



Ch. 1 "History & Definitions of Child Maltreatment"

I. Dr. Johnson

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Topic Establishment

I. What should you learn today?

A. Myths vs. Realities

1. actual

vs. reported incidence

a. perceived

vs.

actual perpetrators

(1) How to use questions to guide your learning

B. U.S. History re. Child Abuse

1. Def. of Types of Abuse

a. Child Protection Services (CPS)

II. Visual metaphor of the course...

This course will deal with difficult, often disturbing content.

As a result, you are requested to carefully monitor your posts to the course wiki.

DO NOT use the course wiki to disclose any knowledge you may have re. an incidence of abuse. Such disclosures should be made to your local Child Protective Services, or police department.

If you would like to discuss a possible/actual incidence of abuse, please call the ChildHelp Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD

A. What are we talking about?

1. 11th Commandment video

Four types of child abuse were presented within this video, i.e., neglect, physical, sexual, and psychological.

We will spend the next six weeks exploring the indicators, impact, causes, recognition, reporting, response and prevention of child abuse.

While the material will be tough for you, never forget that it is MUCH tougher for the children who are experiencing abuse.

Lecture Information

I. a story of abuse: Everyone Missed the Signs

A. myths & realities of abuse...

<http://www.childmatters.org.nz/58/learn-about-child-abuse/myths-and-realities>

Myth: It is only abuse if it is violent.

Fact: Child abuse does not necessarily involve violence or anger. Abuse often involves adults exploiting their **power** over children, and using children as objects rather than respecting their rights as young people.

Myth: Parents who abuse their children do not love their children. These parents want to hurt or get rid of their children.

Fact: Most parents who abuse their children really do love the children and feel very guilty after abusing the children. The problem is that these **parents do not know how to raise and discipline children in a non-abusive manner.**

Myth: Children usually tell someone that they are being abused.

Fact: **Most children do not tell.** Abusers can be very effective in making children too fearful to talk about what is going on.

Myth: Children are usually sexually abused by strangers.

Fact: 85 - 90% of children who are sexually abused are sexually abused by someone they know.

Myth: The most common form of abuse suffered by children at home is sexual abuse.

Fact: Children are seven times more likely to be beaten badly by their parents than sexually abused by them.

Myth: Most children who are abused do something to cause it.

Fact: **The child is always the victim.** The responsibility for the abuse lies solely with the adult.

Myth: Abused children hate their parents and want to get away from the parents.

Fact: Most children who have been abused by their parents still love their parents and want to remain living with them; they want the abuse to stop.

Myth: Most physical abuse is carried out by men, especially fathers.

Fact: Violent acts towards children are more likely to be carried out by mothers than fathers.

Myth: Children who disclose abuse and later retract their stories were lying about the abuse.

Fact: It is extremely common for children who have experienced abuse to retract once the whole issue has been opened up.

Myth: Sexual attacks on children from strangers are common.

Fact: Sexual assaults involving contact by strangers are very rare.

Myth: If children don't witness family violence they are not affected by it.

Fact: Children sense what is going on and are affected by the behavior of both parents.

Myth: Children are very suggestible and they can easily "make up" stories of abuse.

Fact: Children do not have the maturity or ability to sustain stories of abuse that aren't real.

Myth: Children with disabilities are not as likely to become victims of abuse than children without disabilities.

Fact: **Children with disabilities are at significantly increased risk of abuse** than those without disabilities. They are 3 – 4 times more likely to be abused.

Myth: Remove a child from the parents who abuse him and you have solved the problem for the parent and the child.

Fact: It may be necessary to remove a child from his parents in time of crisis to ensure his safety and well being. Removing a child from his parents can have significant emotional effects. The goal should be to return him to his parents or other family members when his safety can be assured.

Myth: Sexual abuse is a rare occurrence.

Fact: **1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before they turn 18.**

Myth: Child abuse only happens in lower class or rural families.

Fact: **Child abuse happens across all socio-economic communities**, and it happens in both city and rural environments.

Myth: Children lie about sexual abuse.

Fact: Children do not have the explicit sexual knowledge to enable them to talk about sex unless they have witnessed, been exposed to, or experienced it.

1. actual vs. recorded incidences of abuse...

text

...p. 7

"Children are arguably the most criminally victimized people in society."

...p. 8

"...child maltreatment rates are more than ten times greater than official rates of substantiated maltreatment."

"Because the [NIS-4](#) reports only child maltreatment that comes to the attention of authorities, it dramatically underestimates that annual incidence rate."

...p. 9

"...approximately 20% of children are victims of maltreatment in any given year."

Informational source: [Child Maltreatment 2010: Summary of Key Findings](#)

..."Children in the age group of birth to 1 year had the highest

rate of victimization"

..."More than 75 percent (78.3 percent) of victims suffered neglect.

