

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND LATER CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

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EXTENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN USA (2000)

- CPS agencies received about 3 million referrals of possible maltreatment
- Approximately 879,000 were substantiated after investigation
- Approximately 1,200 children died of abuse or neglect

DEFINITIONS OF TYPES OF CHILD MALTREATMENT



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Cases include injuries such as bruises, welts, burns, abrasions, lacerations, wounds, cuts, bone and skull fractures, and other evidence of physical injury.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Charges vary from relatively non-specific charges of "assault and battery with intent to gratify sexual desires" to more specific charges of fondling or touching in an obscene manner, sodomy, incest, rape, and so forth.

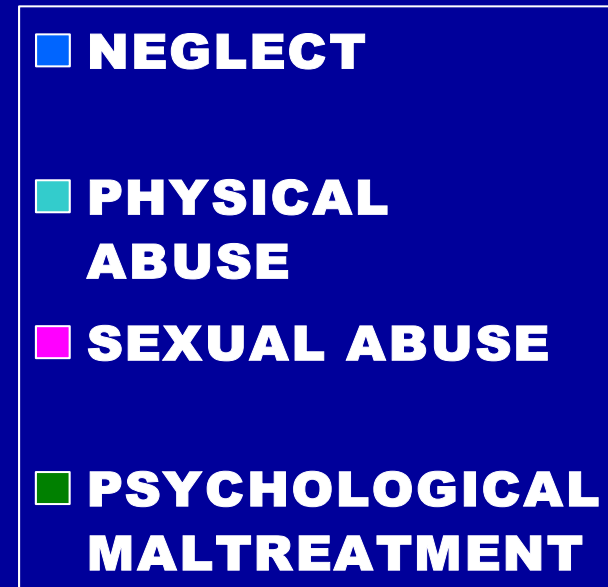
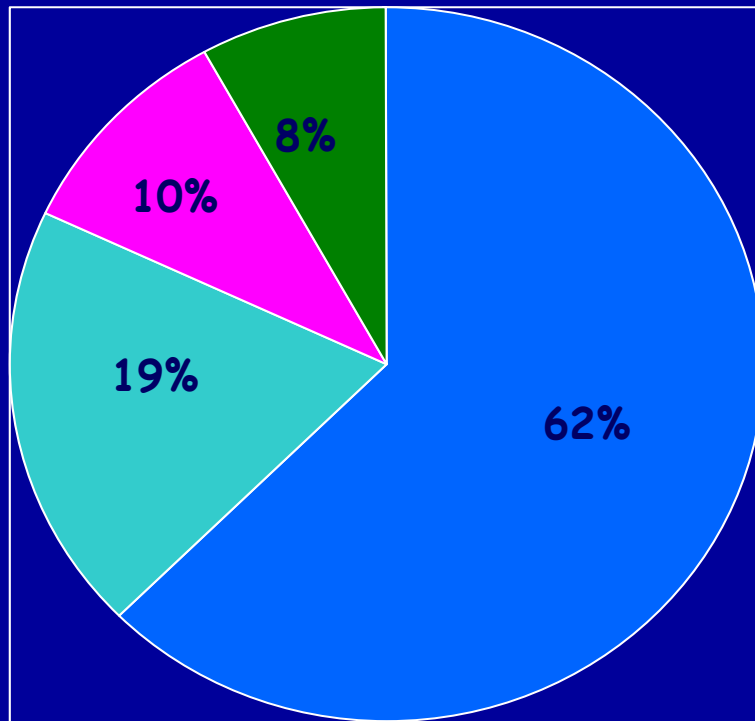
NEGLECT

- Cases reflect a judgment that the parents' deficiencies in child care are beyond those found acceptable by community and professional standards at the time.
- Cases represent extreme failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical attention.

EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL MALTREATMENT

- Persistent or extreme thwarting of the child's basic emotional needs.
- Included are needs for psychological safety and security, acceptance and self-esteem, and age-appropriate autonomy.

