



Evaluation of Individual, Familial, and Community Level Factors Related to Secondary Maltreatment

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Main Objective

- Examination of factors associated with child maltreatment: community, family, and individual

Specific Foci

- Association of placement type, relatedness to caregiver, and relationship with caregiver with repeat reporting of maltreatment, substantiated reporting of maltreatment, and child self-reported maltreatment
- Association of child functioning with maltreatment



Approaches to examination of child maltreatment:

- Use of formal reporting and substantiated reporting as reflected in caseworker interviews
- Use of child self-report based on questions from the Conflict Tactics Scale and Exposure to Violence Scale (Revised)
- Association of outcome variables with constructs of interest using bivariate and multivariate approaches – multivariate approaches include OLS, logistic regression and hazard analyses



Issues of concern:

- Many of the constructs of interest are placement-specific, but reports of maltreatment occurred at times when the child was not in the same placement he/she was in when those constructs were measured
- Reports of maltreatment per caseworkers were gathered at wave 2, 3, and 4, but most child-specific data were gathered at waves 1, 3, and 4



Issues, cont.:

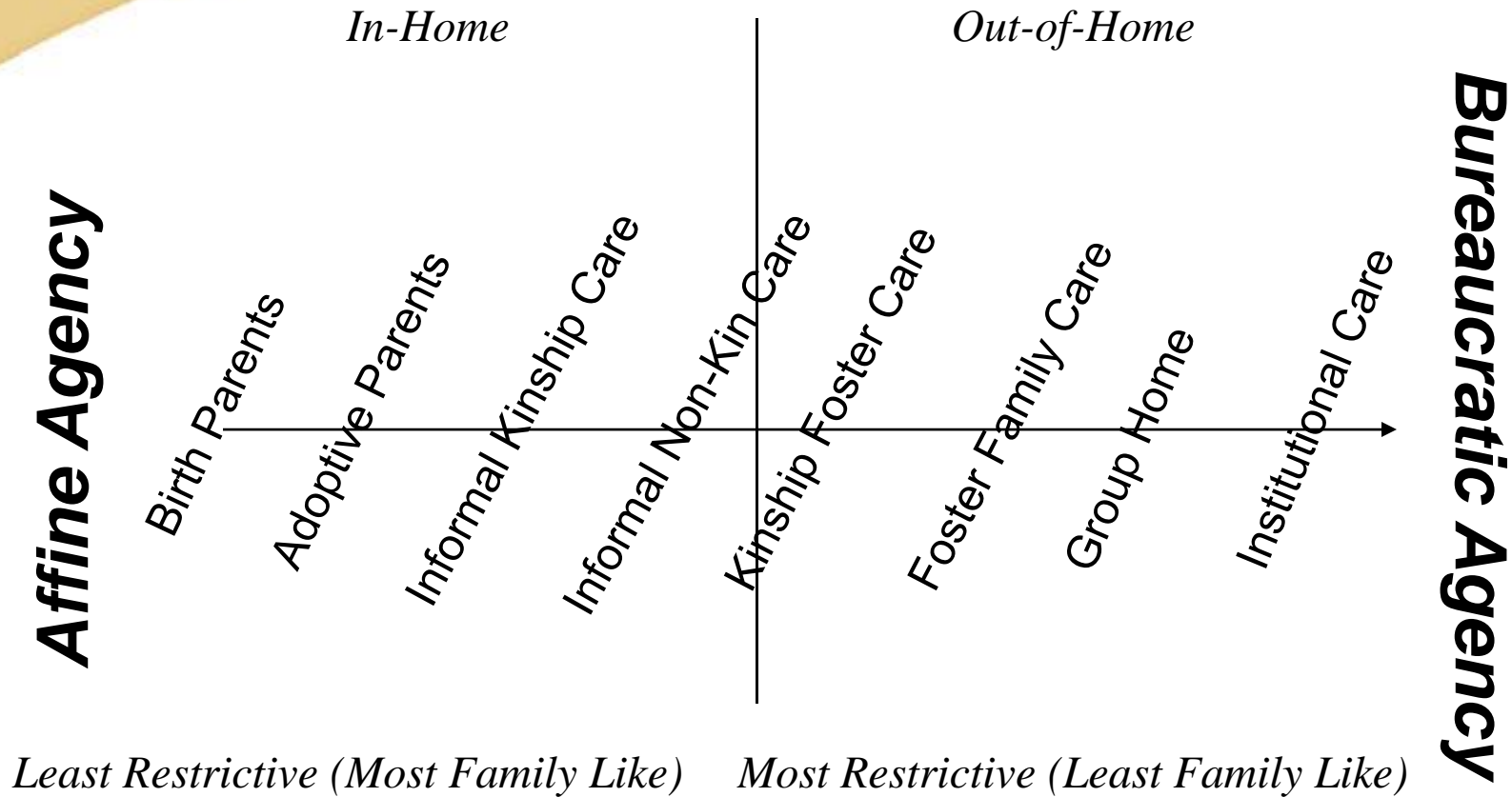
- Measures of placement type (i.e. kinship care, foster care) are correlated with measures of relatedness of caregiver (i.e. biological parent, grandmother)
- Multiple measures of child functioning were obtained, including different measures for different age groups



