

Corporal Punishment and Child Abuse

Focus on Meta-Analysis

- Over 300 relevant research works, not just peer-reviewed published material but dissertations and books as well to avoid publication bias
- 88 studies presented detailed data
- 36,309 participants
- 1938-2000

Corporal Punishment

- “Corporal punishment is the use of physical force with the intention of causing a child to experience pain but not injury for the purposes of correction or control of the child’s behavior” (Straus, 1994, p. 4).
- Continuum of physical acts

Corporal Punishment Outcomes

- Immediate compliance
- Moral internalization (long-term)
 - “Does not teach children the reasons for behaving correctly, does not involve communication of the effects of children’s behaviors on others, and may teach children the desirability of not getting caught (Hoffman, 1983; Grusec, 1983; Smetana, 1997).”

Corporal Punishment Outcomes

- Quality of relationship with
 - Fear, anxiety and anger
- Mental health
 - Harsh punishment associated with depression

Corporal Punishment Outcomes

- Aggression
- Criminal and antisocial behavior
- Abuse of own child or spouse
- Victim of abuse by parent

Results

- Ten of the 11 meta-analyses
 - decreased moral internalization
 - increased child aggression
 - increased child delinquent/antisocial behavior (and later adult)
 - decreased quality of relationship
 - decreased child (and later adult) mental health
 - increased risk of being a victim of physical abuse
 - increased adult aggression
 - increased risk of abusing own child or spouse
 - Immediate compliance

Immediate Compliance

- Depends on goals of parent
- Necessary when a child is in immediate danger
 - May teach children not to run into street when parent is not around rather than do not run into street
- Not associated with moral internalization
 - However children more likely to accept if used consistently and children believe it is used in their best interest

Critique

- Cannot prove causation but shows correlation
 - Aggression
- Inconsistent style of punishment?
- Few studies ask parents about both frequency and severity
- Rarely occurs in isolation- one of many methods

Parent Characteristics

- Same characteristics for abuse!
- Age
- Gender (women or same)
- Parent temperament
 - Use by warm parent more likely to achieve positive outcomes
- Parent psychological functioning
- Parent beliefs

Family Characteristics

- As family size increases
- Unhappy partnership
- Single parents
- Cultural and religious context
- SES declines (mostly, some mixed results)
- Race higher in Black homes, lowest in Asian homes (mostly, some mixed results)

World-Wide

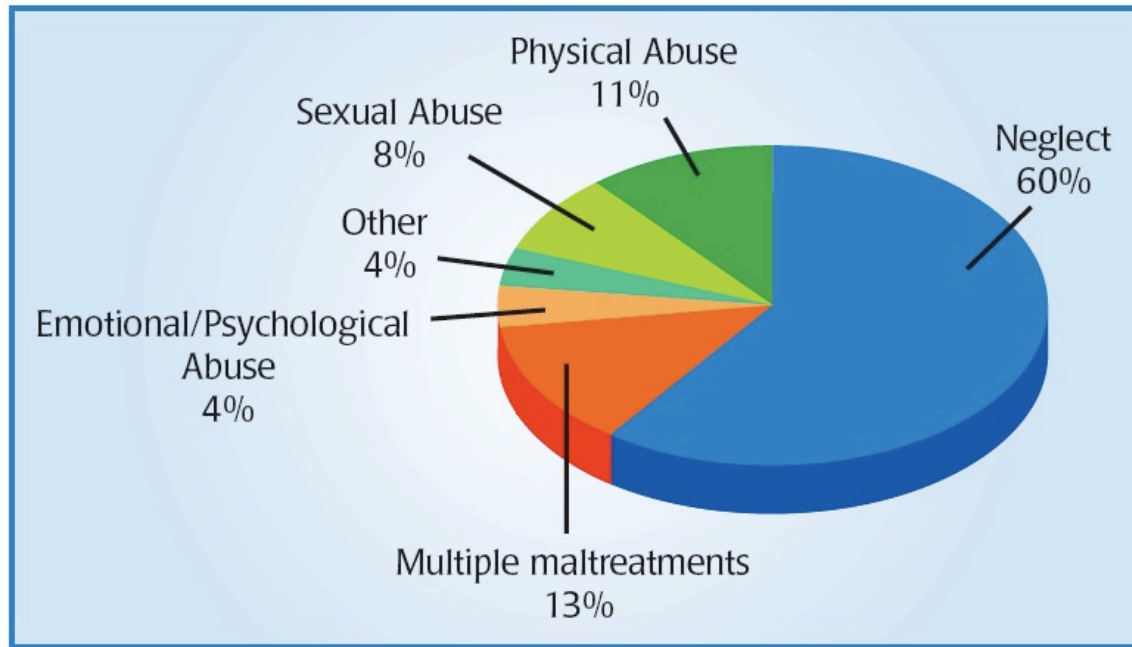
- Sweden (1979) among 35-40 other countries that have banned corporal punishment
 - Decrease in negative teenage behaviors following this change
- <http://www.gundersenhealth.org/ncptc/center-for-effective-discipline/discipline-at-home/resources-for-parents/ten-guidelines>
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/us-states-legal-to-hit-kids_n_5829732

