



Domestic violence in the lives of children

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Overview

- **Define exposure**
- **Examine how children's perspectives differ from adults'**
- **Tools for working with children and youth**
- **Some precautions**
- **Q & A**

Honor our Voices

Children's perspectives of Domestic Violence

Introduction

Themes

Extras

Conclusion

Hi, I'm Alex. I was born in Houston, Texas. My mom got divorced when I was 12. When I was 13 and my sister Lisa was 9, my mom married Brian and we moved to Chicago. The first year was good, but my step-dad Brian was controlling some-times. After my Mom, Anna, gave birth to my little brother, Ryan, Brian became even more controlling and violent. When I was 15 we left Brian's house and moved into a shelter. This is my story about that time in my life.

My name is Alex. I live with my mom and my little sister Lisa and my new "dad." His real name is Brian, and I am going to call him that because HE IS NOT MY DAD, NO WAY! No matter what mom says.

 Alex talks about his family.



Mom
Lisa and Me
My REAL Dad
when we were little



[◀ Previous](#) [Next ▶](#)

presented by:
MINCAVA

Center for Advanced Studies
in Child Welfare

AVON
Foundation
for Women



Birth
to 5 yrs



6-12 yrs



12-18 yrs

Honor our Voices

- <http://www.honourourvoices.org/>
- Free online learning module
- Services from a child's perspective
- Additional resources:
 - Guide for Practice
 - Audio stories
 - Many useful links

AVON
Foundation
for Women

MINCAVA
Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse

Types of exposure

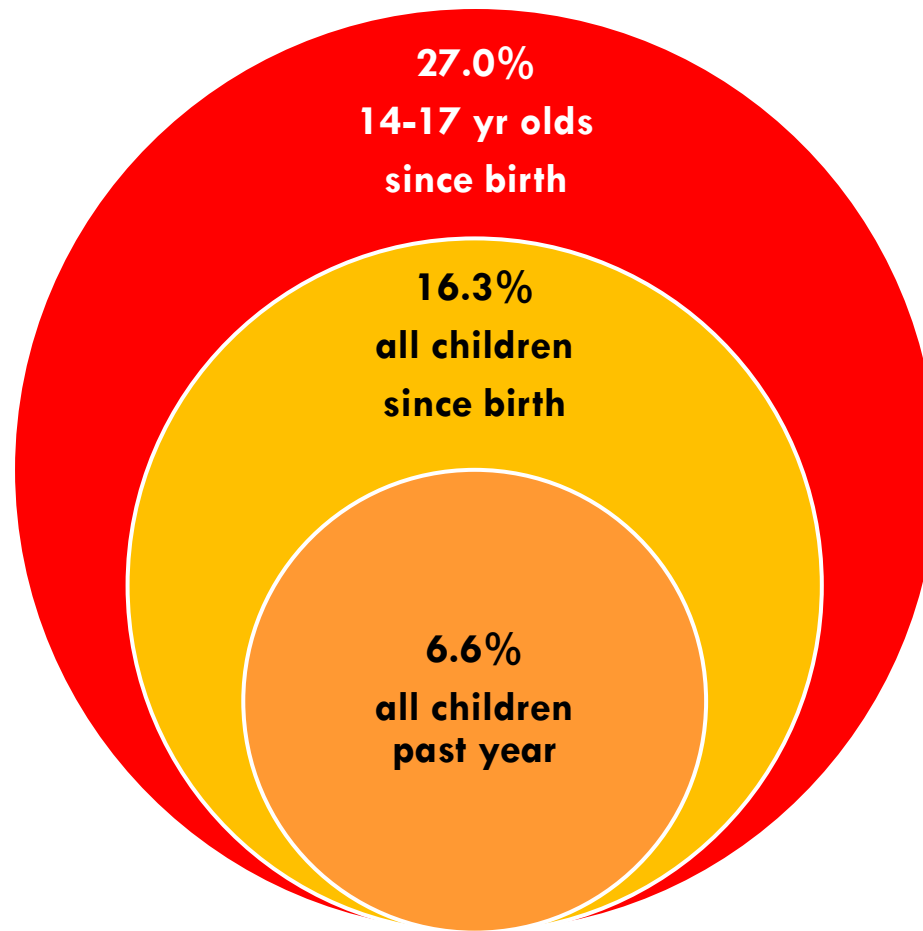


- **Child exposure to violence**
 - Direct
 - Indirect
- **Intentional and unintentional harm**

Defining DV exposure



Child exposure



(N=4,549; Finkelhor et al., 2009)

Exposure to murder

- **A study of DV homicides/attempted homicides involving 237 children in 10 U.S. cities found:**
 - Of 146 children whose mothers were murdered:
 - 35% witnessed their mother's death
 - 37% found their murdered mothers
 - Of 91 children who were party to an attempted homicide:
 - 62% witnessed the violent event
 - 28% found their mothers afterwards

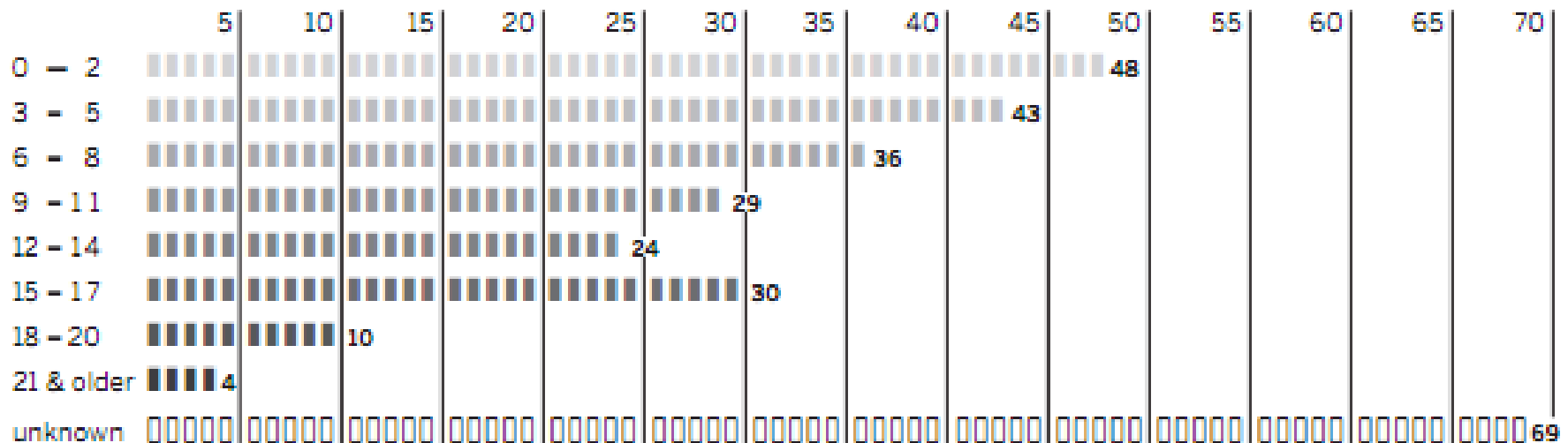
Lewandowski, L.A., McFarlane, J., Campbell, J.C., Gary, F. & Barenski, C. (2004). "He killed my mommy!" Murder or attempted murder of a child's mother. *Journal of Family Violence*, 19, 211-220.

Child Age at Homicides

Age of children living with the domestic violence victim at the time of the murder

