

## **Substance Abuse Statistic**

Substance abuse is more likely to be a factor in reports regarding younger children, particularly infants, than older children. In addition, substance abuse is much more likely to be a factor in child neglect than in child abuse (Herskowitz et al, 1989; HHS/NCCAN 1993; Walker et al, 1991).

In a recent survey of State child welfare administrators, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) found that at least 50 percent of substantiated child abuse and neglect reports involve parental abuse of alcohol or other drugs, and fully 80 percent of States reported that substance abuse and poverty are the top two issues contributing to abuse and neglect in their States (CWLA, 1998).

The Indian Child Welfare Association estimates that 90 percent of Indian child welfare neglect cases and 60 percent of abuse cases involve families in which drinking or drug abuse is a major problem.

Most studies report that two out of three substantiated child abuse and neglect reports involve substance abuse.



Resource: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1999 Blending Perspectives and Building Common Ground: A Report to Congress on Substance Abuse and Child Protection