



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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Contact: Kristen Castle, Public Information Officer: 614-728-4623

OCJS Recognizes Two Critical Awareness and Prevention Months in April

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

(COLUMBUS) – During the month of April, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), recognizes both Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Child abuse includes all types of maltreatment and neglect that occur among children under the age of 18. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office names four common types of abuse: physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; and neglect. According to a 2009 report, 57 percent of children will be victims of some form of physical assault during their lifetime, 51 percent will be victims of bullying (emotional or physical) or teasing and 10 percent of children will be victims of assault with a weapon.

"The lifelong effects these crimes have on victims can be devastating," said OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore. "Because of this, we are committed to raising public awareness by educating and offering resources to young people, parents and other community members so that together we can end patterns of power and control that culminate in violence."

The National Crime Victimization Survey reports sexual assault as encompassing victimizations that include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving forced, unwanted sexual contact or conduct from the offender to the victim. Sexual violence may or may not involve force, and includes such things as unwanted grabbing or fondling; verbal threats are also included. According to the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System, law enforcement agencies received 8,447 sexual assault calls in 2009.

The Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC) at OCJS was established to provide support services to address these serious issues. The Center serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations and individuals throughout Ohio that strive to prevent family violence and provide assistance to victims. Its goal is to provide leadership for coordinated state and local efforts to reduce and prevent family violence in Ohio. For more information about the Center as well as these important campaigns, please visit: http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/family_violence.stm .

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