CHILD ABUSE, PREVENTION AND THE CLIMATE OF COVID-19



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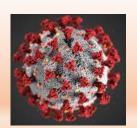
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CLOVID-19 IS A MULTI-PRONG DISASTER

- Health. It hurts and kills. Only wars such as WWII and the Civil War have killed more Americans (so far)
- Economic. Recession. Serious physical abuse tends to increase.
- We know it these will happen, but do we increase resources for intervention, management, and most importantly, prevention?



EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

Hurricanes

 Swenson C, Saylor C, Powell MP, Stokes S, Foster K, Belter R. Impact of a natural disaster on preschool children: adjustment 14 months after a hurricane. <u>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry</u>. 1996. 66: 122-130.

Fourteen months after a hurricane, young children who had experienced the storm showed significantly higher anxiety and withdrawal and more behavior problems than did children who had not. Behavioral problems decreased steadily over the six months following the storm. Mothers' distress in the hurricane's aftermath was associated with the longevity of their children's emotional and behavioral difficulties.

EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

Hurricanes and earthquake

 Miller B, Berry H. Changes in reports and incidence of child abuse following natural disasters. Child Abuse & Neglect. 2000. 24: 1151-1162

Based on analyses of numbers, rates, and proportions, child abuse reports were disproportionately higher in the quarter and half year following two of the three disaster events (Hurricane Hugo and Loma Prieta Earthquake, but not Hurricane Andrew).

AHT INCREASING – MAYBE BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

- 442 children diagnosed with AHT from January 2004 to June 2009 for 3 geographic areas (74 counties)
 - Ohio area
 - Pennsylvania area
- Washington state area
- Mean age = 8.9 months
- 76% under 1 year old



Berger R, Fronkin J, Stutz H, Makoroff K, Scribano P, Feldman K, Tu L, Fabio A. Abusive head trauma during a time of increased unemployment: a multicenter analysis. <u>Pediatrics</u> 2011. 128:637-643.

AHT INCREASING – MAYBE BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

- Recession defined as December 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009
- Rate of AHT increased from 8.9 per 100,000 before the recession to 14.7 per 100,000 during the recession
- No relationship between AHT and county-level unemployment rates

Berger R, Fromkin J, Stutz H, Makoroff K, Scribano P, Feldman K, Tu L, Fabio A. Abusive head trauma during a time of increase unemployment: a multicenter analysis. <u>Pedatrica</u> 2011. 128:637-643.

AHT INCREASING – MAYBE BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Conclusions

- Increased AHT during 19 months of recession vs. 47 months before
- · Stress of recession may be linked to violence
- Recession may have policy implications regarding numbers affected, morbidity and mortality, and costs
- Prevention should be increased during times of economic hardship

Berger R, Fromkin J, Stutz H, Makoroff K, Scribano P, Feldman K, Tu L, Fabio A. Abusive head trauma during a time of increased unemployment: a multicenter analysis. <u>Pedatrics</u> 2011. 128:637-643.

EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

Recession

 Wood J, et al. Association of pediatric abusive head trauma rates with macroeconomic indicators. Academic Pediatrics. 2016. 16:224-232

Examined abusive head trauma (AHT) incidence before, during and after the recession of 2007–2009 in 3 US regions and assessed the association of economic measures with AHT incidence.

EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

Recession

 Wood J, et al. Association of pediatric abusive head trauma rates with macroeconomic indicators. Academic Pediatrics. 2016. 16:224-232
 Data for children <5 years old diagnosed with AHT between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2012, in 3 regions were linked to county-level economic data. Associations between county-level AHT rates and recession period as well as employment growth, mortgage delinquency, and foreclosure rates were examined.

EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

Recession

 Wood J, et al. Association of pediatric abusive head trauma rates with macroeconomic indicators. Academic Pediatrics. 2016. 16:224-232

macroeconomic indicators. Academic Pediatrics. 2010. 10:224-252

During the 9-year period, 712 children were diagnosed with AHT. The mean rate of AHT per 100,000 child-years increased from 9.8 before the recession to 15.6 during the recession before decreasing to 12.8 after the recession. The AHT rates after the recession were higher than the rates before the recession (incidence rate ratio 1.31, P = .004) but lower than rates during the recession (incidence rate ratio 0.78, P = .005). There was no association between the AHT rate and employment growth, mortgage delinquency rates, or foreclosure rates.

EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

Recession

 Wood J, et al. Association of pediatric abusive head trauma rates with macroeconomic indicators. Academic Pediatrics. 2016. 16:224-232 In the period <u>after</u> the recession, AHT rate was lower than <u>during</u> the recession period yet higher than the level before the recession, suggesting a lingering effect of the economic stress of the recession on maltreatment risk.

EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND RECESSIONS ON CHILD ABUSE RATES

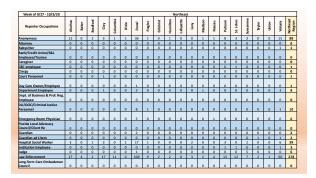
Recession

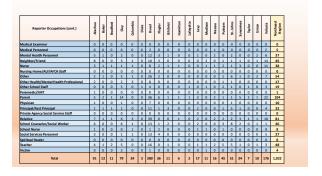
Florida CPT data

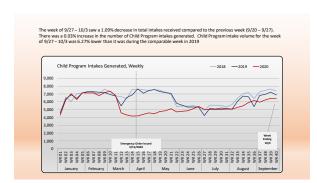
For 5 years before and during the recession we also saw nearly a doubling of AHT

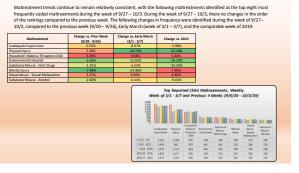


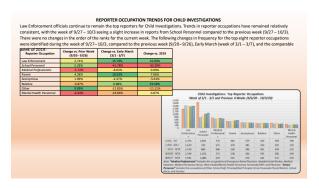
Week of 9/27 - 10/3/20	Northeast																				
Child Investigation Maltreatments	Alachus	Baker	Bradford	Clay	Columbia	Dixie	Duval	Flagler	Glebrist	Hamilton	Lafayette	Lev,	Madison	nessey	Putnam	St. Johns	Suwannee	Bylor	Union	Volusia	Northeast Total
Abandonment		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Asphyxiation	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	7
Bizarre Punishment		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4
Bone Fracture	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Burns	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Environmental Hazards	8	1	0	7	2	0	30	4	0	2	0	6	0	1	6	4	5	0	1	15	92
Failure to Protect	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	6
Failure to Thrive/ Malnutrition/ Dehydration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Household Violence Threatens Child	19	2	3	12	6	0	47	2	2	1	0	2	3	2	6	9	9	1	2	36	164
Human Trafficking - CSEC	2	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10
Human Trafficking - Labor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Supervision	19	3	3	12	7	0	93	10	2	2	0	4	2	5	13	14	5	4	1	41	240
Internal Injuries	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Intimate Partner Violence Threatens Child	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	8
Medical Neglect	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	7	19
Mental Injury	5	0	0	6	3	0	18	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	41
Physical Injury	13	1	2	18	3	0	76	5	3	2	1	1	2	1	10	11	5	2	2	30	188
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Battery	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	17
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Exploitation by Parent/Legal	1	0			1	0	2	2	0	,	0		0	0	0	1	0	,	0	0	
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Molestation	6	3	2	6	2	0	22	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	7	58
Substance Exposed Newborn	1	0	1	0	1	1	12	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	9	36
Substance Misuse	2	0	0	4	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	20
Substance Misuse - Alcohol	5	0	0	2	1	0	17	0	1	1	0	1	1	5	2	3	0	0	0	8	47
Substance Misuse - Illicit Drugs	6	2	0	8	2	0	40	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	8	3	2	1	0	16	95
substance Misuse - Prescription Drues	2	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	13
Threatened Harm	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	8
Total	97	13	12	80	31	1	395	34	12	9	1	19	11	20	55	54	38	8	12	193	1.095



