that they need to grow emotionally, then they're going to have issues and problems as adults."

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) reported neglect as accounting for about 47 percent of cases in Lane County and 46 percent statewide in 2017.

These high numbers may be attributed to the broad criteria of what constitutes neglect, which may include non-compliance with healthcare recommendations, malnutrition, poor sanitation, being deprived of education and exposure to drugs or violence.

The prevalence of this form of abuse points to some parents' and caregivers' lack of education about child-rearing, though a general confusion as to what constitutes abuse could also play a role.

Precise definitions of abuse can be elusive. The perimeters vary by family and culture worldwide, including what constitutes responsible parenting and acceptable disciplinary action. Further muddying the waters is the pragmatic question of who a definition aims to inform. A definition to raise public awareness, for instance, differs from definitions serving legal, service or research purposes.

Nonetheless, in an effort to reconcile the diversity of perceptions, the World Health Organization (WHO) Consultation on

Child Abuse Prevention in 1999 drafted a broad and adaptable definition:

"Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power."

Although determining which cases meet the criteria may still be a source of disagreement, there is near consensus on classification. Types of abuse typically fall under four categories: physical, sexual, psychological (or emotional) and neglect.

Like neglect, psychological abuse is fairly nebulous in its definition and characterizing it can pose a challenge. The psychological and emotional well-being of a child is complex in contrast to physical health and its effects are not always immediately obvious.

Indeed, the WHO has lamented in its World Report on Violence and Health that psychological abuse is given less attention worldwide than physical or sexual abuse.

Locally, the prevalence of the problem is unclear.

Though ODHS keeps a record of "mental injury," Oregon holds a separate, broad category for "threat of harm," which under national criteria may qualify as psychological, physical, sexual abuse or neglect. Endangering a child by leaving them in a life-threatening

situation, for example, may be recorded under the same category as exposing them to domestic violence. Representing 41.6 percent of incidents, this form of abuse is second only to neglect in Lane County.

The consequences of this form of abuse are wide-ranging and vary from person to person. Often, the victim's interpersonal relationships suffer in myriad ways and the victim may later turn to substance abuse or self-harm to dampen overwhelming emotions such as anxiety or depression.

Physical abuse, which accounts for only six percent of cases in Lane County, is not the most prominent of abuse types, yet remains a controversial issue due to disagreements about discipline.

Forms of corporal punishment which do not cause physical injury or "substantial pain" are legally accepted in Oregon. ODHS has stated, "Although not recommended, spanking is not abuse. However, a spanking that leaves marks or bruises on a child might be abuse. Spanking a baby is always a concern."

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the

See ABUSE 11A

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Worship Directory

**DRAIN: HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm

**COTTAGE GROVE: 6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
10:00am  
Christian Education:  
Pre-K through 5th  
[www.6thandgibbs.com](http://www.6thandgibbs.com)

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
[www.cgbible.org](http://www.cgbible.org)

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
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[www.cg4.tv](http://www.cg4.tv)  
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**Delight Valley Church of Christ**  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

**First Baptist Church**  
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242  
Pastor: David Chhangle  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship Service 11:00am  
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm  
[cgfirstbaptist.com](http://cgfirstbaptist.com)

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Rev.: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
[fpcgrove.com](http://fpcgrove.com)

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
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**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a  
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)  
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
[www.pennoyervecoc.com](http://www.pennoyervecoc.com)

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches**  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420  
Father John J. Boyle  
Holy Mass:  
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM  
Sunday - 10:30 PM  
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net  
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM  
Saturdays or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
Sunday 8:30 AM  
**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
"Church with the flags."  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
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**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups  
[tlcgc.com](http://tlcgc.com)

**United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
[umcgrove.org](http://umcgrove.org)

**"VICTORY" Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

**CRESWELL:**  
Creswell Presbyterian Church  
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419  
Rev. Seth Wheeler  
Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am  
[website.www.creswellpres.org](http://website.www.creswellpres.org)

Teens from A7

Mental Health. Having a consistent presence in the schools across the district, SLMH works with seniors in high school all the way down to kindergarteners. Whether in group therapy or one-on-one meetings, these counselors are able to form bonds with students.

"Humans rely on relationships and connection. And children develop into healthy adults when they have healthy attachment," said South Lane Mental Health's Valeria Clarke in an interview last year.

A key part of SLMH is the ability to be present. Being at schools across the district at least once a week, getting help — in the form of play, guided conversation with peers, individualized program — can be as simple as walking down the hall.

These conversations, at a number of levels, can help lead to students feeling that they have been seen.

"That's the beauty of working with youth in general — to able to, as the therapist, really provide them with the awareness that they have their own power," said Clarke. "Because so much

of our society sort of says, 'You're lesser than.'"

(Next week: The series will look at the role of homelessness and mental illness in Oregon's high suicide rate in a report contributed by Newport News-Times.)

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