

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Talking About Prevention: Making the Connections

Michigan's legislature has prioritized child well-being and education by working to end our substance use crisis and improve third-grade reading. Investing in early prevention of child abuse and neglect (CAN) will help achieve both goals:

- In Michigan, investigated cases of abuse and neglect rose by 51% from 2008 to 2015 (Kids Count, 2017)

Substance Use

- Many substance use risk factors, including stressful material conditions, mental health needs, and early childhood trauma, are also risk factors for abuse and neglect
- National studies have also found that early trauma survivors, including abuse survivors, are more likely to use substances later in life
- Since Michigan's local CAN councils address local conditions that lead to abuse and neglect, they serve populations who are also at-risk of substance abuse. Many direct service providers also specifically target populations at risk of substance abuse

Early Learning and Third-Grade Reading

- Investing early in school readiness has a large positive impact on future child outcomes.
- Children who are at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect often require more direct care and support early in school to meet their learning needs. Controlling for other factors, 44% of Michigan students in families investigated for abuse or neglect scored proficient on third-grade reading, as opposed to 51% of students in families with no investigations (Ryan & Jacob, 2018).
- Preventing abuse and neglect removes a large barrier to learning and ensures that young children enter school ready to learn