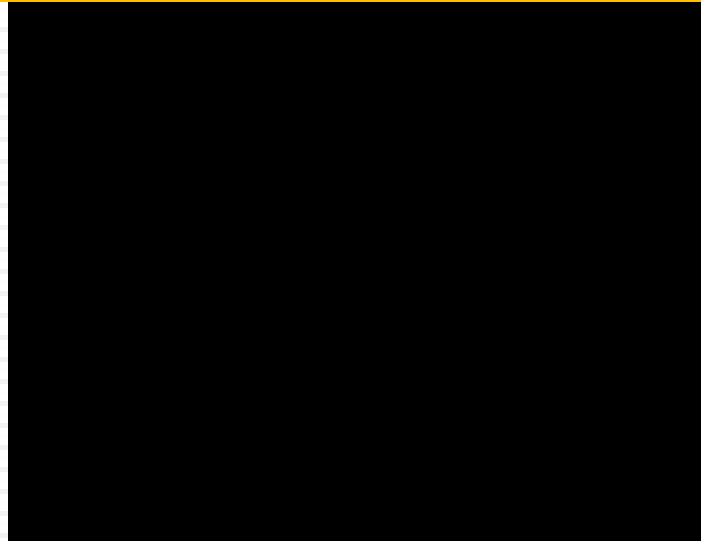
January 1, 1997 – June 30, 2010

Total: 293 children of 148 domestic violence victims



WSCADV: Fawcett, 2010

Video: Roxane



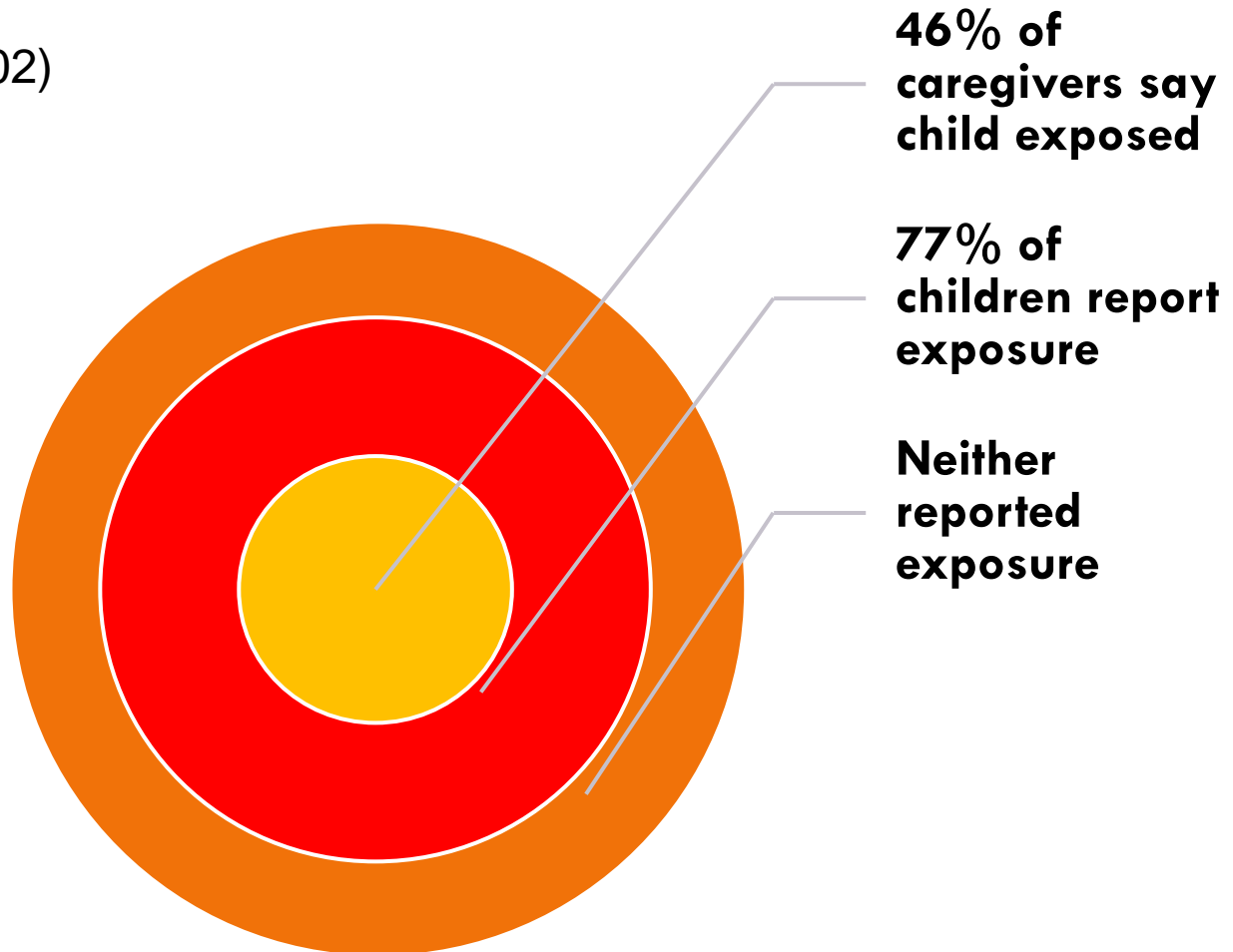
Stukyoutoo.com

The Netherlands

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L03C_fCnsI

What children know

Johnson et al. (2002)



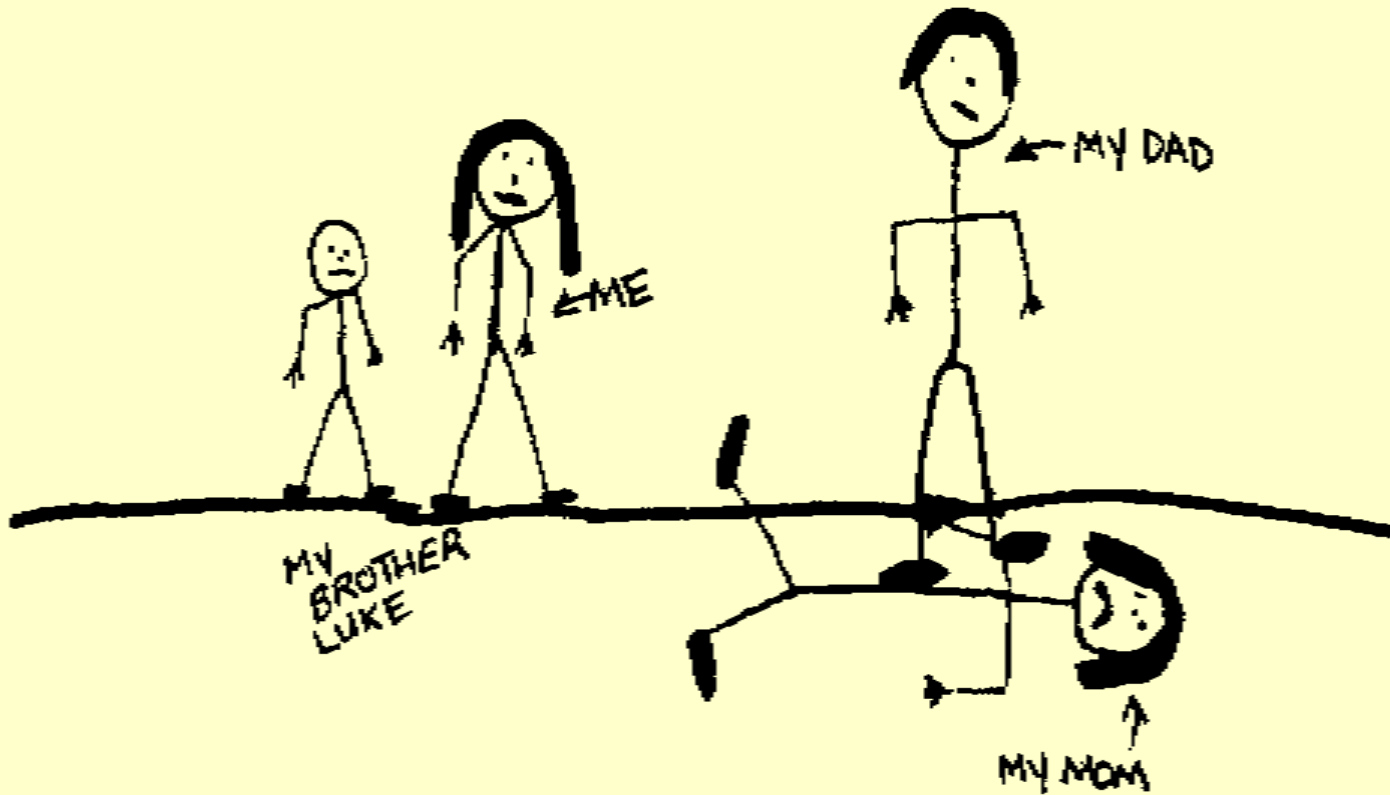
Child reports



- **Children report differently than adults:**
 - **exposures**
 - **impacts**
- **Care in recording information**

Figure 6.2:
Kate's Picture of her Mother's Attack at the Fence





“My mom was lying on the floor and my dad was jumping on her head and kicking her in the back. Me and my brother were trying to stop him.”

