The Costs and Consequences of Child Maltreatment

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Incidence and Types of Child Maltreatment

National Estimated Child Maltreatment Reports

Victimization Rates by Age Group, 2000

Rate per 1,000 children of same age group
Public Health Consequences of Child Maltreatment

- Major Mental Health Problems
- Substance Abuse
- AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
- Impaired Physical Health

A History of Childhood Maltreatment Increases Risk for Major Depression

- Maltreatment increases risk for major depression – Increased Odds Ratio 4.6 to 8.1
- Maltreatment increases risk for suicide – Increased Odds Ratio 11.8 to 12.2
- Maltreatment associated with poor response to antidepressant medication and poor overall outcomes
- Depression becoming the 2nd most costly illness according to the World Health Organization
A History of Child Maltreatment is Strongly Linked to Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- Maltreatment significantly increases the risk for alcohol and drug abuse in adolescents
- Maltreatment is the best predictor of drug and alcohol abuse in women
- Maltreatment associated with poor treatment outcomes and increased treatment drop out

A History of Child Maltreatment is Strongly Associated with HIV & STD Risk

- A history of child maltreatment dramatically increases risks for HIV-risk behavior (IV drugs, promiscuity)
  - Hx of abuse associated with difficulties in practicing safe sex precautions
  - Hx of abuse associated with poor compliance with HIV treatment
  - Hx of abuse is associated with knowingly transmitting HIV by men
- Findings well-replicated in large, community studies – strong implications for AIDS prevention
Impairment of Physical Health:
The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Studies

• ACE questionnaire administered with medical examination to large (N~10,000) samples (Kaiser Permanente & Centers for Disease Control)
• Series of studies find a graded (dose-effect) response between number of ACEs and medical and mental health problems
• Age cohort comparisons indicate that this dose-response effect remains unchanged since 1900 – despite the dramatic advancements in health care.

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ACE Examples

• The 7 ACEs – (psychological, sexual & physical abuse, parental mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence & criminal behavior)
• Subjects with 4 or more ACEs (compared to 0 ACES) have significantly increased health risk factors (smoking, obesity, inactivity, depression, substance abuse)
• Subjects with 4 or more ACEs have significantly higher rates of the leading causes of death (heart disease, cancer, stroke, lung disease, diabetes)

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2001 Estimated Direct Costs of Child Maltreatment = $24 Billion*

- Medical care (ED visits, hospitalization & treatment)
- Mental Health (evaluation, individual and family treatment)
- Child Protective Service investigation
- Foster care (80% of foster placements are for maltreatment)
- Law enforcement costs
- Prosecution and incarceration costs

*Fromm, 2001, Prevent Child Abuse America

2001 Estimated Indirect Costs of Maltreatment = $69 Billion*

- Special Education (50% of maltreated children have school problems)
- Ongoing Mental Health (depression, suicidality, PTSD)
- Juvenile Delinquency & Adult Criminality
- Adult Medical Problems
- Substance Abuse
- AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- Increased unemployment and lost productivity

*Fromm, 2001, Prevent Child Abuse America
Prevention Works and is Cost Effective!

- Meta-analysis of 21 studies found that Home Visitation programs significantly reduce child maltreatment (median reduction = 40%, range 24%-74%) (Centers for Disease Control)
- Programs utilizing nurses and lasting 2 or more years are most effective
- Economic analysis found that 4 dollars are saved for every dollar invested in a Home Visitation prevention program (RAND Corp)

Conclusions

- Child maltreatment makes significant contributions to costly public health problems (depression, AIDS, substance abuse, physical health)
- A history of maltreatment is associated with poor response to standard treatments
- Maltreatment prevention programs work and can be improved with further research
- Prevention is cost-effective
The Costs and Consequences of Child Maltreatment
- Supporting References -
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Slide 1: Title

Slide 2: Incidence and Types of Child Maltreatment

Slide 3: Public Health Consequences of Child Maltreatment
- See supporting references below

Slide 4: A History of Child Maltreatment Increases Risk for Major Depression
- Recent studies documenting that child maltreatment significantly raises the risk for major depression
- Recent studies documenting that child maltreatment significantly raises the risk for suicide

- Maltreatment histories associated with poor medication response and poor treatment outcomes

• Depression becoming the 2nd most costly illness according to the World Health Organization

**Slide 5: A History of Child Maltreatment is strongly linked to Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

- Maltreatment significantly increases the risk for alcohol and drug abuse in adolescents

- Maltreatment is the best predictor of drug and alcohol abuse in women

- Maltreatment associated with poor treatment outcomes and increased treatment drop out
Slide 6: A History of Child Maltreatment is Strongly Associated with HIV and STD Risk

- A history of child maltreatment dramatically increases risks for HIV-risk behavior (IV drugs, promiscuity)

- Hx of abuse associated with difficulties in practicing safe sex precautions

- Hx of abuse associated with poor compliance with HIV treatment

- Hx of abuse is associated with knowingly transmitting HIV by men
Slide 7: Impairment of Physical Health: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Studies

- ACE questionnaire administered with medical examination to large (N~10,000) samples (Kaiser Permanente & Centers for Disease Control )
- Series of studies find a graded (dose-effect) response between number of ACEs and medical and mental health problems
  - WWW.ACESTUDY.ORG – website for ACE studies information
- Age cohort comparisons indicate that this dose-response effect remains unchanged since 1900 – despite the dramatic advancements in health care.

Slide 8: ACE Examples

- See website WWW.ACESTUDY.ORG for additional examples

Slide 9: 2001 Estimated Direct Costs of Maltreatment = $24 Billion

- For additional cost estimates see:

Slide 10: 2001 Estimated Indirect Costs of Maltreatment = $69 Billion

Slide 11: Prevention Works and is Cost Effective!

- Median reduction in child maltreatment = 40%

- Other Meta-analyses of child abuse prevention programs

- Economic Analyses of child abuse prevention programs

Slide 12: Conclusions