

CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION (CAP) PROJECT
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Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project Fact Sheet

MISSION STATEMENT

CAP strives to empower children to be "Safe, Strong and Free." Through education and prevention programs designed to increase children's safety from bullying, abuse and assault, CAP is committed to breaking the cycle of abuse in our community.

WHAT: CAP is a private, non-profit agency incorporated in the State of Nevada. Since 1984, CAP's mission has been to reduce the vulnerability and susceptibility of children to abuse, assault and victimization through education and prevention programs for children of all ages. CAP's philosophy and belief is that all children have rights, and that those rights are to be protected. CAP teaches children and adults how to recognize abuse, how to stay safe and from whom they can get help if they are being abused (or if someone they know is). CAP serves 10,000 children each year and is the only full-time agency dedicated to abuse/assault prevention in Northern Nevada.

WHEN: The CAP program was established in Columbus, Ohio in 1978 in response to the rape of a seven year old girl. Psychologists, educators, parents and children worked together to develop a successful program that is now offered around the globe. The CAP Project was started in Washoe County in 1984 in answer to the escalating reports of child maltreatment in our community.

HOW: CAP facilitators present the interactive workshop in each individual classroom and engage the children in discussion, role-plays, and demonstrations. The program addresses bullying, stranger dangers, internet predators, cyberbullying and how to recognize and ward off physical and sexual abuse.

WHY: The State of Nevada is one of the top ranking states in the incidence of child abuse. Statistics show that child abuse underlies many of the problems of youth and adults today with 80% of the girls and boys in the Caliente Youth Center, and 80-85% of the inmates in prison having histories of sexual abuse. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually molested by the age of 18. 1 in 4 children face bullying situations in school every day. Abuse has a direct correlation to teen-age pregnancy, suicide, substance abuse and eating disorders. While not all children who were abused grow up to abuse, *almost every abuser has a history of abuse.* Everyday in the United States at least five children die as a result of abuse and neglect.

WHO: CAP is staffed by an Executive Director, Workshop Facilitators and Community Volunteers and has an active Board of Directors who are all committed to breaking the cycle of abuse in our community.

The Child Assault Prevention Program workshops use guidelines established by following:

- the State of Nevada and Washoe County School District Health Standards
- NDE State Counseling Standards and
- WCSD Board Policy on Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination.

Our program has been a tool utilized by principals, school counselors and teachers for over 30 years to address these policies and curriculum standards.