Analysis of formal reporting and substantiated reporting

- Percentage of caseworkers indicating that there had been a report/substantiated (indicated, substantiated, high or medium risk) report since the last interview, at waves 1, 3, and 4 (bivariate)
- Caseworkers indicating there had been an indicated or substantiated report as a percentage of all caseworker interviews and all cases for which interviews were not necessary (bivariate)
- Indications of reporting and substantiated reporting limited in time only to those time periods when the child was living in the same placement he/she was in at the time of the caregiver interview (1, 3, 4) (bivariate)
- Time to first report/substantiated report while child was living in the same placement he/she was in at the time of the caregiver interview (1 and 3) (hazards analysis)

Restrictiveness of Care





Placement Type

Reporting

- Children in informal kinship care placements, foster care placements, and group care placements are significantly less likely to experience re-report than children in homes of parents. Children living in adoptive homes or in kinship care are marginally ($p < .10$) less likely to experience reporting.
- When controlling for covariates (child age, child race, caregiver marital status, poverty, and number of dependents upon household income), only informal kinship care and foster care demonstrated significantly reduced likelihood of reporting. Poverty and marital status are also significant.

Substantiated reporting

- Children in adoptive homes, kinship care, and foster care are significantly less likely to be the subjects of substantiated reports than children in homes of biological parents. Children in kinship care are 2.38 times and children in foster care are 3.22 times less likely to be the subject of substantiated reports than children living at home.
- When controlling for covariates, this relationship persists. The only other significant predictor of substantiated reporting in this model is number of dependents upon household income.



Relationship to Caregiver

After examination of frequencies and association with outcome variables, male and female relationships were aggregated for ease of interpretation

Reporting

- Children living with step-parents are statistically significantly less likely than those living with biological parents to be subject to reporting. Children living with foster parents are marginally ($p < .10$) less likely, and those with aunts, uncles, grandparents, and “other non-relatives” are less likely to be involved in re-reports.
- When controlling for covariates, only children living with relatives are less likely to be involved in re-reports. Poverty is the only other significant predictor of re-report.

Substantiated reporting

- Children are less likely to be the subjects of substantiated reports when living with foster parents, aunts/uncles, grandparents, and other non-relatives than when living with biological parents. Children living with step-parents are not less likely to be the subjects of substantiated reports.
- When controlling for covariates, children living with foster parents or aunts/uncles are less likely to be the subjects of substantiated reporting, and children living with grandparents are marginally less likely to be the subjects of substantiated reporting. No other variable reaches significance in this model.



Relationship with Caregiver

Reporting

- Answers to questions about feelings of protectedness and quality of relationship with caregiver are predictive of reduced likelihood of reporting. The emotional support subscale of the HOME scale is not, nor is the constructed closeness variable.
- Inclusion of variables indicative of quality of relationship with caregiver do not highly impact findings related to modeling of impact of type of care on reporting. However, inclusion of these constructs in models of relationship to caregiver causes relationship to caregiver to become an insignificant predictor of reporting.

Substantiated reporting

- Answers to questions about protectedness and the constructed closeness variable are predictive of reduced likelihood of substantiated reporting. The relationship with caregivers scale and emotional support subscale of the HOME scale are not.
- Inclusion of the constructed variable intended to indicate quality of relationship with caregiver does not highly impact findings related to modeling of impact of type of care on substantiated reporting. Inclusion of these constructs in models of relationship to caregiver reduces the significance of relationship to caregiver as a predictor of substantiated reporting.



