



Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Policy, Research and Training

Brown School

Systems Outcomes Following Neglect

Disentangling Neglect from Poverty Across Definitions, Outcomes, Interventions, and Policy Recommendations

April 22, 2022

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Federal funding provided by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (P50HD096719); Additional support provided by Washington University and Saint Louis University



Washington University in St. Louis



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AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

First....does looking at later system outcomes mean my system is responsible?

Longer term system contacts—particularly in the context of children coming to the attention of child welfare-have sometimes raised concerns. Underfunded systems are blamed for too much....

On the other hand, not measuring these things is problematic for thinking through better forms of policy and programming, either within or outside child welfare.

I would argue that measuring contacts (like the latest child well-being indicators required in the Child and Family Services Reviews) are minimally necessary- not to hold one system accountable- BUT to call attention to opportunities to improve a system of care that can help children and their families have the positive outcomes they deserve.

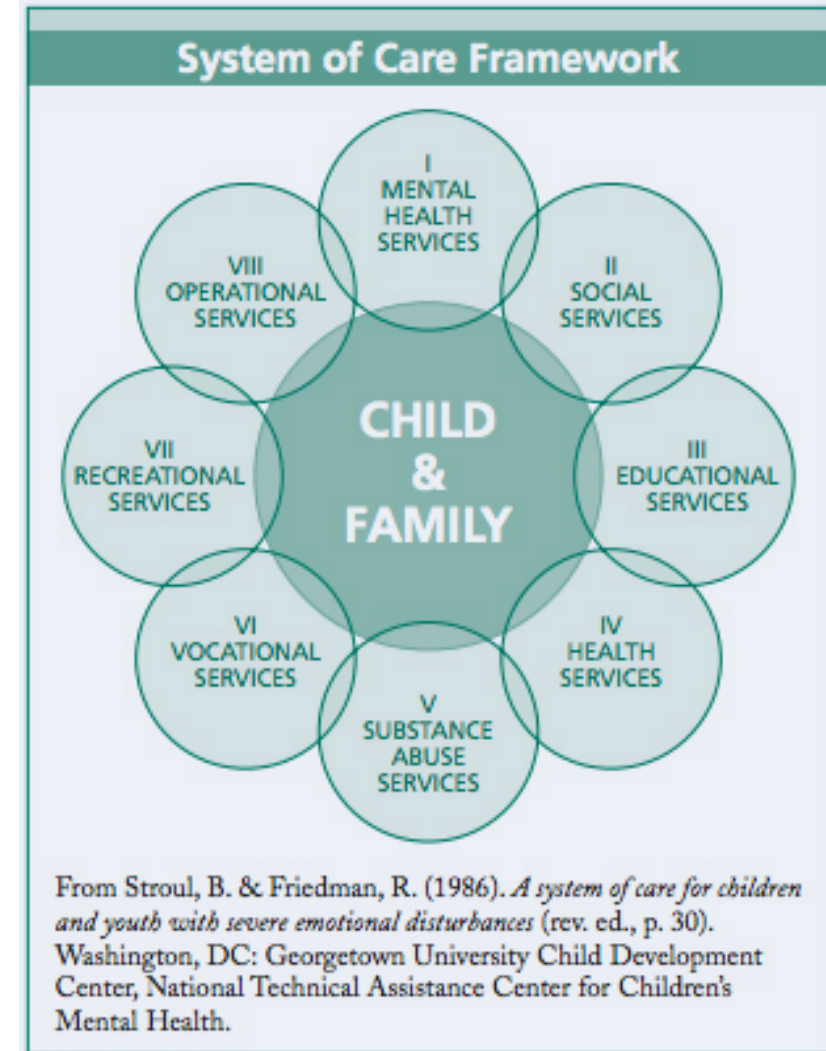
I also think it is key to differentiate contact with services...a talk for another day.



Photo by Frederik Löwer - Creative Commons No known copyright restrictions <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-157333553610-a871dfd95bf5?crop=entropy&cs=tinysrgb&fit=max&fm=jpg&ixid=Mnw5OD A1fDB8MXxzZWFyY2h8M3x8Zm9yd2FyZHZHxlbmwwfHx8fDE2NDkwMzE1MTE &ixlib=rb-1.2.1&q=80&w=1080>

Why are system outcomes important?