“Jennifer”, age 11



Family Values

Dad

Kids

Mom

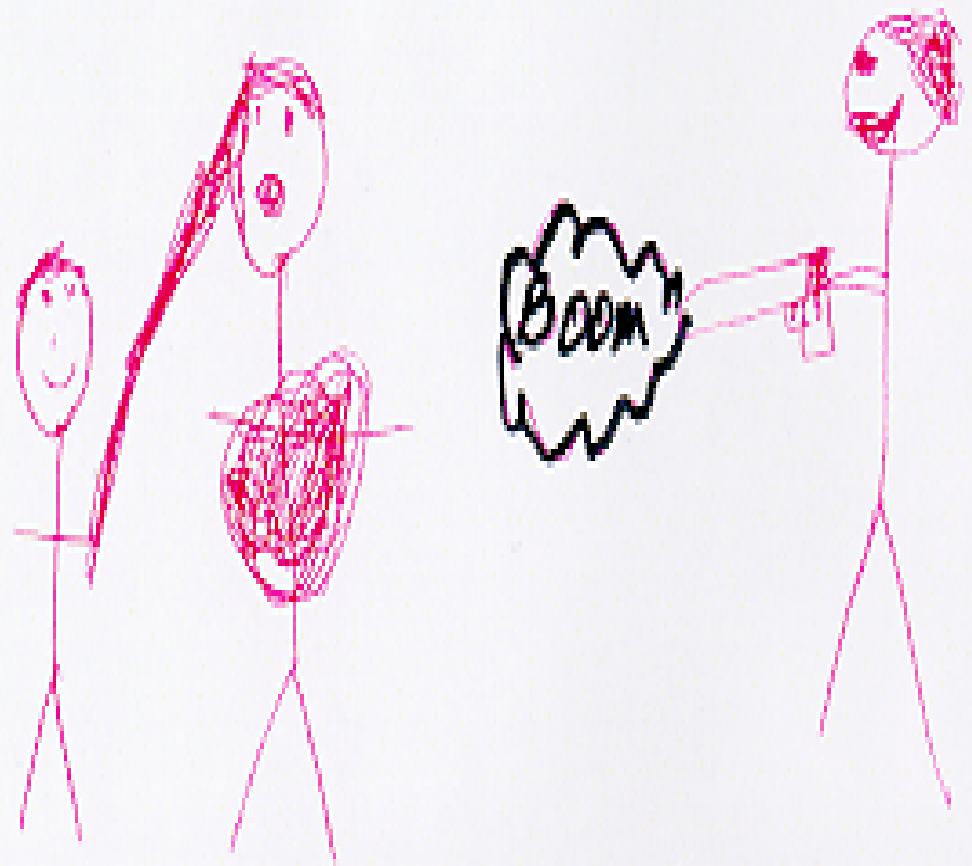




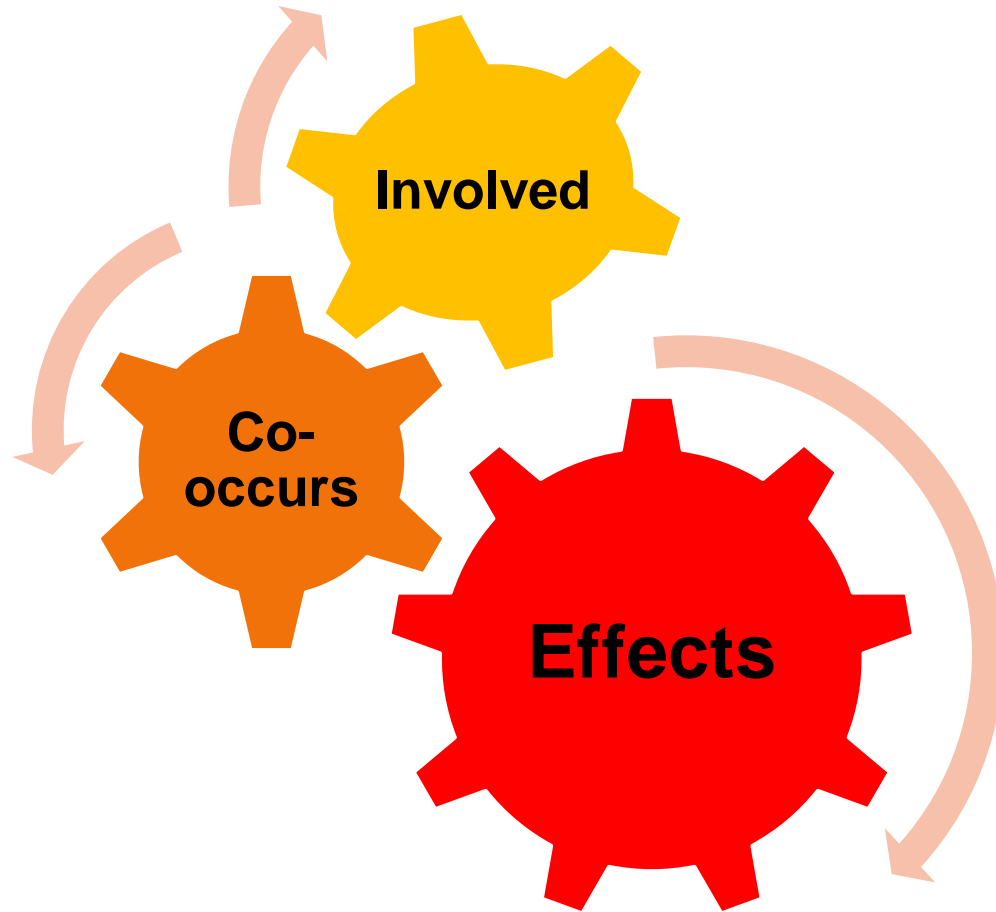
AM!

THINGS MAY
NOT GET DONE.
NO ONE WILL
LISTEN.

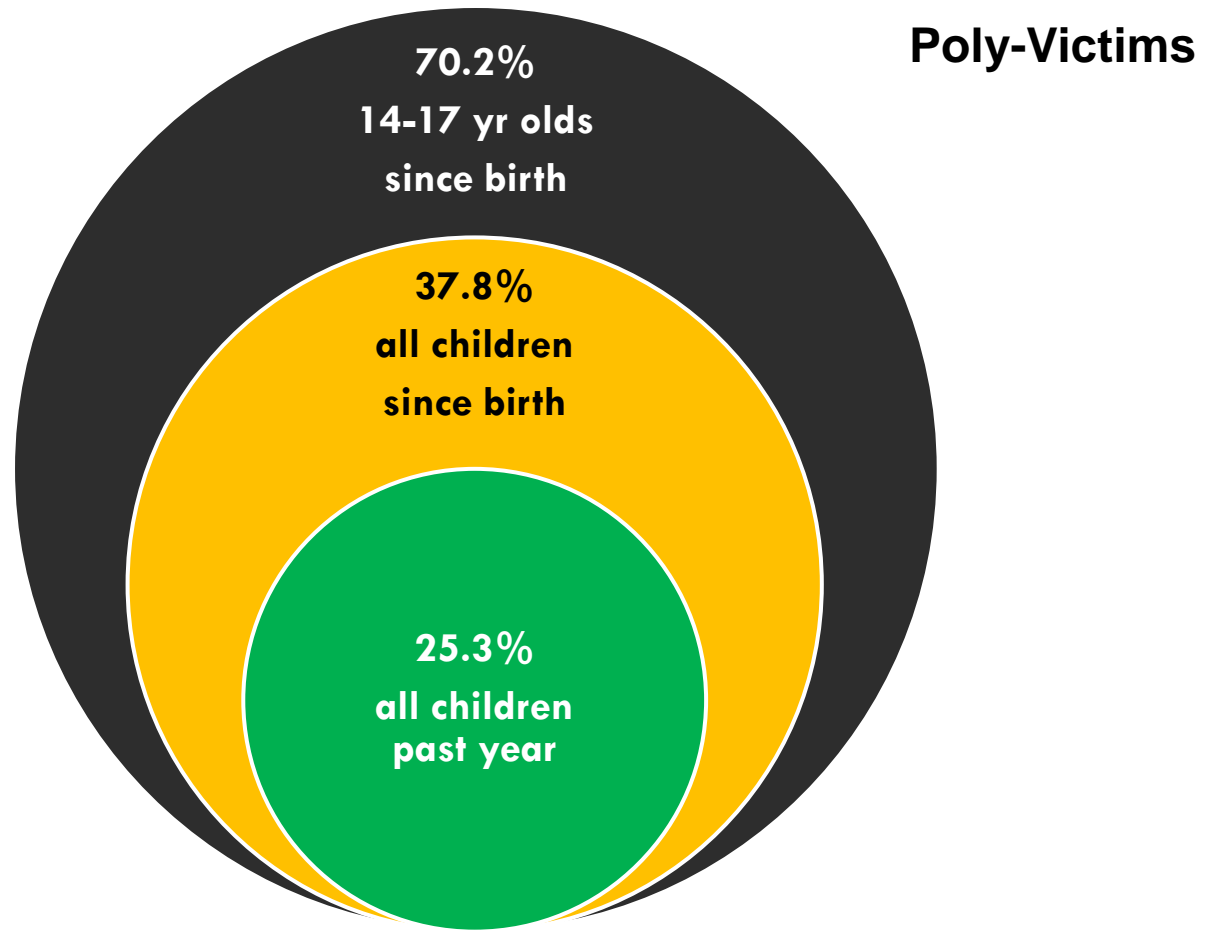
anger - the unwanted desire
to beat the living crap
out of some jerk who
Really Deserves it



Why exposure is important

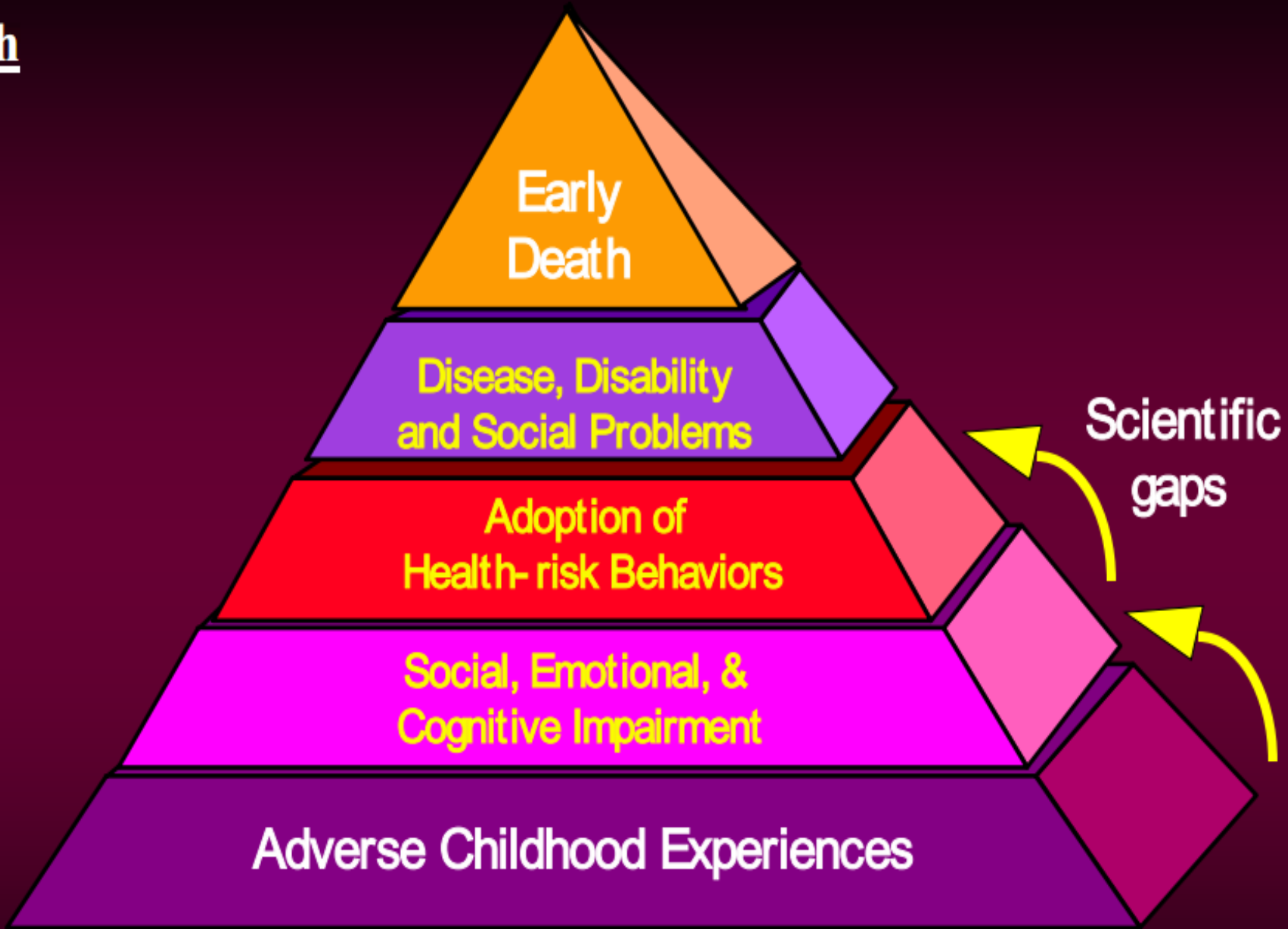


All Violence Exposure



(N=4,549; Finkelhor et al., 2009)