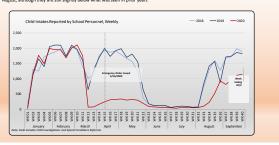






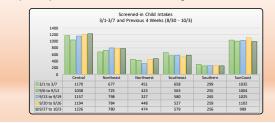


Child Program Intakes reported by School Personnel during the week of 9/27 – 10/3 saw an increase of 2.42% compared to the previous week (9/20 – 9/26). Reports received from School Personnel have been trending upwards since classes resumed in late August, although they are still slightly below what was seen in prior years.



CHILD INTAKE, ENTRIES AND EXITS FROM OUT OF HOME CARE TRENDS CHILD INTAKE TRENDS

Accepted child abuse and special condition referrals decreased by 0.2% statewide during the week of 9/27-10/3, compared to the previous week. All but the Southeast and Northwest Regions saw a decrease in intakes.



Volume decreased over the last week, but has rebounded to approximately pre-COVID-19 levels. Fourteen investigative areas saw increases in intake volume between 9/27 and 10/3. Ten investigative areas are above pre-COVID numbers.

		- 30	eened-in Chil	а хошке жерс	orts and spec	iai Consisions	PRETERTALS					
Terion	Investigative Area	3/1/20 to 3/7/20	3/8/20 to 3/14/20	8/2/20 to 8/8/20	E/9/20 to E/15/20	8/16/20 to 8/22/20	8/23/20 to 8/29/20	8/30/20 to 9/5/20	9/6/20 to 9/12/20	9/13/20 to 9/13/20	9/20/20 to 9/26/20	9/27/20 10/3/2
iorthwest	CO1-DCF	225	230	190	189	172	169	222	205	146	195	229
forthwest	CD2-DCF	92	106	.53	53	73	94	99	93	97	110	22
fortheast	C03-DCF	65	63	54	82	- 38	66	57	50	63	65	76
fortheast	CDE-DCF	330	225	300	274	293	306	125	355	379	357	361
entral	COS-DCF	280	285	234	230	250	299	235	316	310	360	390
fortheast	C07-DCF	188	182	176	191	205	225	206	206	233	241	223
fortheast	COS-DCF	134	100	90	99	95	125	105	112	123	115	120
Central	CO9-DCF	411	367	271	313	323	335	378	297	358	368	273
entral	CIO-DCF	211	217	158	174	187	220	206	207	259	217	252
outhern	C11-DCF	291	279	200	234	235	207	233	247	349	235	243
kunCoast	C12-DCF	96	65	62	65	22	73	55	64	54	77	36
forthwest	C14-DCF	106	85	96	63	95	95	109	95	70	121	343
outheast	C15-DCF	241	241	176	196	162	164	194	212	290	193	213
outhern	C16-DCF		6		6	7	5			16	21	11
entral	C18-DCF	177	141	117	109	115	143	150	134	155	163	340
outheast	C19-DCF	111	130	90	95	113	123	125	134	130	140	200
kunCoast	C20-DCF	290	225	247	244	243	235	264	304	297	294	272
outheast	SO Broward	306	268	200	227	255	241	255	217	250	194	257
kunCoast	SO Hillsborough	258	249	234	253	253	272	278	234	277	287	291
unCoast	SO Manatee	85	54	51	70	65	70	76	71	98		34
kunCoast	SO Pasco	125	129	125	130	114	131	124	113	120	157	300
unCoast	SO Pinellas	190	192	158	192	157	163	203	215	159	204	150
entral	SO Seminole	91	8	63	62	71	35	15	54	75	35	51
4orthwest	SO Walton	27	15	23	22	25	30	33	27	14	22	21
IA.	NA.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	4290	3294	3425	3605	3629	3555	4119	4005	4152	4334	430

ENTRIES INTO OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Child entries into out-of-home care showed a statewide decrease of 18.4% for the week of 9/20-9/27 (most recent mature reporting period. All but the SunCoast Region saw a decrease during this period.



