
Appendix 2: Summaries of studies assessing risk indicators since the task force's 1993 update¹

Stier et al, 1993^{41*}

- Longitudinal cohort design examining relation between child maltreatment and low maternal age in a sample of children born to inner-city mothers
- The rate of child maltreatment, which included physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect, was increased two-fold in a group of children born to mothers 18 years of age or younger

Kelleher et al, 1994⁴²

- Case-control study with a community-based sample
- Respondents reporting either physical abuse or neglect of their children were more likely than control subjects to report substance abuse or dependence
- Authors overcame potential for referral bias by taking into account confounding factors, thus providing good evidence of a strong association between parental substance abuse and child maltreatment

Wilson et al, 1996⁴³

- Systematic review of strength of association between antenatal psychosocial variables and child abuse (articles published between 1980 and 1993)
- Indicators for which there was the strongest evidence of an association with child abuse: recent life stressors, lack of social support, maternal psychiatric impairment, history of childhood violence in the mother or her partner, partner suspected of child abuse, poor parent-child relationship in the mother's childhood, low self-esteem in the mother, unwanted pregnancy, lack of attendance at prenatal classes
- Indicators for which there was fair evidence of an association with child abuse: poor marital adjustment or satisfaction, abuse of the mother by her partner, substance abuse by the mother or her partner

MacMillan et al, 1997⁴²

- Cross-sectional survey (Ontario Health Supplement)
- Males were found to be at increased risk for child physical abuse
- The risk of physical abuse was increased further for males raised in families in which the parent providing primary financial support had not finished high school
- Growing up in a rural area of less than 3000 residents was found to be a correlate of child physical abuse among females but not males
- The evidence supported previous findings that child sexual abuse is more common among females than among males

Brown et al, 1998⁴⁴

- Longitudinal study: data on child maltreatment from New York State records and retrospective self-reports were used to identify demographic, familial and parenting characteristics prospectively associated with risk for physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect
- Variables that showed significant association with combined official reports and self-reports of child physical abuse: low maternal education, low religious attendance, low maternal age, welfare dependence, single parent status, measures of impairment in parenting (e.g., low paternal warmth), maternal impairment (e.g., sociopathy including substance abuse or problems with police; serious illness), poor marital quality
- Variables associated with combined reports of child neglect were similar as those above; however, both maternal and paternal sociopathy as well as paternal psychopathology were significant correlates of neglect
- Variables that showed significant association with combined reports of child sexual abuse included: low maternal age, parental death, presence of a stepfather, negative life events, maternal sociopathy, harsh punishment, unwanted pregnancy

*Data from this study were published after submission of the 1993 task force report.

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