



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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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. The youngest children from birth to three years of age had the highest rate of abuse and neglect and accounted for the largest percentage of child victims at 32 percent.

“Because of the potential lifelong effects these crimes have on victims, we are committed to doing all we can to break the cycle of violence,” said OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore.

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 5,562 sexual assault calls in 2011.

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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