- Proxies for poor developmental outcomes often with long term consequences for the individual
- Readily visible and can be tracked as secondary prevention goals and/or child well-being metrics for child welfare.
- Are the most common markers used for cost estimates of maltreatment



Child Abuse & Neglect
Volume 36, Issue 2, February 2012, Pages 156-165



The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention ☆, ☆☆

Why Might Neglect Impact Systems Contact?

- Direct influence on cognitive or physical development
 - Special education
 - Behavioral and medical health systems
 - Recurrent maltreatment
- Lack of connection to positive influences/opportunities/needed services
 - Behavioral and medical health systems
 - Recurrent maltreatment
 - Lower educational attainment
 - Juvenile justice
- Lack of protection from environmental risk
 - Behavioral and medical health systems
 - Involvement in juvenile justice/criminal justice
 - Other victimization (resulting in health or court involvement...)
- Increased risk of recurrent maltreatment
 - Behavioral and medical health systems
 - Involvement in juvenile justice/criminal justice
 - Lower educational attainment
 - Longterm economic consequences



Types of Studies on Child Neglect and System Outcomes

1. Studies that find “No difference”

These look at maltreatment type BUT some may be harder to locate as they may not include neglect in the title or abstract. Within the articles, however, they indicate no difference (or no large difference) in outcome by maltreatment type. In other words, neglect is equally problematic.

2. Studies that follow outcomes for neglect specifically

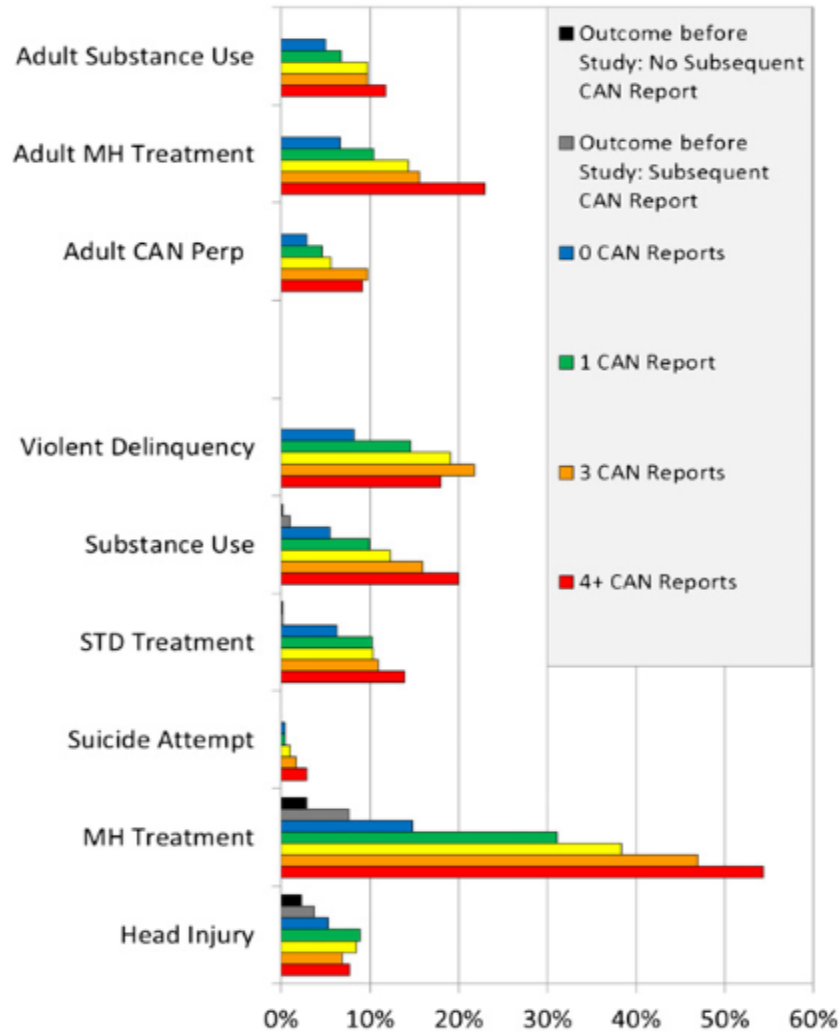
These may be easier to find by title and have a main focus on explaining results for neglect.

