

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Cost of Child Maltreatment to the Alabama Economy

Subject: Important Release from the University of Alabama Shows Economic Impact of Child Abuse on State's Economy

Contact: Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund
Sallye R. Longshore 334-262-2951 sallye.longshore@ctf.alabama.gov

When: Wednesday, April 8th
9:45 a.m. Alabama State House 11 S. Union Street
Montgomery, AL

Participants: Anita L. Archie, Board Chair, Dept. of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
Samuel Addy, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research and Outreach, Center For Business and Economic Research, University of Alabama
Milla Boschung, Ph.D., Dean of College of Human Environmental Sciences, University of Alabama

With the focus on children, the College of Human Environmental Sciences was pleased to partner with the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/ The Children's Trust Fund and the Center for Business and Economic Research to provide insight for the critical public policy issue of children maltreatment in our State. These entities will release, "The Cost of Child Maltreatment to the Alabama Economy" during a press conference to be held Wednesday, April 8th at the State House in Montgomery, AL. This report is an extensive study that breaks out the economic impact that child maltreatment has on the state of Alabama.

The \$2.3 billion annual cost is just the direct cost on the state if only the child victims are considered. The full impact could be 2-3 times that amount if costs on families and communities as well as indirect impacts are included," according to Dr. Milla Boschung, dean of the UA College of Human Environmental Sciences. "There is no question that Alabama should invest more in child maltreatment prevention," added Dr. Samuel Addy, associate dean for research and outreach in the UA Culverhouse College of Commerce. Boschung and Addy are two of the study's five co-authors.

In Alabama over 9,000 children are victims of child abuse and neglect each year. The real cost of child maltreatment is the heartbreak of shattered lives and destroyed families. The economic impact of child maltreatment is enormous and must be addressed. "The cost of child maltreatment to Alabama is staggering. This report reinforces the stance that we must do more to prevent child abuse and neglect before it can occur", stated Sallye Longshore, Executive Director of the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. As April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, the timing of this report underscores the important role communities play in protecting children. Community-based programs that receive funding from The Children's Trust Fund work diligently to strengthen families by educating and enhancing protective factors that work to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.