

### ABUSE AND NEGLECT IMPAIR ATTACHMENT

#### **Lack of Connectedness Can Retard Emotional Development**

“In aggregate, research on the effects of stress and disruption on the neurobiology of the mother-infant attachment response conclusively demonstrates that early adverse experiences can have lifelong effects on subsequent responses to stressors. Maternal stress is clearly communicated to the infant and can be as detrimental as direct stress. For any given stressor, there are gender, age-of-onset, duration, environmental, and genetic effects, which complicate predictions about the degree and direction of the stressor effect. Certain interventions can partially offset the negative impact of early stressors, although no interventions are completely restorative.”

*Putnam The Developmental Neurobiology of Disrupted Attachment: Lessons from Animal Models and Child Abuse Research, in Enhancing Early Attachments: Theory, Research, Intervention, and Policy (Berlin et al., eds., Guilford Press 2007), pp. 79-99.*