

# Assessing Child Maltreatment in Multicultural Populations

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UM Child Protection Team



***"... a son or a slave is property  
and there can be no injustice  
to one's own property."***

**-Aristotle**

***"If one beats a child until it bleeds,  
then it will remember,  
but if one beats it to death,  
the law applies."***

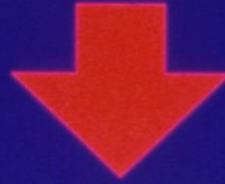
**-13th Century Saying**

# Landmark articles

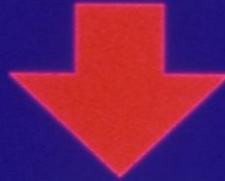
- Dr. John Caffey; AJR, 1946  
“Multiple Fractures in the Long Bones of Infants Suffering from Chronic Subdural Hematomas.”
- Dr. C. Henry Kempe: JAMA, 1962  
“The Battered Child Syndrome.”
- Dr. Vincent Fontana: NEJM, 1963  
“The Maltreatment Syndrome.”



**SOCIAL-CULTURAL FACTORS**



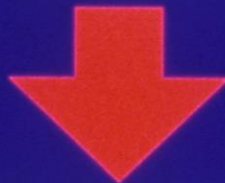
**FAMILY STRESSES**



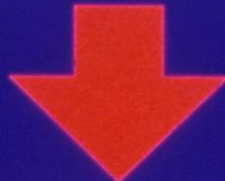
**CHILD-PRODUCED  
STRESSORS**

**SOCIAL-SITUATIONAL  
STRESSORS**

**PARENT-PRODUCED  
STRESSORS**




**TRIGGERING SITUATIONS**



**MALTREATMENT**

# Maltreatments

- Physical Abuse/Inflicted Injuries
  - Child Sexual Abuse
  - Neglect (Inability to provide care)
  - Child Medical Abuse  
(Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy)
  - Psychological Maltreatment
- 

# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study

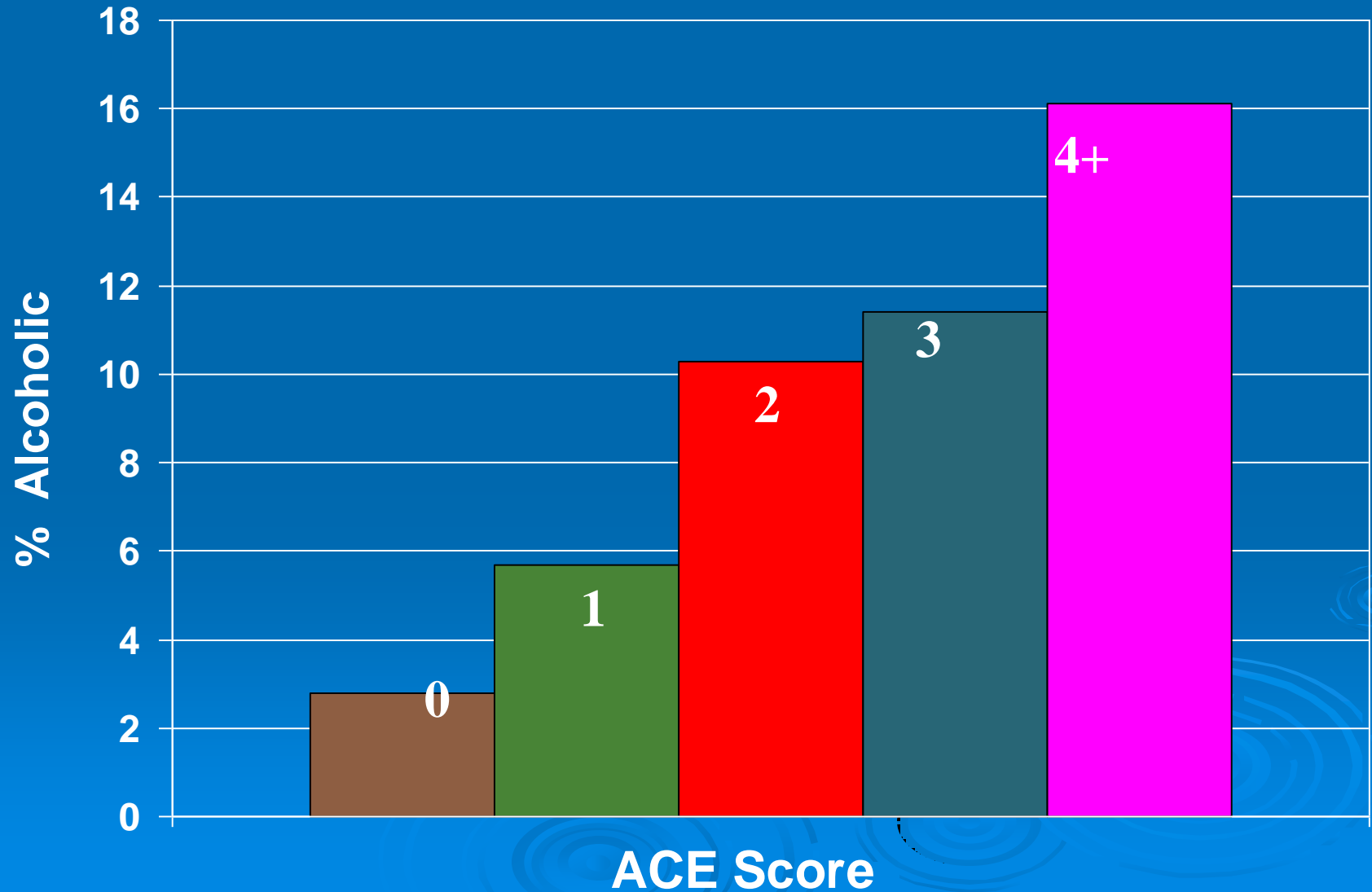
ACEs increase risk of adult heart disease\*

