



## Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

### Data

- ✓ *Military families are less likely than civilian families to be impacted by risk factors for abuse including poverty, unemployment or limited access to health care. However, military families face special challenges such as frequent moves and extended family separations that may increase parenting stress.*
- ✓ *Child neglect related to lack of supervision or exposure to physical hazards represents the largest percentage of child abuse among military families.*

### Additional information

**2016 Prevention Resource Guide: Building Community, Building Hope**  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resource-guide>

**Protective Factors – Sharing Strategies and Resources**  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/guide.pdf>

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Background

Since 1983, April has been dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through the observation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The observance serves to educate parents and the community about warning signs and helpful resources, and reinforces that all community members share responsibility for the safety, protection and well-being of children.

### Highlights

Within the military community, the Family Advocacy Program works to strengthen military families and promote parenting skills and resilience. Services include home visitation for new parents, as well as education and support for parents of children and youth of all ages.

Everyone can help protect children and keep our community safe. It only takes a minute to look out for a child or reach out to a parent under stress. Helping resources are readily available. If you suspect child abuse, report it to law enforcement, your installation Family Advocacy Program or the DoD Child Abuse and Safety Hotline at 877-790-1197. Even simple actions can make a difference for a child.

Protective factors are associated with strong, healthy children and families and include:

- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