Death



Conception

cdc.gov/ace

Adverse Child Experiences

- **Child abuse**
 - Emotional
 - Physical
 - Sexual
- **Child neglect**
 - Emotional
 - Physical
- **Growing up with:**
 - Domestic violence
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental illness
 - Parental discord
 - Crime

(Anda, 2011; n=17,241)

Poly-occurrences

ACEs tend to come in groups

	Additional ACEs (%)				
	1	2	3	4	≥5

If you had:

A battered mother	95	82	64	48	52
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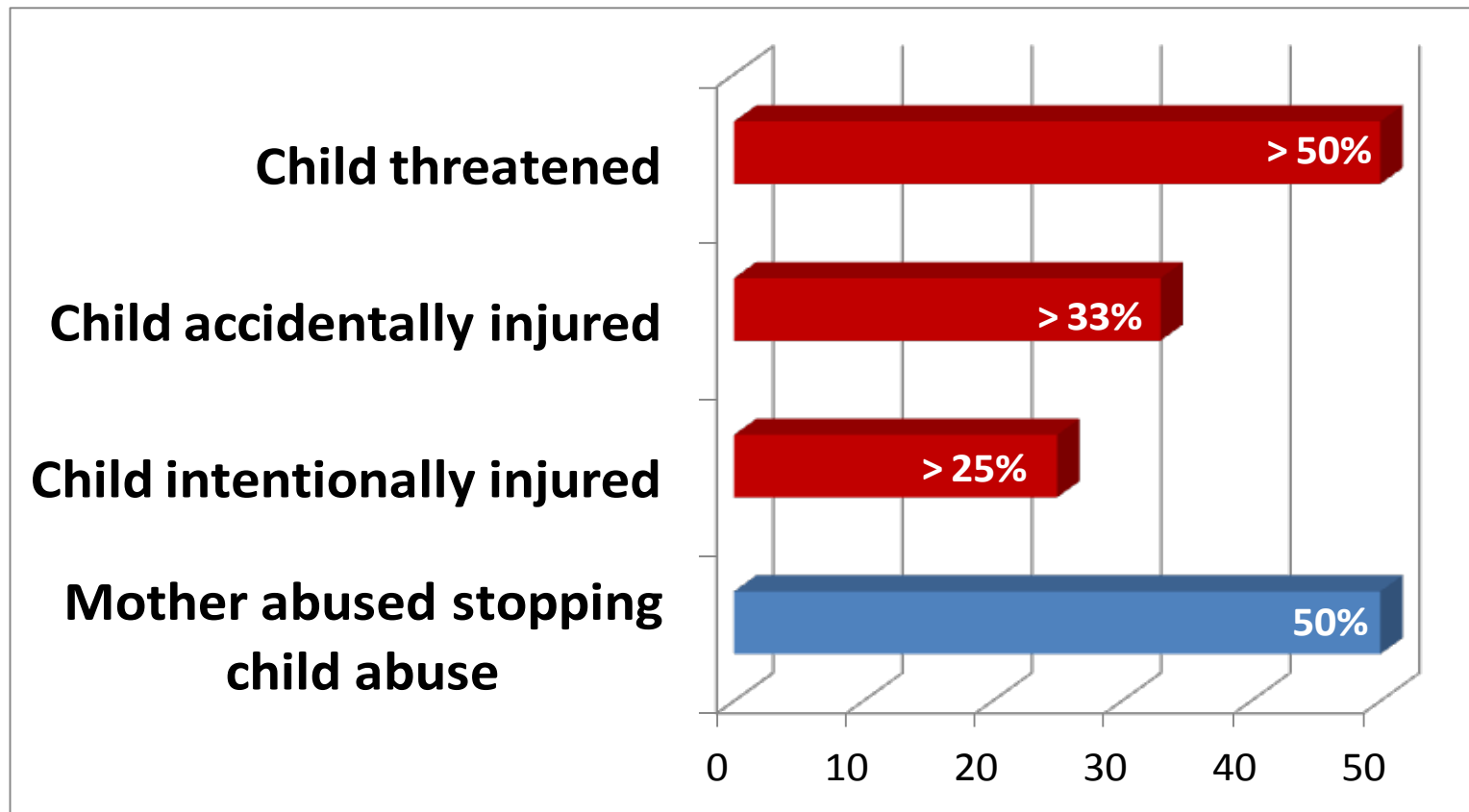
(Anda, 2011)

Children are involved (1)

- **36% of the children frequently or very frequently yelled to stop violent conflicts**
- **11.7% frequently or very frequently called someone for help during a violent event**
- **10.8% frequently or very frequently physically intervened to stop the violence**

Edleson et al. (2003)

Children are involved (2)



Edleson et al. (2003)

“Effects” of Exposure

Evans et al. (2008) meta-analysis of 60 studies

- **Strongly associated with boys’ use of externalizing behaviors**
- **Strongly associated with trauma symptoms**

Longitudinal studies

- **Yates et al. (2003): 155 children over 25 years**
 - Preschool exposure linked to externalized problems for boys and internalized problems for girls in adolescence and teen years
- **Ehrensaft et al. (2003): 543 children, prospective over 20 years**
 - Exposure to DV in childhood was a key predictor of both perpetrating and receiving as adult.
- **Whitehead et al. (2003) ACE study: 8,629 adults, retrospective**
 - Exposure doubled likelihood of perpetration and victimization as adult
- **Paradis et al. (2009): 346 children, prospective over 25 years**
 - Family arguments and violence exposure during childhood correlated to poorer health, mental health and occupational achievement at age 30.

Overlap of CAN & DV

- **Most studies found 30% to 60% overlap, 41% was median** (Edleson, 1999; Appel & Holden, 1998)
- **High rates of overlap found in:**
 - Child fatality reviews (41% - 43%)
 - Abused child studies
 - Battered mother studies
- **First national survey:** (Hamby et al., 2010)
 - More than 1/3 (33.9%) of exposed had also been maltreated in the past year vs. 8.6% of non-exposed
- **For lifetime data, more than half (56.8%) of CEDV youth had also been maltreated**

Double-Whammy

- **Combined contributions of abuse and exposure on child:**
 - Hughes et al. (1989) “double-whammy”
 - Other studies confirmed:
 - Felliti (1998); Edwards et al. (2003); Graham-Bermann & Seng (2005)
 - Cunningham (2003)
 - Increased risk of perpetration of abuse as an adult if *both* child abuse and domestic violence

New study

- **Kiessel, Piescher and Edleson (2012)**
 - Focused on academic outcomes, attendance and disability categories
 - “Exposed-only” children showed worse outcomes on academics than “Exposed and abused” and “abused-only” children over five years
 - Exposed-only may not have received necessary services

Prenatal exposure and reproductive health

- **Consequences of exposure for fetus, child or mother:**
 - **low birth weight** (Campbell, Torres, & Ryan, 1999; Rosen, Seng & Tolman, 2008; Sharps, 2007)
 - **premature labor** (El Kady et al., 2005; Cokkinides et al., 1999; Fernandez & Krueger, 1999)
 - **miscarriage** (Morland et al., 2008; Rachana et al., 2002; Jacoby et al., 1999)
 - **fetal trauma** (Connolly et al., 1997; Berrios & Grady, 1991) and **fetal death** (Boy & Salibus, 2004)
 - **delayed prenatal care** (Dietz et al., 1997; Goodwin et al., 2000) and **substance abuse** (Bailey, 2007; Kendall-Tackett, 2007)
 - increased risk of **postpartum depression** (Tiwari et al., 2008; Espinosa & Osborne, 2002)
 - **decreased breastfeeding** (Lau & Chan, 2007; Silverman et al., 2006)
- **Rapid repeat pregnancy related to experience of IPV:**
 - 3 times more likely to have rapid repeat pregnancy within 12 months
 - 4 times more likely within 18 months (Jacoby et al., 1999)