1. Emotional abuse	1.7 x
2. Physical abuse	1.5 x
3. Sexual abuse	1.4 x
4. Emotional neglect	1.3 x
5. Physical neglect	1.4 x
6. Domestic violence	1.4 x
7. Mental illness	1.4 x
8. Substance abuse	1.3 x
9. Household criminal	1.7 x

- After correction for age, race, education, smoking & diabetes



# Childhood Experiences and Adult Alcoholism





## ETHNO-CULTURAL ISSUES IN CHILD REARING AND PUNISHMENT



Artist: Arturo Rodríguez

Broken Journey, 1990  
Collection of the Center for the Arts,  
Vero Beach, Florida

# Spare the rod, spoil the child.

"He who spareth the rod hateth his son: but  
he that loveth him correcteth him betimes"  
(Proverbs 13:24)

King James Bible (1611)

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the bottom right corner, there are several concentric white circles that resemble ripples on water, creating a decorative effect.

## **DISCIPLINE VS. PUNISHMENT**

**Discipline consists of teaching limits-  
Children learn from your example, from your  
respectful acceptance of them, and from the  
limits you set on their impulsive behavior.**

# Chapter 39: Definitions

- “Abuse” means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child’s physical, mental and emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of children includes acts or omissions.
- Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

# Assessing Physical Punishment vs. Abuse

- Age of child
- “Bad” behavior
- Time between “bad” behavior and punishment
- Use of instrument (hand, pliable v. hard instrument)
- Part of body targeted
- Part of body actually hit
- Injury sustained (Temporary redness vs. bruise vs. broken skin)
- Severity of the injury (# of blows, amount of bruising, fracture)
- Potential for injury
- Statements made by the child (fear of parent, domestic violence, parental drug use.)
- Care giver’s response to the injury episode