Child Abuse and Maltreatment

- Characterized by the infliction of physical injury as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, shaking or otherwise harming a child.
- The parent or caretaker may not have intended to hurt the child, rather the injury may have resulted from over-discipline or physical punishment.
- One in seven children

Child Maltreatment

FIGURE 14.4 Types of Child Maltreatment: 2007

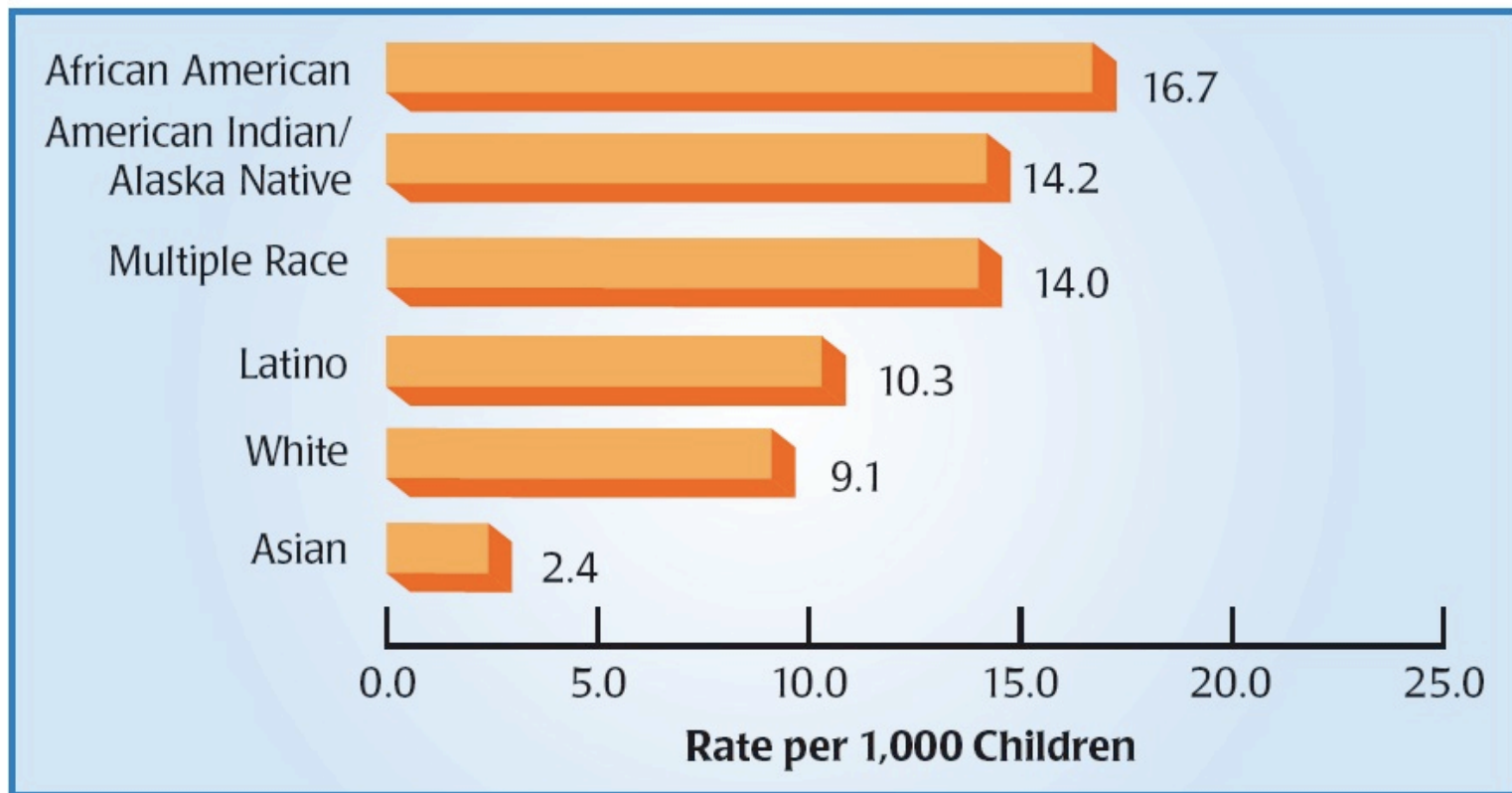


Note: “Neglect” includes medical neglect (about 1 percent of these cases). “Other” includes categories that some states report, such as babies who are born drug addicted.

Source: Based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009a, Figure 3-4.

Child Maltreatment

FIGURE 14.5 Child Victimization Rates by Race/Ethnicity: 2007



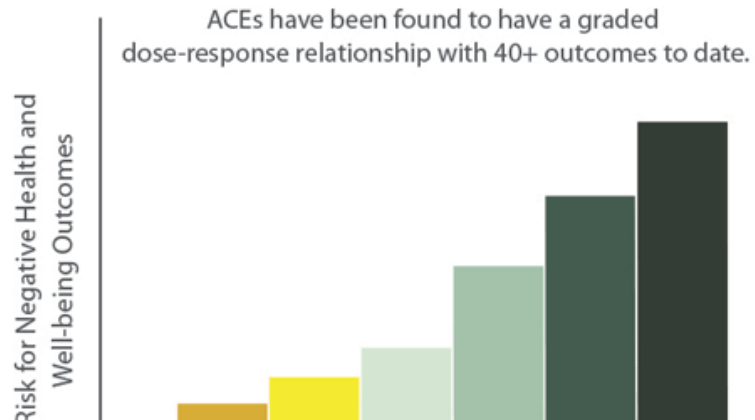
Source: Based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009a, p. 25.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

- Higher risk
- Children younger than 4
- Special needs

ACE Outcomes

g effects on....



ACE Outcomes

- Increases likelihood of juvenile arrest by 59%, as an adult by 29%, and violent crime 30%
- Black children more likely to be arrested later for violent crime. No association for white children.

Reporting Child Abuse: Florida Law

- “Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.) mandates that any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare shall immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline of the Department of Children and Families.”

Child Sexual Abuse

- Behavioral problems-- 95% of teenage prostitutes sexually abused
- More likely to set fires, violent adults, abuse animals
- More likely to be occur within family than outside family

Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Aversion to particular person
- Change in eating, trouble sleeping, wetting the bed
- Sudden lack of interest in school
- Sudden desire for privacy/separation from family
- Irritation of genitals

How do we prevent abuse and neglect?

- Read CDC's *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm and Programmatic Activities*.
- <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/can-prevention-technical-package.pdf>

References

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