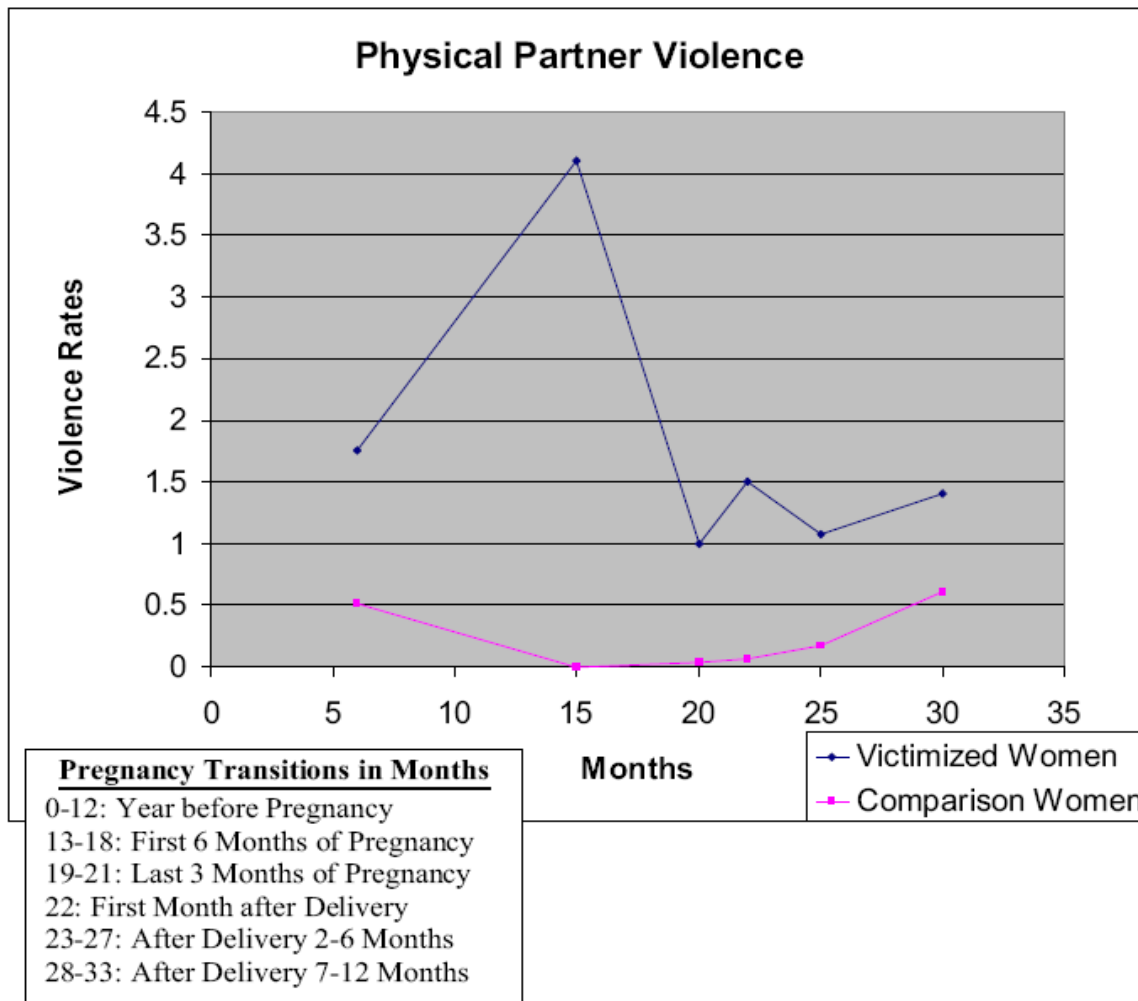


Figure 1. Physical violence predicted means for victimized and comparison women.

Macy et al. (2007). Partner violence among women before, during, and after pregnancy: Multiple opportunities for intervention. *Women's Health Issues*, 17(5), 290-299.

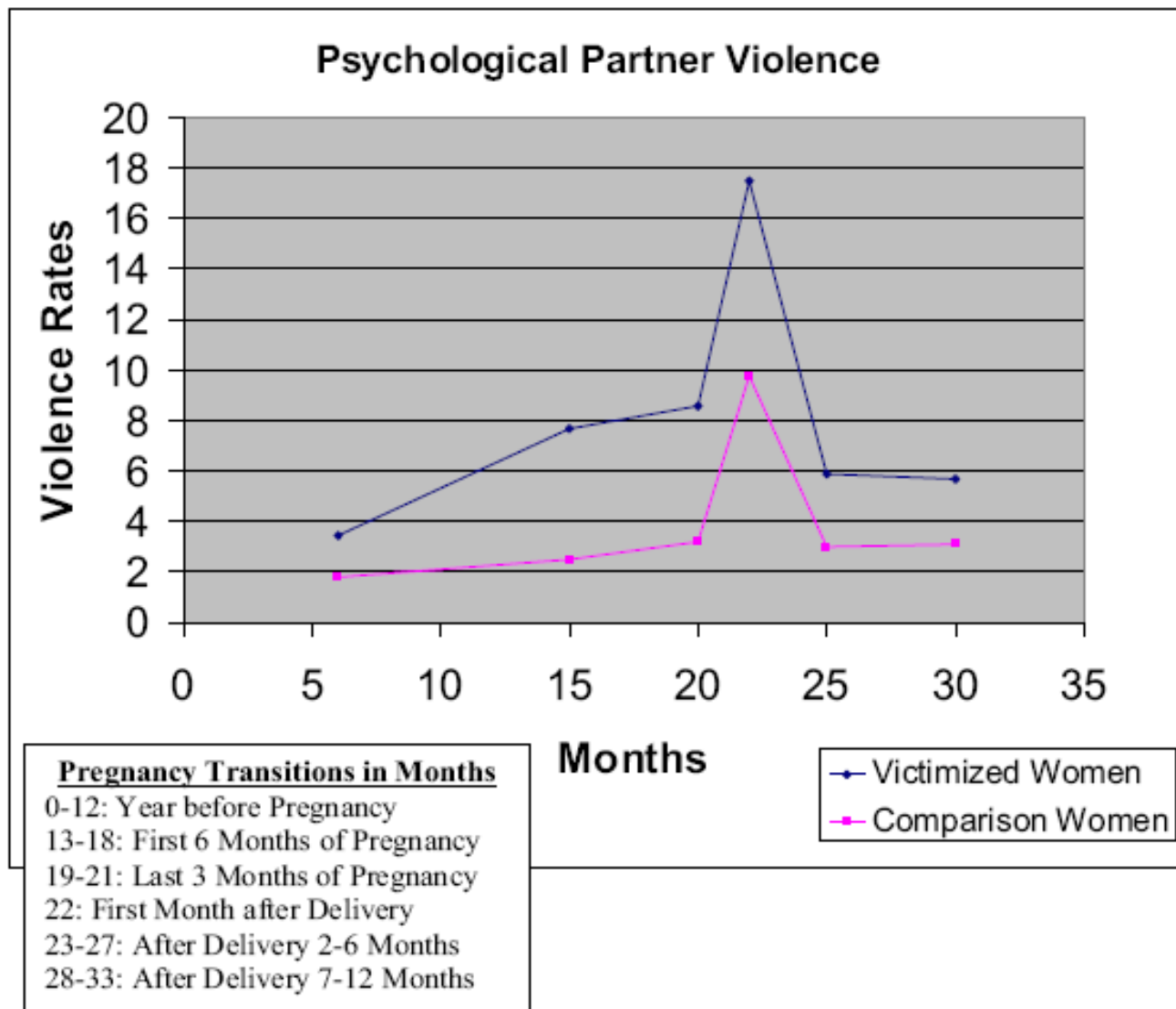


Figure 2. Psychological violence predicted means for victimized and comparison women.

