

## BACKGROUND

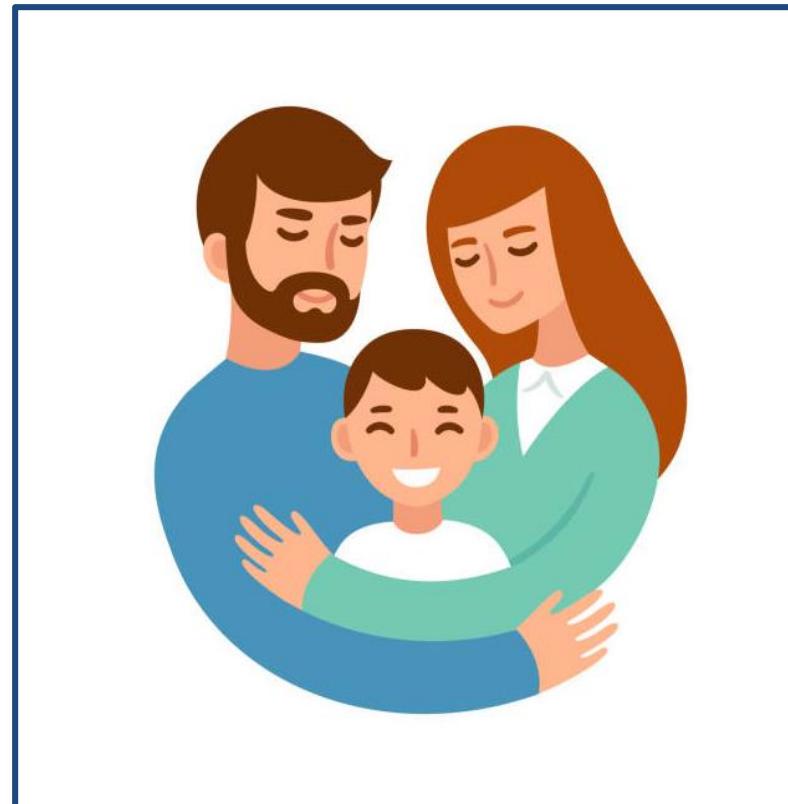
Child abuse remains a critical global public health problem and social issue, with long-term effects on children's physical, emotional, and developmental well-being according to Alexandra et al., (2020). In urban areas like Las Vegas, factors such as poverty, stress, substance use, and limited awareness of prevention resources may increase children's vulnerability. Families often lack access to simple, culturally relevant tools that help them recognize the signs of abuse, know how to respond, and learn where to seek help.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the "Protecting Our Children" handout is to provide families in Las Vegas with clear, accessible information about child abuse prevention. According to Garcia et al., (2024) the goal is prevention through evidence-based interventions. We must increase awareness of the signs of abuse, educate caregivers on positive parenting practices, and connect families with local resources and hotlines. By empowering families, the poster aims to promote safer home and community environments for children.

## METHODS

The guide was developed after a literature review as a one-page, visually engaging poster/handout using plain language and simple graphics. It includes definitions of child abuse, warning signs, prevention tips, and contact information for Las Vegas community resources. The content was adapted to be culturally sensitive, easy to read, and practical for families of diverse backgrounds. Distribution occurs through schools, clinics, community centers, and outreach programs.



## RESULTS

Early implementation of this type of handout has been shown to improve families' knowledge about abuse prevention and increase their confidence in recognizing and reporting suspected abuse. According to Nyberg et al., children and families with increased knowledge of child abuse were better prepared to stop/identify child abuse. Families in Las Vegas reported that the guide helped them feel more informed about resources and encouraged conversations about child safety at home.

## CONCLUSIONS

The "Protecting Our Children" handout is an effective, low-cost educational tool for raising awareness about child abuse prevention in Las Vegas. By providing clear guidance and connecting families to local support services, it empowers caregivers to take an active role in safeguarding children. Continued use and distribution of this resource can strengthen community awareness, support prevention efforts, and foster healthier, safer environments for children.

## REFERENCES

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