Construction of Child Functional Status Variable

- Child functional status measures considered included the Battelle Developmental Inventory, the Preschool Language Scales, the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, and the Mini Battery of Achievement. The Bayley Infant Neurodevelopmental Scales and the Temperament scales were considered at the bivariate level. The Child Behavior Checklist was considered as a separate variable.
- Each of the child functional status variables indicated (BDI through MBA) was z-scored, as they did not each have the same mean and standard deviation. The z-scores for every instrument available for each child were averaged. The resulting average was initially used in modeling; however, a categorical variable was found to be easier to interpret.



Child Functional Status

Reporting

- Children with an average z-score of - three or less were more likely to be the subjects of reports.
- Inclusion of covariates including child age, child race, caregiver age, caregiver marital status, poverty, and number of dependents upon household income causes child functional status to become an insignificant predictor of reporting.

Substantiated reporting

- While the relative risk for children with an average child functional status score of minus three or more standard deviations was over two times the risk of children with any other score, child functional status is not a significant predictor of substantiated reporting.



Child Functional Status, cont.

- When the model is subpopulated to children under 5, child functional status is a significant predictor of reporting when covariates are controlled for. When subpopulated to children five and over, child functional status is not related to reporting.
- Child Behavior Checklist score is a significant predictor of reporting. CBCL score remains a significant predictor of reporting when other covariates are entered in the model and regardless of child age.
- Child Behavior Checklist scores are significant predictors of substantiated reporting. This is the case when additional covariates are entered into the model; when controlling for child age, child race, caregiver marital status, poverty, and dependents upon household income, CBCL score is the only significant predictor of substantiated reporting. For every one-point increase in t-score, the likelihood of a substantiated report increases by an estimated 4%.



Child Reporting of Adverse Parenting Tactics

CTS-PC was used to interview children 11 and older in all placement types about their experience of violence at the hands of their caregivers. Although various forms of parenting tactics were categorized (harsh, severe, or very severe), one scale and one dichotomous variable were created.

Adverse Tactics Scale took into consideration both a range of tactics, from harsh to very severe, and the frequency of tactics.

Maltreatment. Children who reported either experiencing multiple harsh parenting tactics or at least one incidence of choking, being hit with a closed fist, being hit repeatedly, or being threatened with a knife were coded as 1.



CTS and Placement

- Bivariate analyses showed that children in out of home placements reported experiencing more adverse parenting tactics than children in in-home placements.
- Children in kinship placements at wave 1, both in and out of home, reported experiencing fewer adverse parenting tactics than children in non-kinship placements.
- Children who had been at their non-kin baseline placement for one year by the date of the wave 1 child interview reported experiencing significantly more adverse parenting tactics than children in kinship arrangements.



Continued

- Cross sectional multivariate analyses at wave 1 showed that caregiver restrictiveness was not predictive of reporting of a maltreating tactic.
- However, when wave 1 was restricted to placements that were stable for one year prior to child interview, only children in out of home non-kin placements were more likely to report a maltreating tactic than children residing with biological parents.
- Wave 4 analyses showed that children in out of home non-kin placements were significantly more likely to report a maltreating tactic than children living with biological parents.



Relationship to Caregiver and Disability Status

- In all analyses across waves 1, 3, and 4, those children who reported a disassociation (or lack of closeness) with their caregiver reported a significantly higher likelihood of maltreatment. Also, those children who did not feel close with their caregiver were more likely to report a maltreating tactic the longer they were placed with that caregiver.
- Children with a caseworker identified disability reported more adverse tactics than children without a disability at wave 1.
- However, disability status had no effect on child reporting of a maltreating tactic at wave 1 or wave 3. At wave 4, children whose caregivers reported a disability were significantly more likely to report a maltreating tactic. This relationship at wave 4 could be due to the greater likelihood of children being identified the longer they are being served by CPS



Re-Reports of Adverse Tactics

- Children who reported a maltreating tactic at wave 1 were significantly more likely to report a subsequent maltreating tactic at wave 3 and wave 4 if they did not feel close to their caregiver, less likely to report if the caregiver was older, and less likely to report if the child was African American or Hispanic.
- There was no placement effect on re-reporting at wave 3 or wave 4 after initial report at wave 1.

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

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