

CHILD ABUSE IN KANSAS:  
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND THE DOCTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

by

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A MASTER'S THESIS

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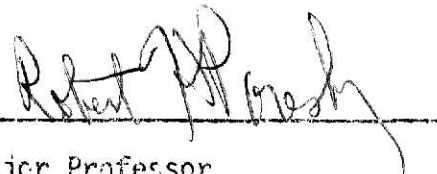
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert M. Gresh", is written over a horizontal line.

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## CHAPTER I

### PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Child abuse is not a new phenomenon. It has its roots in the traditional and biological differences in physical makeup, levels of authority and status, between adults and children. Recent recognition and sanction of the rights of children, as well as research into the causative factors, incidence and treatment of abuse and neglect have brought the occurrence of child abuse into public awareness. Abusive and neglectful treatment of children is a daily fact of life for thousands of children every year in spite of societal repugnance and disbelief. Although not of epidemic proportions, child abuse and/or neglect has a permanent effect on their victims. Boisvert (1972) believes that only 10% of the victims totally recover from the consequences of abuse/neglect.

Since the earliest reported study of skeletal trauma due to maltreatment (Caffey, 1946), numerous researchers have investigated the causes, incidence, symptoms, treatment and prevention of child abuse from a number of orientations -- medical, legal, psychosocial, and economic. This type of information is vital to anyone interested in helping those families in which child abuse occurs, and to prevent any future incidents of child abuse.

The purpose of the present study is two-fold. Part I deals with an analysis of child abuse in Kansas, based upon a sample of cases reported in the Central Registry of Child Abuse. Not since 1964 has a study of the incidence of child abuse in Kansas been reported (Schloesser,