PREVALENCE OF TYPES OF MALTREATMENT IN USA (2000)



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Clinical observations and case histories
- Cross-sectional studies of delinquent adolescents or patient groups
- Studies of aggression in abused and neglected young children
- Prospective longitudinal studies

CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND JUVENILE CRIME (MIDWEST)

	Abuse/ Neglect (n=908)	Control (n=667)	Increase in Risk (%)
TYPE OF ARREST AS A JUVENILE	%	%	
Any Arrest	21.6	13.9 ***	55
Property	14.6	9.1 ***	60
Order	7.9	4.6 **	72
Violence	5.3	2.7 **	96

** p<.01 **** p<.001

Adapted from Maxfield, M.G., and Widom, C.S. (1996) The cycle of violence: Revisited six years later. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 150:390-395

Characteristics Of Offending (Midwest)

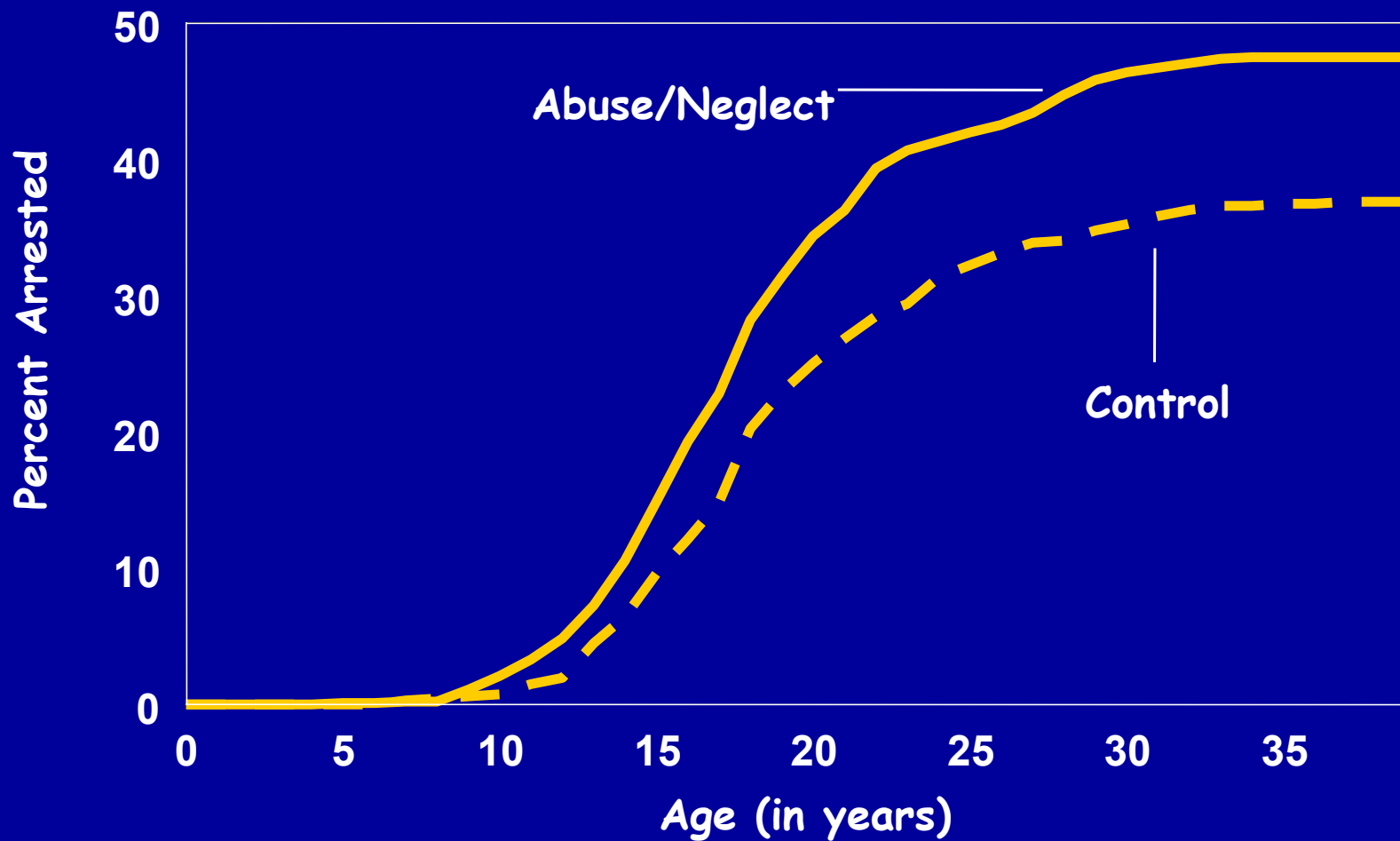
	Abuse/ Neglect	Controls
Age of Onset (in Years)	18.1	19.2 **
Average Number of Arrests	6.9	4.7 **
Recidivists (%) (2-4 Arrests)	17.1	12.7 ***
Chronic Offenders (%) (5 or More)	19.8	12.3 ***

