

*Children's Mental Health: Problems and
Services*

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*Children's Mental Health:
Problems and Services*

Background Paper



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Foreword

Within the past several years, several important mental health problems of children have been the focus of congressional attention. The incidence of adolescent suicide, physical and sexual abuse of young children, alcohol and drug abuse by children, and psychiatric hospitalization of children and adolescents have been the focus of debate on the need for an appropriateness of mental health services. This background paper indicates that although there are no simple answers to when and what type of mental health services are necessary, the need for a mental health system response, coordinated with activities of other service systems, seems well documented.

This background paper was requested by Senators Mark O. Hatfield and Daniel K. Inouye through the Senate Appropriations Committee. Its development was guided by a panel of experts chaired by Dr. Lenore Behar. The key contractor was Dr. Leonard Saxe and his colleagues at Boston University. Key OTA staff for the background paper were Denise Dougherty and Kerry Kemp.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

JOHN H. GIBBONS

Director

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