** QUICK FACTS** 

**Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) and Shaken Baby Syndrome (SHS)**

* Abusive Head Trauma often occurs at the age of peak crying
* **Crying** is the most common trigger for Shaken Babies

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| **Injuries caused by shaking include:*** + Bleeding within the brain
	+ Swelling of brain tissue
	+ Bleeding in the retina
	+ Rib fractures
	+ Arm or leg long bone fractures
 | **What doesn’t cause AHT?*** + Bouncing a child on a knee
	+ Tossing a child in the air
	+ Short falls off furniture
	+ Falls down stairs
	+ Sudden car stops
	+ Running with child
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| **Signs and Symptoms of possible AHT:*** + Vomiting
	+ Difficulty breathing
	+ Decreased appetite
	+ Trouble sleeping
	+ Irritability
	+ Lethargy
	+ Convulsions/seizures
	+ Change in level of awareness
	+ Inability to vocalize
	+ Trouble sucking or swallowing
 | **Long Term Effects of AHT:*** + Severe brain damage
	+ Learning disabilities
	+ Permanent blindness
	+ Hearing impairment
	+ Paralysis
	+ Impaired motor skills
	+ Loss of cognitive skills
	+ Cerebral palsy
	+ Seizures
	+ Behavior problems
	+ Death
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| **Perpetrator Statistics:*** + 70% of perpetrators are men
	+ Father of victim or mother’s boyfriend
	+ Caregivers, stepparents, grandparents
	+ No other common ties
	+ Most have no history of violence
 | **Victim Statistics:*** + Usually less than 1 year old
	+ Majority are younger than 6 months
	+ More males than females
	+ No accurate statistics
	+ Est 1,200-1,400 injured or killed each year
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For more information, please visit the webpage for the **National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome** at <http://dontshake.org>