Examples of “No Difference” System Contact Findings

Adult systems controlling for the youth contacts:
 Arrest or ER for Substance Use
 MH Tx
 CPS as Perpetrator



Youth system contact:
 Juvenile justice
 Substance Abuse Health or arrest
 STD Tx
 ER for suicide attempt
 MH Tx
 ER for head injury



Neglect cases faced **equal risk** of a number of system outcomes compared to other forms of maltreatment over time so it was not included. Note: “Poverty Only” (blue bars) % is always lower

ARTICLE | MAY 01 2012

Child and Adult Outcomes of Chronic Child Maltreatment

Melissa Jonson-Reid, PhD; Patricia L. Kohl, PhD; Brett Drake, PhD

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: The authors have indicated they have no financial relationships relevant to this article to disclose.

Pediatrics (2012) 129 (5): 839-845.

<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2011-2529> Article history



Research article

It’s not “Just poverty”: Educational, social, and economic functioning among young adults exposed to childhood neglect, abuse, and poverty

Sarah A. Font^{a,*}, Kathryn Maguire-Jack^b

	No Alleged Maltreatment (NM)		Alleged neglect Only (NO)		Alleged neglect and abuse (AN)		Alleged abuse only (AO)	
	%/Mean	SD	%/Mean	SD	%/Mean	SD	%/Mean	SD
<i>N</i>	19,876		3,060		2,248		3,970	
Poverty Measures (SNAP receipt, age 0–16)								
Never	—		10.49 %		5.46 %		15.10 %	
Duration (% months received)	40.10	29.23	49.18	32.46	52.82	30.00	38.47	31.38
Depth (mean % max benefit when received)	62.78	18.42	57.56	26.55	59.57	22.41	51.55	27.23
Outcomes through age 20								
Graduated high school	77.53 %		63.59 %		59.10 %		72.28 %	
Teen parenthood	12.85 %		18.10 %		23.49 %		15.99 %	
Milwaukee County Jail	8.52 %		13.76 %		17.93 %		12.04 %	
State prison	1.81 %		3.92 %		4.85 %		2.92 %	
Regular employment	35.54 %		29.58 %		30.65 %		35.47 %	
Average quarterly earnings	\$1036.39	1284.24	\$930.18	1226.56	\$914.19	1200.99	\$1035.01	1243.87

“Whereas youth exposed to both abuse and neglect fare worse than youth exposed to a single form of maltreatment, we found no consistent indication that abuse was associated with worse outcomes than neglect.”



Why might studies find no difference between neglect and other forms of maltreatment?

Disentangling Neglect from Other Victimization



Pergamon

Child Abuse & Neglect 27 (2003) 899–917

Child Abuse
& Neglect

Cross-type recidivism among child maltreatment victims and perpetrators[☆]

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Received 9 August 2001; received in revised form 29 May 2002; accepted 9 June 2003



ELSEVIER

Child Abuse & Neglect

Volume 34, Issue 9, September 2010, Pages 647-658



Child neglect: Definition and identification of youth's experiences in official reports of maltreatment[☆]

Ferol E. Mennen^a, Kihyun Kim^b, Jina Sang^a, Penelope K. Trickett^a

	N	Total Recid	Sexual Abuse Recid	Physical Abuse Recid	Neglect Recid	Emotion Abuse Recid	Other Abuse Recid
Sexual Index Event:							
Victims	4,681	34.7%	11.4%	12.7%	20.5%	2.9%	4.2%
Perpetrators	1,230	31.5%	13.0%	13.0%	14.6%	2.7%	3.7%
Physical Index Event:							
Victims	14,707	40.8%	5.6%	22.1%	24.6%	4.2%	5.7%
Perpetrators	9,279	37.8%	3.8%	22.6%	22.0%	4.4%	5.7%
Neglect Index Event:							
Victims	33,555	50.2%	5.6%	14.7%	41.1%	5.1%	7.9%
Perpetrators	20,941	44.7%	3.4%	13.9%	37.8%	5.3%	7.1%

Neglect was present in 71.0% of the sample as compared to the 41.0% classified as neglected by CPS records. Neglect was accompanied by other types of maltreatment in 95% of the cases. Children who were neglected had more reports of maltreatment and experienced a greater number of different types of maltreatment than those who were maltreated, but not neglected.

