

In the Headlines: Child Protection cont.

were themselves under scrutiny..... According to government sources, Ofsted has now privately admitted this figure is 'misleading' and should have been explained or broken down. The figure of 282 is made up of all children who died while receiving any kind of local authority help - including terminally ill children receiving social care and accidental deaths of nursery age children.

In fact, it is likely that the deaths of fewer than 100 children could be attributed to neglect or abuse...

The full story is available at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/nov/23/ofsted-child-abuse>

3. One in 10 children suffer abuse, say experts *The Guardian, Wednesday December 3 2008*

The true scale of the maltreatment of children in the UK is revealed by child abuse experts today who say that one in 10 suffers physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.

Unlike Baby P, who died in Haringey, north London, while on the at-risk register after months of abuse and neglect, most maltreated children are not even referred to the authorities.

Teachers, GPs and paediatricians have no confidence in the ability of social services to make a difference to their lives and fear the child's plight will be made worse if he or she is

taken into care and placed in a foster family, they say.

A series of papers published today by the Lancet medical journal... paints a grim picture of the unseen sufferings of an estimated 1 million children a year in the UK...

Those like Baby P who are picked up by the social services and placed on the at-risk register are only the tip of the iceberg. The plight of fewer than one in 10 maltreated children is investigated and substantiated by child protection services....

The experts underline a key finding from the case of Baby P - that professionals are not communicating and sharing their suspicions.

Lancet editor Richard Horton said the findings, which had taken a year to reach publication, had "huge significance for considering an appropriate and measured response to the findings around Baby P".

The full story can be accessed at: www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/dec/03/child-abuse-lancet-baby-p

The Lancet has collaborated closely with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, London, UK, in formulating the Child Maltreatment Series, which was launched on December 2nd 2008. It is to clinicians and other professionals responsible for caring for children that The Lancet's Child Maltreatment Series is aimed, with the intention of providing them with a rigorous and up-to-date summary of scientific evidence and conceptual work on this complex and demanding topic.

Papers include:

- When childhood dies Richard Turner, Richard Horton
- The landscape of child maltreatment Dorothy A Scott
- Supporting paediatricians who work in child maltreatment Carole Jenny
- Safeguarding children: a call to action Albert Aynsley-Green, David Hall

All papers are available on subscription at:

<http://www.thelancet.com/series/child-maltreatment>