P <.01 *** p<.001

Source: Maxfield, M.G., and Widom, C.S. (1996) The cycle of violence: Revisited six years later. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 150:390-395

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ONSET OF ARRESTS



Child Maltreatment And Youthful Problem Behaviors (Mecklenburg County, North Carolina)

	Maltreatment Sample (281)	Poverty Sample (177)	School Sample (633)
	%	%	%
Any Complaint	13.7	9.0	5.3
Status	8.2	3.4	1.8
Property	6.3	5.1	3.2
Violent	3.3	2.3	0.7

Source: Zingraff, M.T., Leiter, J., Myers, K.A., and Johnsen, M.C. (1993) Child maltreatment and youthful problem behavior. *Criminology*, 31:173-202.

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Childhood Maltreatment and Adolescent Delinquency (Rochester, New York)

Delinquency	Maltreated		Not Maltreated	
	n	%	n	%
Official	136	45.1	864	31.7*
Self-Report	125		764	
Serious		42.4		32.7*
Moderate		71.3		55.6*
Minor		45.3		37.2*
Violent		69.6		56.0*

Source: Smith, C., and Thornberry, T.P. (1995) The relationship between childhood maltreatment and adolescent involvement in delinquency. *Criminology*, 33(4):451-481

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Child Abuse and Neglect and Delinquency (Northwest)

	Abuse/ Neglect (N = 877)	Controls (N = 877)	Increase in Risk
TYPE OF ARREST AS A JUVENILE	%	%	
Any Juvenile	19.6	4.1 ***	4.78
Property	13.6	2.7 ***	5.04
Order	22.1	8.3	
Violence	8.8	0.8 ***	11.00

Source: English, D.J., Widom, C.S., and Brandford, C. (2002) Childhood victimization and risk of subsequent arrest in the northwest. NIJ grant # 97-IJ-CX-0017

