Child neglect: Child neglect is the most frequently reported form of child abuse (60% of all cases) and the most lethal. Child neglect may be physical, educational, or emotional neglect: Physical neglect includes refusal of or delay in seeking health care, abandonment, expulsion from the home or refusal to allow a runaway to return home, and inadequate supervision. Child neglect is the failure to provide for the shelter, safety, supervision and nutritional needs of the child.