Please note that entry data for the most recent week should not be taken as fully mature, as it is less than 24 hours old as of this writing. Entry data should be fully complete by the next reporting period. As we continue to run this data on a weekly basis, we will overwrite previous weeks to reflect updated numbers, and we will begin to see a more complete picture of how entries are trending.

SUMMARY OF DCF DATA

- Duval county has the highest number of intakes in Northeast Region.
- Inadequate Supervision, physical injury and household violence were top maltreatments 9/27 – 10/30/2020.
- Law Enforcement officials are the highest for reporter type.
- Child abuse reports were significantly lower immediately before Emergency "stay at home" Order and remained low for several weeks afterward.
- The highest number of reports alleging inadequate supervision and physical injury occurred during the first week of March 2020.
- Overall intakes have rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN REALITY?

- Official statistics capture 1 of every 3 – 5 instances of child abuse anyway
- Children are being abused now that we never hear of, or will years from now
- There may be an increase in child abuse that we don't know about, and won't for decades



WHY MIGHT CHILD ABUSE RATES INCREASE IN TIMES OF STRESS?

ACCESS

- One supposition is that parents might be home more than before and that children have more exposure to them
- More hours of contact increases the chance that there will be a negative interaction (e.g. someone gets on someone's nerves)
- Solution is not to take a vacation, ship away on a submarine, etc.

WHY MIGHT CHILD ABUSE RATES INCREASE IN TIMES OF STRESS?

CHILDREN DON'T HAVE AS MANY OUTLETS

- Not as much daycare or school teachers don't have the opportunity to report
- They may not be outside as much more underfoot
- If schooled at home, that could add a stress to the parents

WHY MIGHT CHILD ABUSE RATES INCREASE IN TIMES OF STRESS?

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS

- Worry about getting sick or dying
- Restrictions to former lifestyles
- Media intensity on a variety of issues

WHY MIGHT CHILD ABUSE RATES INCREASE IN TIMES OF STRESS?

INSECURITIES

- Employment
- Food insecurity
- Housing
- Family

CHILD ABUSE ISSUES

- Misunderstood normal development
- Dysfunctional learned parenting styles
- ACEs



SYSTEMS ISSUES

REPORT CARDS AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

OBJECTIVE. Examine the temporal association between school report card release and incidence of physical abuse.

DESIGN. Retrospective review of calls to the Florida child abuse hotline and school report card release dates across a single academic year.

REPORT CARDS AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

PARTICIPANTS. Children aged 5-11 years in the state of Florida for whom calls to the state child abuse hotline were made.

EXPOSURES School report cards release across a single academic year, measured daily.

MAIN OUTCOMES and MEASURES DCF verified incidents of physical abuse across a single academic year, measured daily.

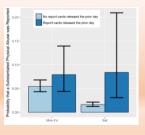
REPORT CARDS AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

- During the academic year, approximately 168,000 calls came in to the child abuse hotline for children aged 5-11 years
- 18% of these calls were suspected incidents of physical abuse
- 7% were verified as cases of physical abuse.

REPORT CARDS AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Calls resulting in verified reports of physical abuse were more prevalent on Saturdays following a Friday report card release compared to the overall average across all release days (OR = 5.75, 95% CI = 2.09 – 15.85)
- As well as compared to Saturdays that do not follow a Friday report card release (OR = 5.57, 95% CI = 1.94 – 15.95).

PROBABILITY THAT A SUBSTANTIATED PHYSICAL ABUSE WAS REPORTED IN A COUNTY DISAGGREGATED BY WHETHER THE REPORT CARD WAS RELEASED THE PREVIOUS DAY



REPORT CARDS AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

- A potentially actionable opportunity for reducing the incidence of physical abuse linked to report cards.
- Illustrates the important role that systems may play in the epidemiology of physical abuse.