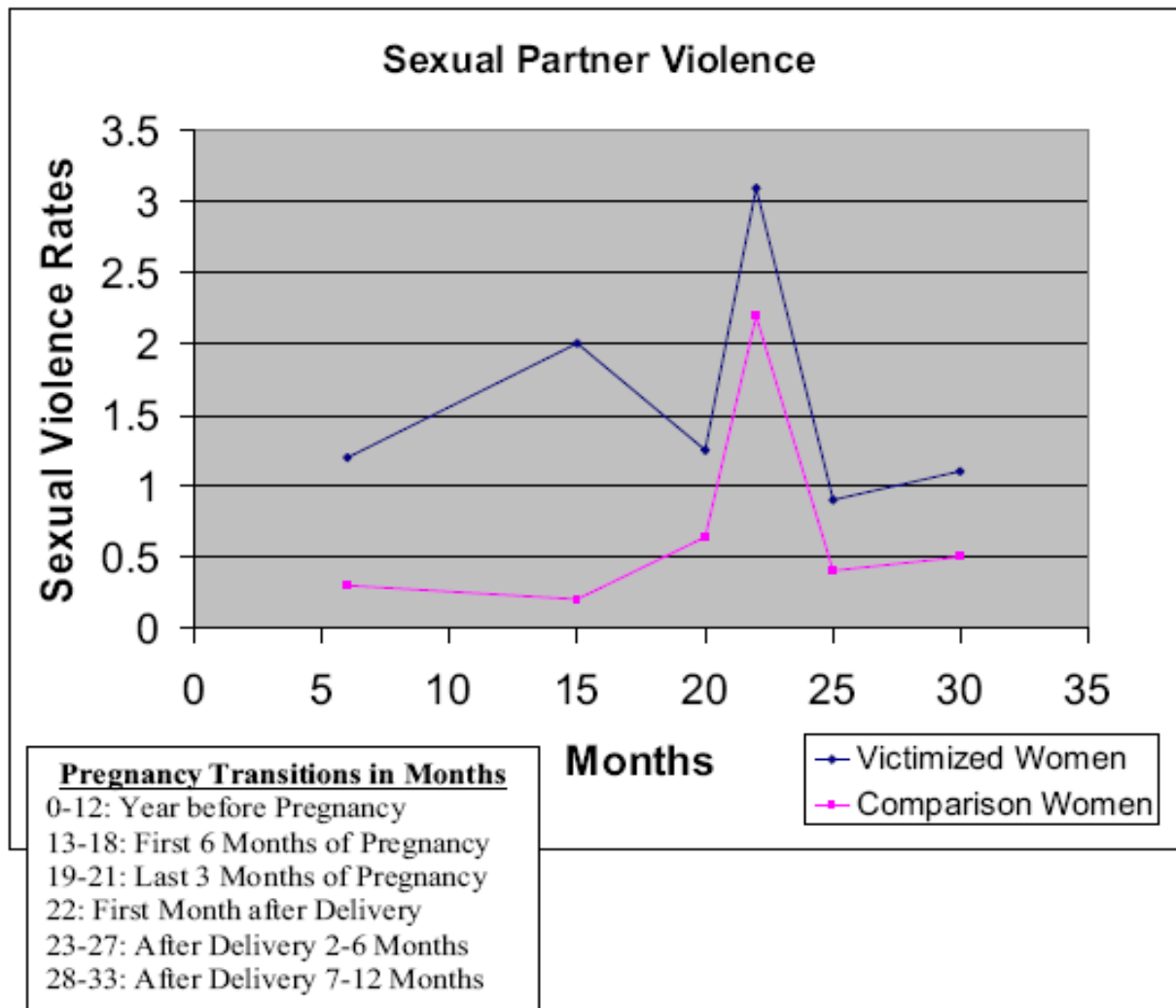


Figure 3. Sexual violence predicted means for victimized and comparison women.



CEDV IN CPS



DV in CPS

- **33% of 74 families in CPS** (Shepard & Raschick, 1999)
- **36% of 407 families investigated** (Kantor & Little, 2003)
- **36% of 383 families** (Edleson & Beeman, 1999)
- **44.8% lifetime prevalence and 29% past year among 5,504 children** (Hazen et al., 2005)

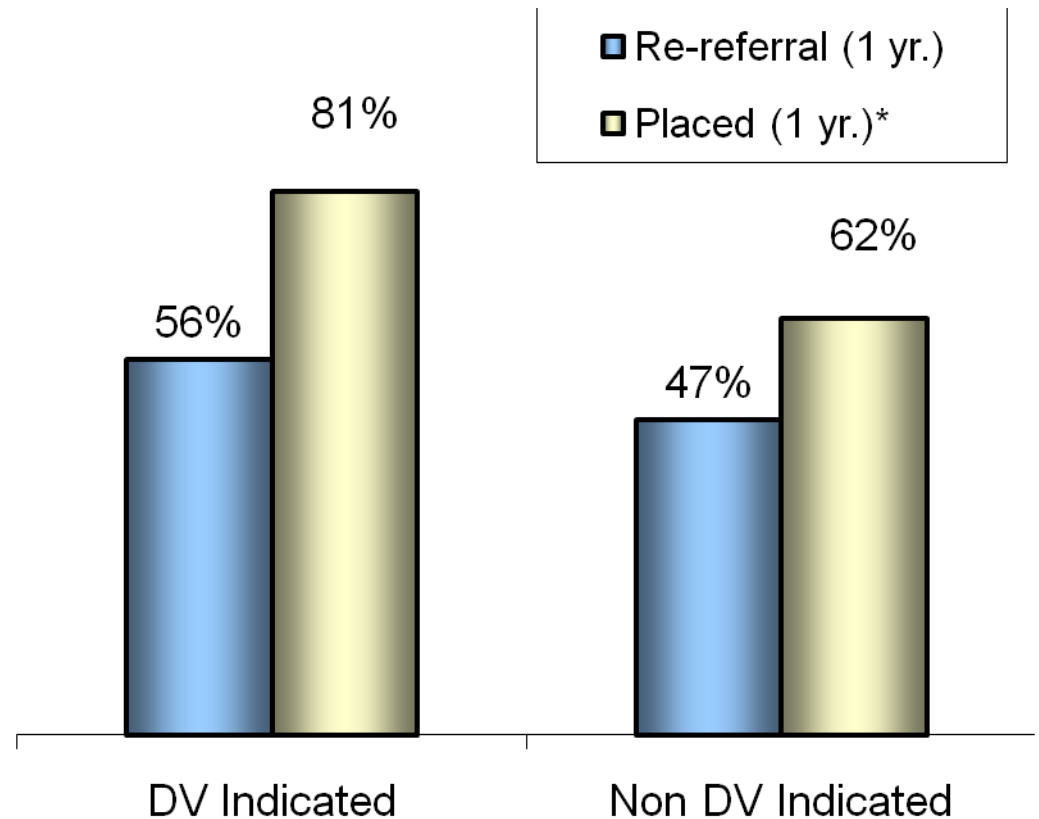
WA State Data

- **One year = 76,467 referrals to CPS**
- **Of these, 42,925 accepted for investigation (56%)**
- **Of these, 35,002 were moderate to high risk at intake and referred to investigation(82%)**
- **Of these, 16,451 had DV indicated at intake (47%)**
- **Of these, many are **NOT** mod-hi after investigation (68.1%)**

(English, Edleson & Herrick, 2005)

WA State (con't)

- **DV cases that remained mod-hi risk *after investigation* were significantly more likely:**
 - ▣ *Re-referred to CPS w/i one year*
 - ▣ *Placed out-of-home w/i one year*



DV as only one risk

- Families with co-occurring DV and CM had high levels of *cumulative* risks present
- Children in families with the highest level of cumulative risk were **10 times more likely to be placed** into foster care

Kohl, Edleson, English & Barth, 2005

n=3,931 caregivers



CHANGING LEGISLATION



Child Exposure Laws



Weithorn, 2001

California's Rebuttable Presumption Law

- **California Family Code § 3044:**
 - “there is a rebuttable presumption that an award of sole or joint physical or legal custody of a child to a person who has perpetrated domestic violence is detrimental to the best interest of the child.”
- **California's code outlines six factors to consider in assessing whether a perpetrator has overcome this presumption →**

MN redefines “Child Neglect”

- **1999**
 - **Exposure to domestic violence subject to hearings**
 - **Effort to change definition of neglect to include *exposed children***

Edleson, Hill & Gassman-Pines (2006)

Turmoil

- Minnesota normally *assesses* up to 17,000 reports
- Estimate by county administrators that 9,101 **added** reports per year
- Increase of over **50% increase**, many counties reported 100% increases

Systems overwhelmed

- **County administrators estimated:**
 - **\$10 million to screen, assess and provide “in house” services**
 - **\$19 million for community-based services**
 - **\$1.4 million to retrain a variety of professionals**

Repeal

- **2000**
 - **Child welfare and domestic violence united in opposing change**
 - **Legislature improved wording but repealed implementation until fully funded response**
 - **Olmsted County sole county not to drop**

Outcomes

- **First: Many children being assessed but many fewer served**
- **Second: Many children known to community but few now referred**
- **Both outcomes are negative**
- **Third way: Changes within CPS and in the community to respond to battered women and their children**

Nicholson decisions

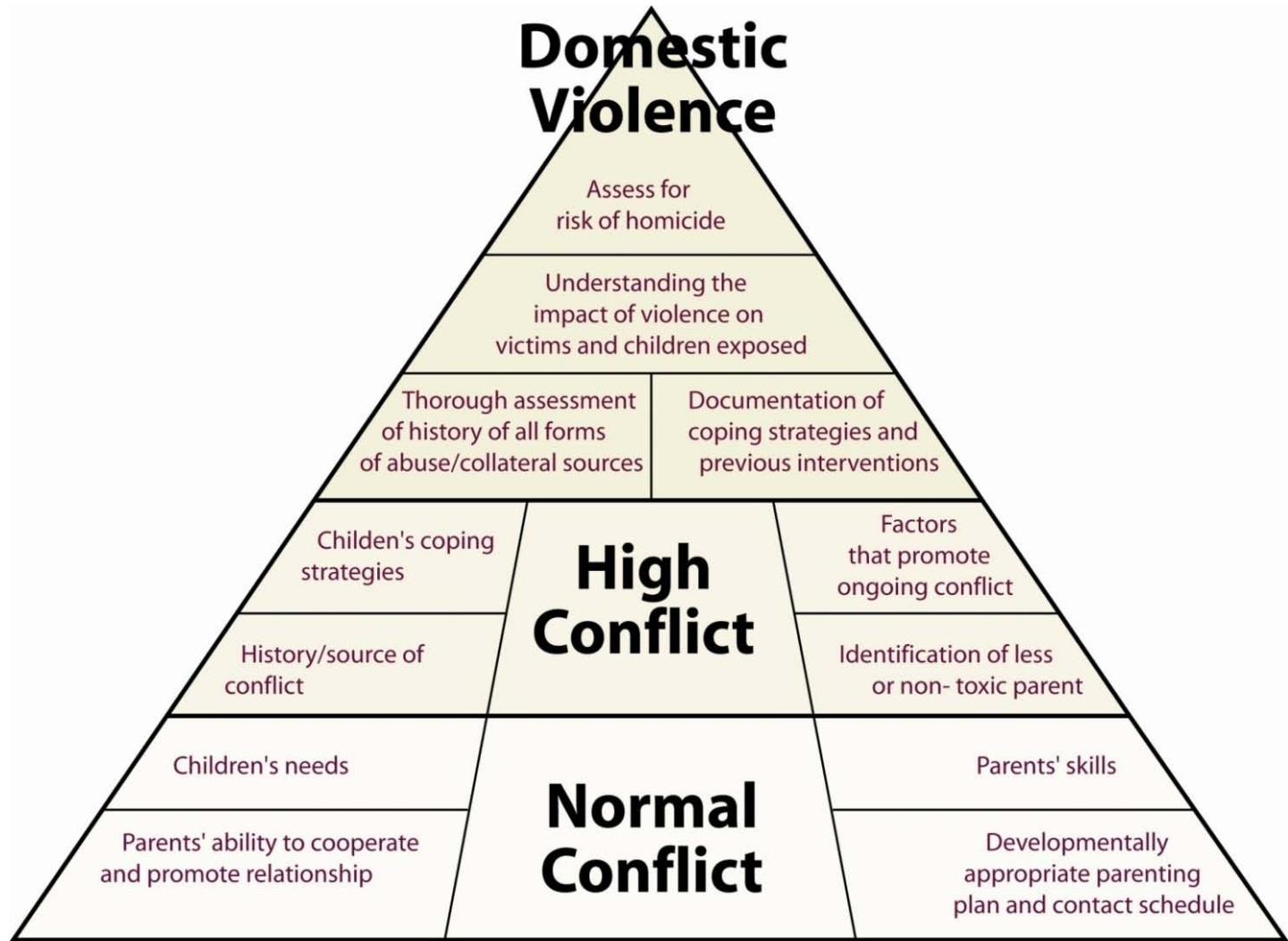
- Mothers substantiated for “engaging in domestic violence”
- Judge ruled it unconstitutional to remove mothers for their own victimization
- Judge and NY Court of Appeals held that must show “**harm**” to child

