Even with an average rate 19 percent higher than the Texas average, local authorities believe child abuse in Tom Green County is understated by the statistics.

“There’s tons more child abuse than I think the numbers can ever tell us,” said Deidre McCoy, director of community resources for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Tom Green County.

From 2000 to 2009, Tom Green County and rural Concho Valley counties averaged higher rates of child abuse — 11.6 and 11.1 — than the state average of 9.3 victims per 1,000 children, according to research conducted and released recently by Community Development Initiatives, a program of the Angelo State University Center for Community Wellness, Engagement and Development.

According to those findings, five of the Concho Valley counties ranked in the top 40 of all 254 Texas counties in 2009 for highest child abuse rate — after Schleicher, where data was skewed by cases originating in the Yearning for Zion Ranch raid, Menard ranked fourth, Concho ranked 13th, McCulloch ranked 17th and Kimble ranked 37th.

The figures become more acute with the realization that families typically reach out for help only when they’re desperate.

McCoy said the center has focused on prevention services over the past five years to strengthen and educate families before they find themselves in the court system, and outlying areas are a particular concern.

Consider the following statements about child abuse. Then decide if they are fact or fiction.

- The most common form of child abuse is violent in nature.
- Child abuse by a stranger is more likely than abuse by someone a child knows.
- Males are more likely to abuse a child than females.
- Big cities have higher child abuse rates than rural areas.

Many believe that some or all of these Misconceptions about abuse all too common
and leaving girls, who are outside, or in the garage, ing until he fell asleep out daily. He publicly harmed his daugh-
time.

ensure the confi dentiality of whose name the Standard-
to speak publicly about

abuse.

intervention services the center provides.

door talking to residents may start going door to

schools to get the organiza-
persons to report incidents of

the smaller issues in their

abuse could mean that the

were willing to report incidents of

on a regular basis in one

by teachers, police offi  cers

type of abuse, and one of

confi rmed.

"In the beginning it's

themselves. We excuse

"I was in denial. There's a

A deeper look reveals

that, starting in 2006, the

rate for the rural counties

to FLDS

up to

their communities to be great places

that, starting in 2006, the

The Concho Valley Fam-

Our Prices

Road Construction

We Have Lowered

Even More!

Your Gain!