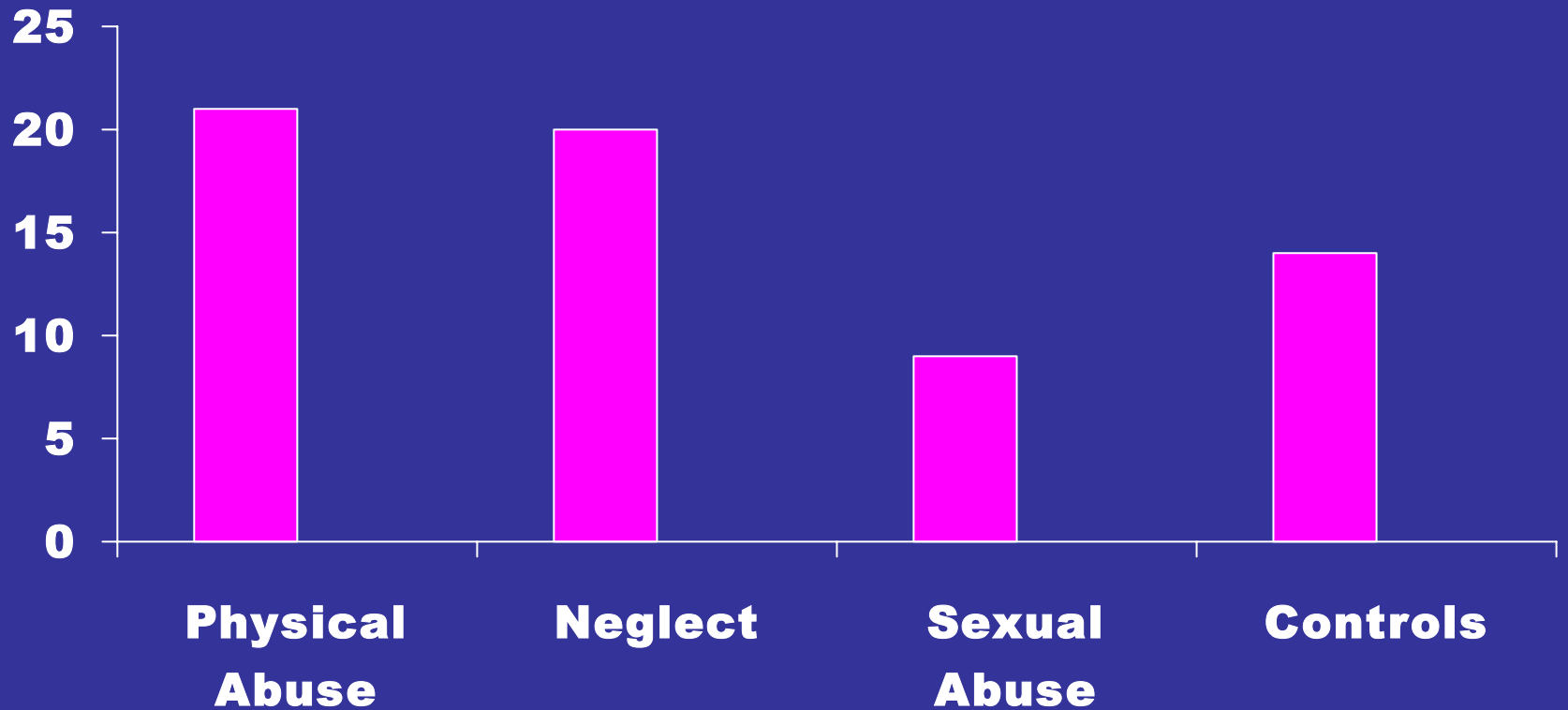
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THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

