

product has risen significantly. Younger children are even more likely to be poor. One in four children younger than six lies below the official poverty line. We made some recovery in terms of the number of children that were living in poverty in the seventies and eighties. We went from an annual level of 900,000 children living in poverty and dropped down to 300,000. Unfortunately, in 1990 we have more than replaced the number of children in poverty that we had pulled out of poverty in the four or five years previous to that. Abuse and neglect is another key. Wait a minute, let me back up just a minute. So what does poverty have to do with the fact that women may feel compelled to select abortion? If you are faced with childcare, the need for childcare, it may well be that the presence of one more child will simply bust the budget in terms of being able to pay for that. And up until just recently, we have done very little to support women in terms of the cost of childcare. It may well mean that for people who have been living from budget to budget, paycheck to paycheck, that they will not be able to afford the clothes, the food and even the shelter with one more child in the family. That is what makes abortion such an agonizing decision for many women is because they oftentimes feel backed into the corner by their circumstances and are not making it because that is really what they want to do. Abuse and neglect is another circumstance that leads many women to feel compelled to get an abortion. The domestic violence in their own home environment from their spouse or someone else, they simply are not wanting to bring another child into the world. An average of more than three children a day died from child maltreatment from 1987 to 1990. An estimated 1,211 children died from abuse or neglect in 1990. The estimated one million children who experienced abuse or neglect in 1986 represented a 66 percent increase since 1980. Children are also at risk from the drug exposure. At the peak of the crack crisis, as many as 375,000 infants were estimated to be born drug exposed each year. And I might mention at this point that one of the things that I have heard about as abortions have become less accessible for women of low income is the usage of crack to try and induce the spontaneous abortion because those who do use crack have a higher incidence of spontaneous abortion. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work and we end up with a drug exposed infant. An estimated two-thirds of the 3 million American children with serious emotional disturbances...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.