...More than 15 percent (17.6 percent) of the victims suffered physical abuse.

...Fewer than 10 percent (9.2 percent) of the victims suffered sexual abuse.

...Fewer than 10 percent (8.1 percent) of the victims suffered psychological maltreatment."

a.

II. perpetrators of abuse...

[A letter from Kelly Henderson](#)

p. 9

..."...parents are the perpetrators in approximately 80% of the substantiated cases, with mothers the most likely perpetrators in physical abuse and neglect cases, and fathers the most likely in sexual abuse cases."

A. U.S. History & laws...

p. 15

...U.S....early 1800s...House of Refuge movement...response to industrialization and urbanization... = based on the rights and responsibilities of parents, i.e., to protect those [children] who can not protect themselves

...1874 case of Mary Ellen Wilson, an 8 year old girl who had been beaten and starved by stepmother...case brought to the attention of Henry Bergh, founder of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals...argument that Mary was a member of the "animal kingdom," thus deserving protection... = resulted in a public outrage and the perspective that "...children need to be loved and nurtured and that they need to be protected by the state when parents fail to do so."

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...1960s..."...full recognition of child abuse as a social problem..."...Dr. Henry Kemp..."...battered child syndrome and suggested that physicians should report cases of abuse."... = by the end of 1960s, "...every U.S. state had created laws mandating that professionals report suspected cases of abuse."

[current U.S. laws re. reporting of child abuse can be found on the [Child Welfare Information Gateway: State Statues](#)]

...1974..."...first comprehensive child maltreatment law in the United States...Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)..." ...1st recognition of the four main types of abuse, i.e., "the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, [or] negligent treatment of a child under the age of eighteen."

[summary of CAPTA on the Child Welfare Information Gateway: [About CAPTA: A Legislative History](#) + [CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010](#)]

1. Definitions of abuse...

pp. 17-22

...An ongoing theme you will see in the text is that we still lack clear definitions of the types of abuse...this lack of clarity impedes efforts to recognize, report, investigate and prevent child abuse

p. 20

...Box 1.3...CDC...definitions of child maltreatment

...**Physical Abuse:** "the intentional use of physical force against a child that results in, or has the potential to result in, physical injury."

...**Sexual Abuse:** "any completed to attempted sexual act, sexual contact with, or exploration of a child by a caregiver."

...**Psychological Abuse:** "intentional caregiver behavior that conveys to a child that he/she is worthless, flawed...or otherwise behaving in a manner that is harmful, potentially harmful, or insensitive to a child's developmental needs or can potentially damage the child psychologically or emotionally."

...**Neglect:** "failure by a caregiver to meet a child's basic physical, emotional, medical/dental, or educational needs, or any combination thereof."

..."The CDC...defines child maltreatment as 'any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or

exploitation; or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."

p. 21

..."...all 50 states write their own laws using these federal guidelines" = a lack of consistent definitions concerning what constitutes child neglect and abuse

[state definitions of child abuse can be found on the [Child Welfare Information Gateway: State Statutes](#)]

p. 22

...co-occurrence of violence..."...45-70% of children in violent homes are also abused"

...children often experience more than one type of abuse at the same time

a. Child Protective Services (CPS)...

p. 22-23

..."...there is 'no single entity called the child welfare system.'" = each state has their own system

...three requirements of CAPTA:

- 1) states implement mandatory reporting laws/procedures = significant variations between states;
- 2) "families should be preserved when every possible" = children are rarely removed from homes
- 3) reduced use and duration of foster parents = get children back to their families as soon as possible

...current policy is focused upon identification of children who are abused and the punishment of abusers = little focus upon prevention, more upon reaction

Informational source: [Child Maltreatment 2010: Summary of Key Findings](#)

...2010 data

...3.3 million referrals to CPS concerning approximately 3.6 million children (58% of referrals made by professionals)

...61% of referrals resulted in an investigation

...19.5% of the investigations resulted in a finding of abuse or neglect

...80% of the perpetrators were parents, 6% other relatives and 4% were unmarried partners of parents

= we have a great many statistics concerning abuse and neglect, what you will learn during the course of this class is that the statistics are often flawed and incomplete.

Dr. Johnson

Suggested Activities

- I. Identify a movie you have seen in which child abuse was present, identify the type of abuse and its impact**
- A. Have a conversation with a friend re. the "myths & realities" of abuse...see how many myths they believe**
 - 1. Share resulting information, insights, and questions on [this chapter's discussion board](#)**

Required Activities

- I. to be completed before 8:00 a.m. on 7/9...**

[Final Paper Project:](#)

- 1. review the design and requirements for the Project
- 2. form three person teams with identification of who will assume which role/responsibilities on each team.
- 3. post team member names alongside their role/responsibility on an available "Team Page"

Readings:

- 1. read chapters three of the course text.