(see Lansner, 2008)



ASSESSMENT





Child Custody: Specialized Assessment Needs in Domestic Violence Cases

Assessment issues

- **Factors related to level of violence:**
 - Severity
 - Frequency
 - Chronicity
- **To what degree is child exposed?**
- **How is the child involved?**
- **What meaning does child give to it?**
- **How child does or does not cope?**
- **What other protective or risk factors?**
- **Impact of exposure on child?**
- **Protective and risk behaviors of both parents**

(Edleson et al, 2007)

CEDV Scale

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/cedv>



Child Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) Scale

[Home](#) [CEDV print](#) [User manual](#) [CEDV articles](#) [Link Project](#) [MINCAVA](#) [Contact Us](#)



*In depth assessments
of children's exposure
to adult domestic
violence.*

Welcome to the Child Exposure to Domestic Violence (CEDV) Scale homepage. This is one of few measurement tools for use with children exposed to domestic violence. We are making the CEDV freely accessible through this website.

The purpose of the tool is to provide practicing professionals and researchers with a standard method to measure the level of exposure to domestic violence that a child may have experienced, allowing for a recognition of a continuum of child experiences and the need for corresponding continuum of interventions and practice techniques. It is designed to be self-administered by 10 to 16 year old children.

Please see the User Manual for more detailed information on the CEDV and how to administer it. And read the two articles we've produced in preparing the CEDV. You may need to install Adobe's free [Acrobat Reader](#) to access the CEDV in print, the User Manual and the CEDV articles.

We would like to thank the staff, mothers and children associated with Connerstone, the Tubman Family



CEDV en Español (EIVF)



Escala de Medición de la Exposición Infantil a la Violencia Familiar (EIVF)

[Página Principal](#)

[Impreso del EIVF](#)

[Manual del EIVF](#)

[Artículos sobre el EIVF](#)

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Evaluación en profundidad de la exposición infantil a la violencia doméstica por parte de adultos.

Bienvenido a la página inicio de Escala de Medición de la Exposición Infantil a la Violencia Familiar (EIVF). Esta es una de las pocas herramientas de medición para utilizar con niños y jóvenes expuestos a la violencia familiar. A través de esta página web estamos logrando que la EIVF sea de libre acceso.

El propósito de esta herramienta es proveer a los profesionales que la utilicen y a los investigadores un método estándar para medir el nivel de exposición a la violencia experimentada por los niños y jóvenes, permitiendo un reconocimiento continuo de las experiencias del niño y la necesidad de realizar las correspondientes técnicas de intervención y prácticas. Está diseñado para ser completado directamente por niños y jóvenes de entre 10 y 16 años de edad.

Por favor lea el Manual del Usuario para obtener mayores detalles sobre la EIVF y aprender sobre cómo completarla. Además, recomendamos la lectura de los dos artículos que hemos producido en la preparación de la EIVF. Es posible que requiera instalar Adobe que puede descargarse gratuitamente.

CEDV in brief

- **Self-administered**
- **10-16 yr olds**
- **33 key questions**
- **Focuses on measuring:**
 - **Level of violence in the home**
 - **Exposure to each form of violence in the home**
 - **Exposure to other forms of violence outside the home**
 - **Child involvement in violent events**
 - **Other risk factors**

(Edleson et al., 2008)

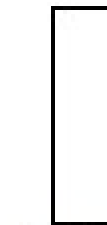
CEDV violence Qs (10 items)

- **How often has your mom's partner hurt, or tried to hurt, a pet in your home on purpose?**
- **How often has your mom's partner ruined, broken or destroyed something on purpose, like punching a wall, ripping a phone cord out of the wall, smashing a picture, or things like that?**

CEDV response set (Q1-10)

8. How often has your mom's partner done something to hurt her body, such as:

- hitting her
- punching her
- kicking her
- choking her
- shoving her
- pulling her hair
- other _____



Never



Circle never,
then go to the
next
question.



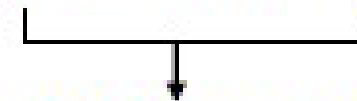
Sometimes



Often



Almost
Always



How did you know about it?

- = I saw the outcome (like someone was hurt, something was broken, or the police came).
- = I heard about it afterwards.
- = I heard it while it was happening.
- = I saw it from far away while it was happening.
- = I saw it and was near while it was happening.

CEDV Involvement Qs (7 items)

- **When your mom's partner hurts your mom, how often have you gotten physically involved trying to stop the fighting?**
- **When your mom's partner hurts your mom, how often have you tried to get away from the fighting by hiding, leaving the house, locking yourself in a different room, or things like that?**

CEDV Other factors (15 items)

Other risks:

How often do you worry about your mom getting drunk or taking drugs?

How often does your mom seem sad, worried or upset?

How often does it seem like you have dealt with big changes in your life? For example, moving homes, staying in the hospital, your parents getting a divorce, the death of someone you're close to, a parent going to jail, and other things like that?

Other exposures:

How often have you seen someone being hurt or killed in a video game?

How often has someone in your family touched your private parts when you didn't want them to, made you touch their private parts, or forced you to have sex?

Children's needs and our responses



Evaluations and efforts

- **Judges, custody evaluators and others:**
 - underestimate the danger of men to their children
 - undervalue the safety strategies used by mothers
- **What are “reasonable efforts”?**

Missing evidence

- **246 dissolution cases with DV police incident or court order**
 - 117 (47.6%) no evidence in case
 - 71 (28.9%) only unsubstantiated allegations in case despite evidence
 - 58 (23.6%) had substantiated evidence in case record

(Kernic, et al., 2005)

Continued threats/violence

- **36% of mothers re-assaulted during separation (Fleury, et al, 2000)**
- **25% of mothers reported in a study Ontario child exchanges that threats were made (Leighton, 1989)**
- **14 Canadian supervised visitation programs reported abuse continued at centers (Park, Peterson-Badali, & Jenkins, 1997)**

Judicial Custody Options

- **Contact choices**
 - No contact
 - Supervised visitation
 - Supervised exchange
 - Exchanges in public places
 - Unsupervised visitation
 - Liberal and regular visitation
 - Shared custody/parenting
- **Not automatic! Behavior based, not time based.**
- **Not rushed to least restrictive**
- **Regular judicial reviews in any option**

(Jaffe & Crooks, 2006)

Father are given access

- **Father given restricted access:**
 - 71.2% in DV cases
 - 17.5% no DV
- **Judges assigned supervised visitation in:**
 - 25.6% of substantiated domestic violence
 - 4.6% no evidence or allegation of domestic violence

(Kernic, et al; 2005)

Danger Zone:

Supervised visitation issues

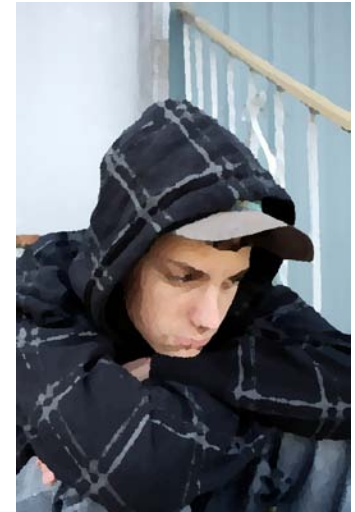
- **Battered mother's views of supervised visitation centers**
- **Continued abuse during visitation**
- **Evolution of rules**
- **Importance of trained monitors**
- **Need for coordinated community responses that include visitation centers**

Parker et al. (2008)