## INFLECTED INJURY VERSUS ACCIDENTAL INJURY

803

belt buckle



belt



looped cord



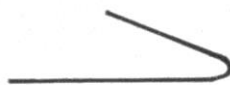
stick/whip



fly swatter



coat hanger



board or spatula



hand/knuckles



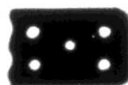
bite



sauce pan



paddles



hair brush



spoon






# AAP Policy: September 2002

## Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect

“A definition of significant trauma is any injury beyond temporary redness of the skin. Although cellular injury may occur as a result of any trivial trauma, to be considered physical abuse, an injury must be overt enough to be recognized... One practical criterion often used is that any inflicted injury that lasts more than 24 hours constitutes significant injury (ie, physical abuse).”



# **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children**

- **Physical punishment of children breaches their fundamental human rights to respect for human dignity and physical integrity. Its legality in almost every state worldwide - in contrast to other forms of inter-personal violence - challenges the universal right to equal protection under the law.**

# Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

- Worldwide, corporal punishment in schools has been prohibited in at least 108 countries. But at least 78 nations have not prohibited physical punishment as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions for children in conflict with the law, and 43 have not prohibited it as a judicial sentence of the courts for young people convicted of an offence.
- In the US, only Iowa and New Jersey prohibit physical punishment in both private and public schools. 28 other states and the District of Columbia have prohibited corporal punishment in public schools. In Florida, the prohibition in public schools is determined by the local school board.

# Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

- As of 2010, 29 countries prohibit all forms of physical punishment including in the family home as well as in schools and other institutions and penal systems.
- Sweden (1979)      Germany (2000)      Venezuela (2007)
- Finland (1983)      Iceland (2003)      Spain (2007)
- Norway (1987)      Ukraine (2004)      Costa Rica (2008)
- Austria (1989)      Romania (2004)      Moldova (2008)
- Cyprus (1994)      Hungary (2004)      Luxemburg (2008)
- Denmark (1997)      Greece (2006)      Liechtenstein (2008)
- Latvia (1998)      Netherlands (2007)      Poland (2010)
- Croatia (1999)      New Zealand (2007)      Tunisia (2010)
- Bulgaria (2000)      Portugal (2007)      Kenya (2010)
- Israel (2000)      Uruguay (2007)

# Santeria

- Syncretistic religion blending animism, Roman Catholicism, and other traditional polytheistic West African tribal religions
- Regla de Ocha: many aspects of Yoruba (southwestern Nigeria) rites
- Life and power of gods resides in stones secured beneath the altar
- Spirit possession
- 1993: US Supreme Court protects animal sacrifice

# Santeria

- Chango (god of thunder): St. Barbara
- Orunmilla (Divination): St. Francis
- Obatala: Our Lady of Mercy
- Elegba: St. Peter
- Oshun: Our Lady of Charity





# Other Creole Caribbean Religions

## ➤ Regla de Palo

- Origins in the Congo basin
- Worshippers believe they are empowered by the remains of the dead (grave digging)
- Cauldron: Nganaga

## ➤ Haitian Vodou

- Ceremonies often include props and magic powders

## ➤ Brazilian (Bahia) Candomblé

- Orixas
- Worship at temples: terreiro/Casa Branca;  
since earliest days led by women (two African princesses enslaved and brought Bahia around 1650)

## ➤ Espiritismo: Spiritism

# Historical Perspectives

## ➤ Caribbean Islands

- Slavery
- Syncretism


## ➤ United States:

- Great Awakening
- Slavery/Civil War
- Adventists/Millerites

# Great Awakening

- “Can not awake if not asleep”
- 1679-late 1700’s
- Not one continuous revival, rather several revival in variety of locations
- Reality of frontier:
  - large numbers of UNCHURCHED
- Effect of Enlightenment
- Evangelical (by 1750’s 80% Americans)

# Adventist Movement

- Early 1800's
  - Religious groups stressing Second Coming of Christ
  - William Miller (Baptist) studied prophecies of Old Testament Book of Daniel and New Testament Book of Revelation
  - Announced in 1831: Second Advent would be in 1843 or 1844
  - 1860's: Seventh-Day Adventist
- 