Child Neglect and the Broader Context of Child Victimization

Child Maltreatment
2019, Vol. 24(3) 265-274
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sagepub.com/journals-permissions
DOI: 10.1177/1077559518825312
journals.sagepub.com/home/cm



Heather A. Turner¹, Jennifer Vanderminden², David Finkelhor¹,
and Sherry Hamby³

- National Survey – parent report for young children and self report for ages 10+
 - Physical and supervisory neglect were highly related to risk of other types of maltreatment as well as peer victimization, sexual assault by non-relative, witnessing IPV, dating violence and being a victim of property crime.
 - Neglect was significantly related to trauma symptoms along with other forms of victimization but neglect became non-significant when polyvictimization was controlled

So neglect, over time and without effective preventive intervention, is often compounded by a host of other forms of victimization – including other types of maltreatment.





Neglect
Compared to
Poverty Only
or Similar
SES controls



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Child Abuse & Neglect

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/chiabuneg

Research article

It's not "Just poverty": Educational, social, and economic functioning among young adults exposed to childhood neglect, abuse, and poverty

Sarah A. Font^{a,*}, Kathryn Maguire-Jack^b

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The roles of housing, financial, and food insecurities in understanding the relationship between childhood neglect and violence in adulthood

Amie M. Schuck¹, Cathy Spatz Widom^{2*}

“We found that youth with CPS-investigated neglect have substantially worse outcomes –lower rates of high school graduation and regular employment, and higher rates of teen parenthood and incarceration–than youth without maltreatment allegations who were exposed to similar duration and depth of poverty.”

“Childhood neglect predicted violent arrests and housing, financial, and food insecurities in middle adulthood more than 30 years later. “

[court substantiated cases compared to economically similar controls]

Take Home?

While we do not have as much data as we would like, studies we do have suggest that children with indications of neglect have greater risk of later system outcomes that are proxies for negative developmental outcomes.



Are all forms of neglect equal?

Honestly the work in this area is still emerging...

Children reported for physical abuse were more likely to enter foster care than physical neglect or mixed neglect but there was no difference between abuse and other subtypes of neglect (e.g., supervisory, educational, medical or other)

Compared to Mixed neglect + Abandonment, Black children reported for severe neglect (failure to thrive, medical neglect, exposure or malnutrition) were more likely to be referred for services after a first CPS report but there were no differences by type of neglect for White children.



Neglect subtypes in relation to rereport and foster care entry outcomes

Chien-Jen Chiang^{a,*}, Miyoun Yang^a, Brittany Wittenberg^a, Melissa Jonson-Reid^b

Regular Article

Neglect Subtypes, Race, and Poverty: Individual, Family, and Service Characteristics

Melissa Jonson-Reid¹, Brett Drake¹, and Pan Zhou¹

There are a few studies not on system outcomes suggesting some differences but not clear implications yet

A few examples...

- Dubowitz, H., Papas, M. A., Black, M. M., & Starr, R. H. (2002). Child neglect: Outcomes in high-risk urban preschoolers. *Pediatrics*, *109*(6), 1100-1107.
- Vincent, J., Hovatta, I., Frissa, S., Goodwin, L., Hotopf, M., Hatch, S. L., ... & Powell, T. R. (2017). Assessing the contributions of childhood maltreatment subtypes and depression case-control status on telomere length reveals a specific role of physical neglect. *Journal of affective disorders*, *213*, 16-22.

Take Home Message

- Neglect has generally been given less attention in the literature, but existing research suggests that looking across many systems (educational, health, juvenile and criminal justice, and others)...
 - the impact of neglect in childhood is different than experiencing only poverty
 - when compared to other forms of maltreatment, neglect often results in equally poor outcomes.
- There is potential here for secondary prevention. Effective services at both the child and family levels may alleviate harm that may have occurred due to neglect and prevent recurrence. Doing this well may offset later negative system outcomes.
- Diligent measuring of these kinds of later system contacts –and whether services are even provided--may provide an opportunity to show both personal and societal cost savings of earlier intervention.

JOURNAL OF PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE
2016, VOL. 10, NO. 4, 457–465
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2016.1155524>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

Child Well-Being: Where Is It in Our Data Systems?

Melissa Jonson-Reid and Brett Drake

Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St Louis, St Louis, MO, USA

**April is
Child Abuse
Prevention
Month**

**Thank you for all you do for
children and families!**