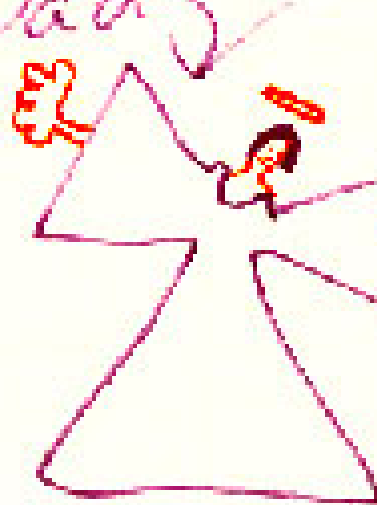
Working with children



- **Understand complex feelings towards:**
 - abuser
 - abused

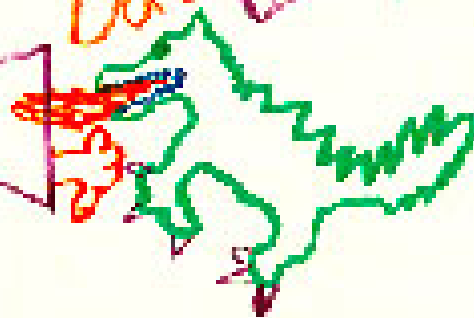


Sometimes
Dads



Sometimes

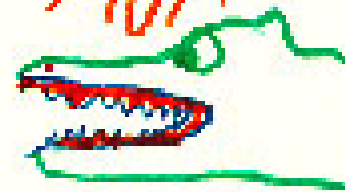
Dada



Sometimes
MoM



Sometimes
MoM



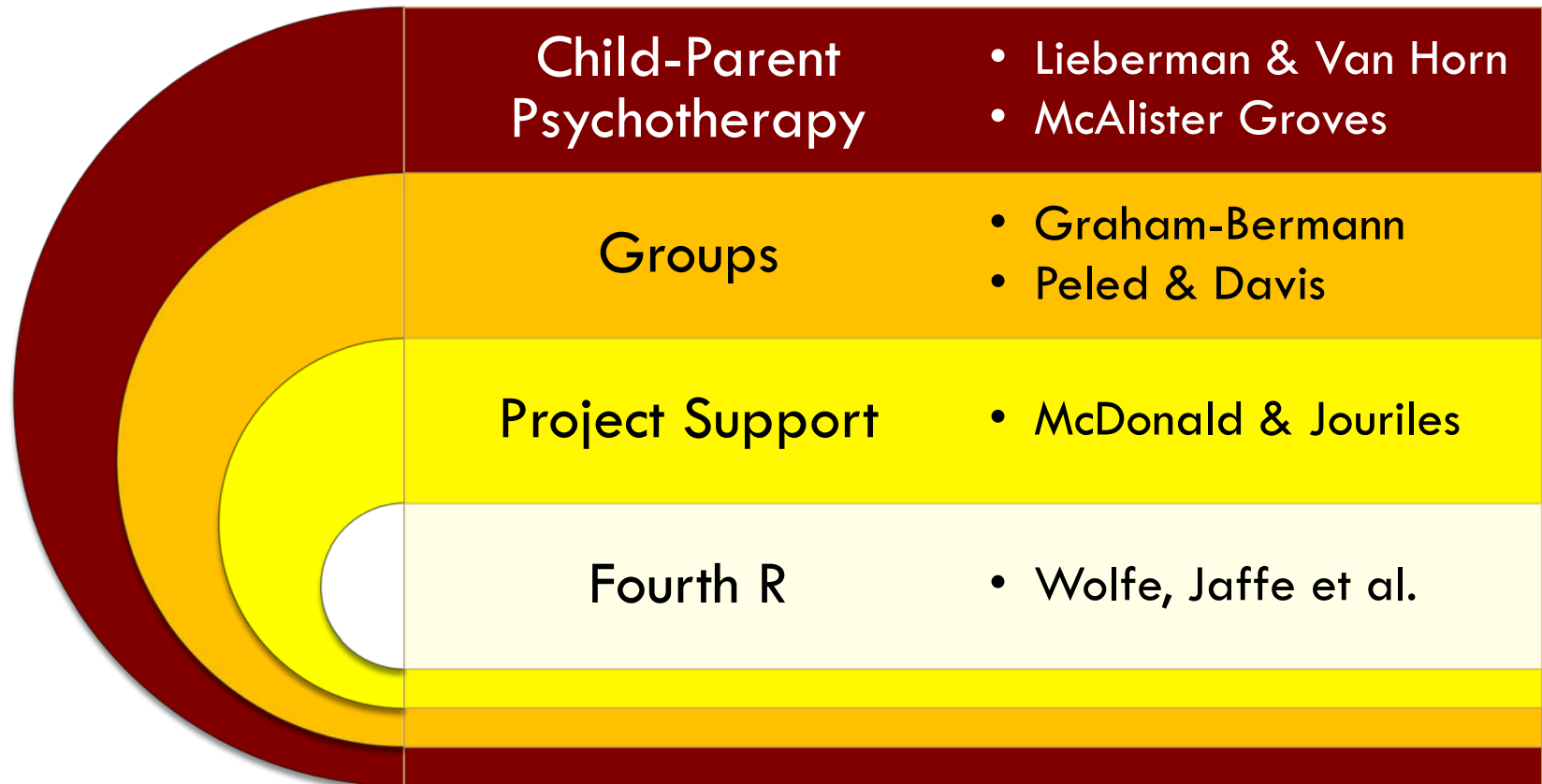


Ordinary Magic

- Children exposed to trauma on a regular basis
- Resilience child was seen as extraordinary
- Study of resilience show it is *ordinary* rather than extraordinary
- Focus on children's strengths

(Masten, 2001)

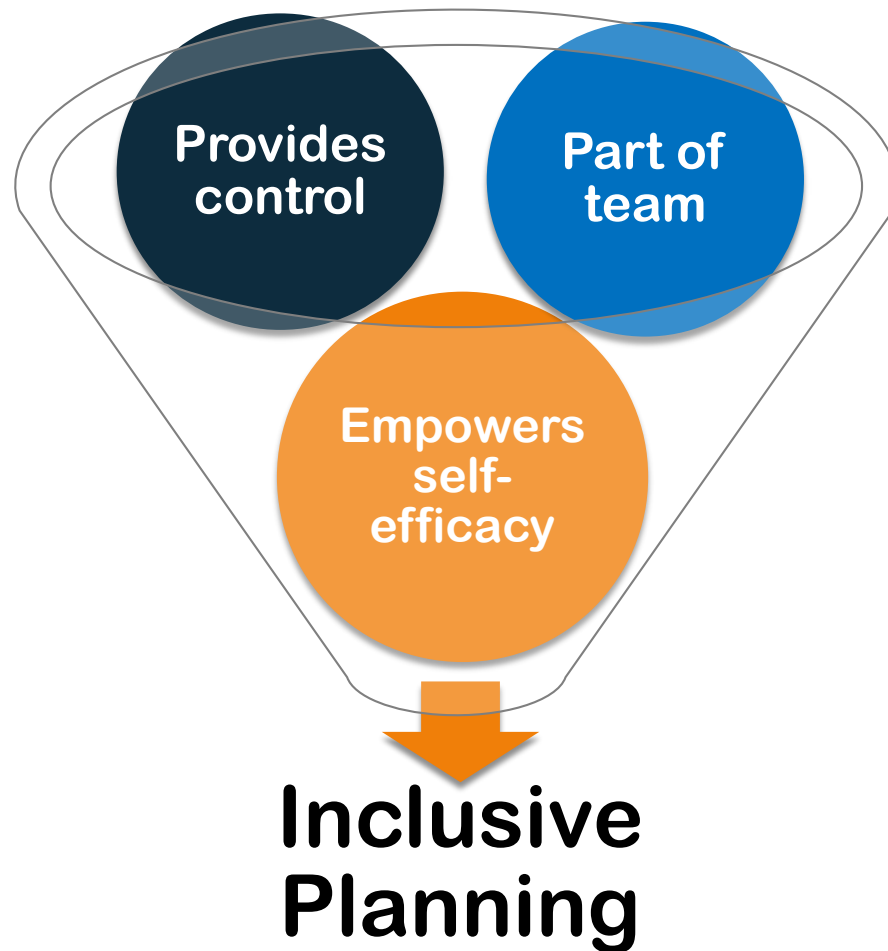
What Works



Importance of Mothers

- **Several studies of child treatment point to improved outcomes when mothers are part of the intervention. (Graham-Bermann)**

Inclusive planning



Parentification



- Too much responsibility
- Emotional distress
- Externalizing behaviors



- Promotes positive behaviors
- Increases self-esteem
- Increases self-efficacy
- Provides sense of control



Children see, children do

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6SKU5_w1Hk

Strengthen informal supports



- **Foster healthy peer and adult supporters**
 - Provides major protective factors in child's life
 - Little attention to enhancing these supports



Home



School



Community



Work



Faith
Community

Please click on an icon to practice providing support to a child in your community

Support

First, play this video



Support Beyond Leaving

A child or teen experiencing domestic violence may look like any person you encounter. This person may be a:

- straight 'A' student in your class

It doesn't matter who the child or teen is or the way they're acting. Every child and teen benefits from positive interactions with kind and caring adults. You may not be able to change their world, but you may be the **ONE PERSON** who makes a difference. Remember the things you can do to help:

- **SEEK HELP:** Find and connect with others who can support the child or teen.
- **PLAN FOR SAFETY:** Help children and teens create safety plans.
- **SUPPORT:** Support the non-abusive parent and the child or teen.
- **TALK:** Talk to children and teens about what they are feeling.
- **LISTEN:** Let them express themselves and validate their feelings.
- **SHOW:** Be an example of a person who is non-violent.
- **RESPECT:** Respect children's and teen's voices and choices.
- **INSPIRE HOPE:** Help them to understand that the violence does not define who they are.

Next STEP 4

Online resources

MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu> (search “child exposure”)

VAW Online Resources

<http://www.vaw.umn.edu/>

VAWnet Library

<http://www.vawnet.org>

Greenbook site

<http://www.thegreenbook.info>

Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System

<http://www.lfcc.on.ca/>

Futures Without Violence (formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund)

<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

Safe Start Center

<http://www.safestartcenter.org/>



Questions

and thank you!