

## Fact Sheet

HOPES+ is an initiative sponsored by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County that aims to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect within the local community. The program connects families with available resources that can help to promote the health and well-being of their children. By making resources more accessible and streamlining the process of obtaining assistance, HOPES+ takes a proactive approach towards stopping the occurrence of abuse and neglect before it starts.

### Key Facts

- HOPES+ is a local community outreach program pioneered by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County and made possible by a partnership with Texas' Department of Family and Protective Services.
- A community coalition will be formed as a result of the HOPES+ initiative, allowing for the identification of needs specific to San Antonio and Bexar County as well as an exchange of ideas in order to maximize effective allocation and distribution of resources.
- Data collected by the Department of Family and Protective services on childhood health and development reveals above-average incidence rates of child abuse and neglect in Bexar County by comparison with other counties in the state of Texas.
- There were 4,550 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect reported last year; the 4th highest number in the State; 10 children in Bexar County died from physical abuse in 2016.
- Only 71% of reported cases in Bexar County are assigned for investigation, compared with 83% in Texas. Of those investigations assigned, only 57% are completed, compared with 64% in Texas.
- Applying national prevalence rates to the local population shows that 80,000 Bexar County children between the age of zero to five years suffer from one or more mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders. A review of local service capacity indicates only 20% of the children who need treatment receive it.
- Nearly 40% of the live births in our community involve women who did not receive any prenatal care or received some only in late pregnancy.
- HOPES+ will primarily target parents of children between the age of zero and five years.
- Resources available to vulnerable families can include (but are not limited to): parent education, health care screenings, counseling and mental health services, transportation, workforce development, and informational resources.