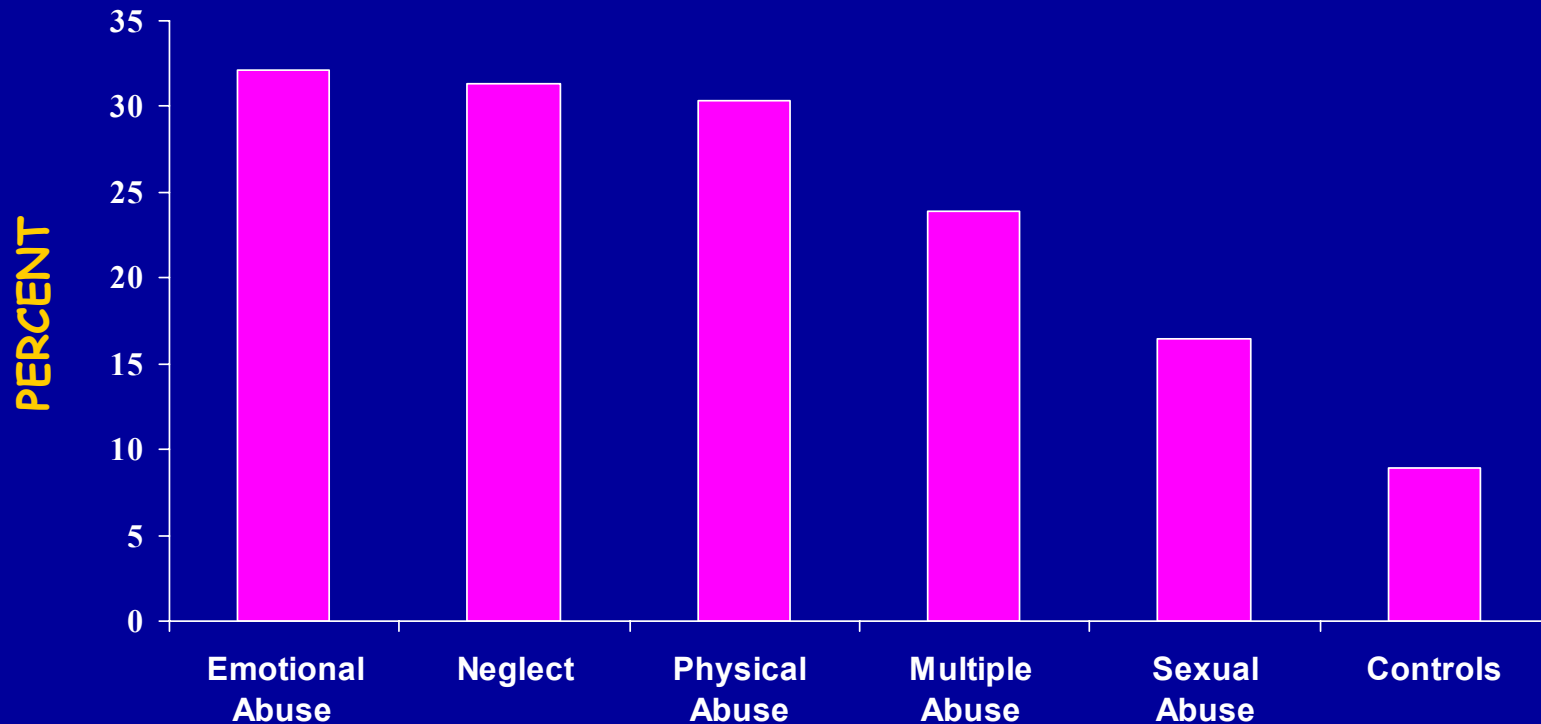
Does only physical abuse as a child
(being the victim of violence) lead
to perpetrating violence?

Arrests for Violence by Type of Child Abuse and Neglect (Midwest)

PERCENT



Arrests for Violence by Type of Child Maltreatment (Northwest)



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND DELINQUENCY IN GIRLS

- Child abuse and neglect doubles a girl's risk of being arrested for a violent crime (8% vs. 4%)
- About 8% of abused and neglected girls become "high rate chronic" or persistent offenders and continue offending into adulthood.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



INTERVENTIONS

- Targeted interventions are needed for abused and neglected children
- The earlier the intervention, the better

A SINGLE DOSE IS NOT ENOUGH

- View antisocial behavior in children and adolescents as a chronic illness warranting continued intervention
- Aftercare programs are essential to reduce the likelihood of re-offending
- Like fluoride treatments

INFORMATION SHARING

- Social service, juvenile justice, education, mental health, and child welfare systems need to share information and work closely to identify concurrent involvement with the same family

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

- Provide individualized assessments of children including recognition of long-term needs
- Use of better screening methods with documented predictive utility
- Recognition of substantial mental health needs of some maltreated children

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL (cont'd.)

- Pay attention to abused and neglected girls
- Although classrooms & neighborhoods are disrupted by deviant behavior of males, the health of females affects fetuses and the adequacy of their parenting practices influences crime in their offspring
- Need to know what works for girl delinquents (evidence-based)

SURVEILLANCE IS A DOUBLE- EDGED SWORD

DO NOT NEGLECT NEGLECTED CHILDREN