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN OTHER TEMPORAL ASSOCIATIONS

- More cases in spring and summer months than in autumn and winter
- More physical abuse-related visits to the hospital in the afternoon to evening hours, and more physical abuse-related hospital admissions during weekdays
- One study of children in China found peaks in physical abuse-related hospital admissions in two months preceding school examination periods

OTHER SYSTEM EFFECTS ON ABUSE

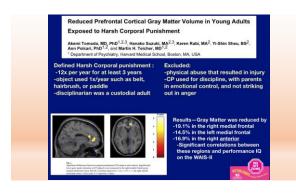
- Gas price increases are positively associated with increases in child abuse.
- Specifically, a \$1 increase in gas prices within a state was associated with 642 additional child abuse reports per 100,000 children

OTHER SYSTEM EFFECTS ON ABUSE

- States which instituted refundable earned income tax credits (EITC) demonstrated a trending decrease of admissions for abusive head trauma in children
- Nonrefundable earned income tax credits (EITC) were <u>not</u> associated with a decrease in abusive head trauma.

SYSTEM EFFECTS ON ABUSE

- The importance of a systems approach to child abuse will grow in importance as a means of prevention
- Ultimately, social norms change will be key





Hit Free Zone

Purpose:

To create and reinforce an environment of comfort and safety for patients, families and staff working at our facility.

Hit Free Zone, an environment in which:

- No adult shall hit a child
- No adult shall hit another adult
- No child shall hit an adult
- No child shall hit another child



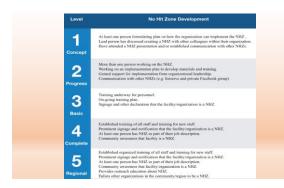














BEYOND HOSPITALS: SEVERAL EXAMPLES

- 1. Dane County WI Prosecutor's Office
- 2. Jacksonville FL Medical Examiner's Office
- 3. All catholic schools in New Orleans
- 4. County health departments around Norfolk VA
- 5. All Child Advocacy Centers in Florida
- 6. First Coast Child Protection Team 8 counties in FL

TEXT4BABY

- Project by CDC, NIH, AAP, and many others
- Text messages sent 3 times per week geared to your baby's age. Only enroll once.
- Text messages are free thanks to the CTIA Wireless Foundation and participating mobile phone companies: Alltell, Assurance Wireless, AT&T, Bluegrass Cellular, Boost Mobile, Cellcom, Cincinnati Bell, Cricket, MetroPCS, n-Telos, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, Verizon Wireless, and Virgin Mobile USA.

TEXT4BABY

- Nutrition for you and your baby
- Safe sleep tips
- Baby's milestones
- · Signs and symptoms of labor
- Doctor visit and appointment reminders for you and your baby
- Breastfeeding advice
- Car seat safety
- Information on health insurance
- Urgent health alerts
- Resource hotlines and websites
- https://www.text4baby.org/

TAKE 5

- Long term project from Yale
- Teaches adults in newborn unit to walk away for 5 minutes
- Five steps to manage caregiver frustration with infant crying and to prevent a caregiver from hurting an infant
- Recent study showed a reduction in abusive head trauma in those who were in the program
- Infants whose caregivers received Take 5 were 79 per cent less likely to have suffered AHT

Bechtel K, Gaither J, Leventhal J. Impact of the Take 5 Safety Plan for Crying on the Occurrence of Abusive Head Trauma in Infants. Child Abuse Review. 2020. 29:282-290

ACEs IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

- RJ Gillespie MD in Portland Oregon uses the adult's ACE score to help determine who needs community services
- Adds no significant time to pediatric visit
- · High satisfaction by parents
- California ACEs Academy teaching over 1000 physicians about ACEs

RJ Gillespie, Folger A. Feasibility of Assessing Parental ACEs in Pediatric Primary Care: Implications for Practice-Based Implementation. <u>Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma</u>. 2017. 10: 249–256

• Free webinar with CME credits at the Academy on Violence and Abuse website. https://www.avahealth.org/resources/california-aces-academy/rj-gillespie.html

STEPS/HIGH RISK NEWBORN PROGRAMS

ADOPTING A DAILY GROUNDING PRACTICE