# (Black) Hebrew Israelites

- Belief emerged in 1840's
- Black slaves are descended from one of ancient Israel's 10 lost tribes by way of Africa and slave routes to America
- Descended from Israelites who were expelled from Jerusalem by Romans in 70 AD, migrated for more than 1000 years before reaching West Africa, later brought to US as slaves

# (Black) Hebrew Israelites

- 1896: prophet William Crowdy founds sect in Kansas; permitted polygamy, forbade birth control and decreed strict dietary rules (kosher)
- By WWI congregations in several major cities

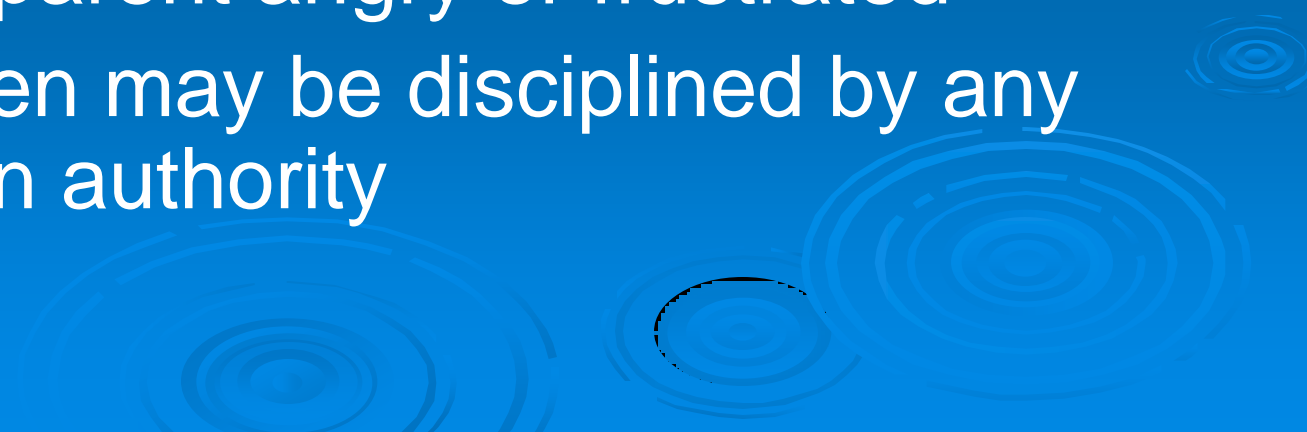




# (Black) Hebrew Israelites

- Some exclusively Torah based; Others entire Old Testament (Hebrew scriptures from Genesis to Malachi)
- Diet based in Lev.11 (similar BUT not identical to Jewish kosher laws); but many vegan vegetarians
- Circumcision of boys on the 8<sup>th</sup> day by mohel
- Courtship should precede marriage; marriagable age: 18 for females; 21 for males

# (Black) Hebrew Israelites

- Manners, respect, obedience and contributing to the household are important characteristics to develop in children
  - Discipline (with equity)
  - “butt-whippings” acceptable but never when parent angry or frustrated
  - Children may be disciplined by any adult in authority
- 

# (Black) Hebrew Israelites

- Reject vaccination because contain ingredients that are restrict within diets; “controversy” regarding adverse effects reinforces rejection for dietary reasons
- Some accept western medicine EXCEPT immunizations; others natural healing only
- Natural birth assisted by midwives

# First Church of Christ, Scientist

- Founded by Mary Baker Eddy (8/28/79)
- Current membership 170,000-250,000
- “Man is not material; he is spiritual”
- Denial of reality of sickness and death
- Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*

# Christian Scientist

- Through prayer and by learning more about God, people can begin to see and increasingly experience the divine reality, not just as a future hope
- View healings as an awakening to this reality. To understand truth means not to ignore evil and sickness, but to wipe them out through prayer and spiritual understanding
- No church dogma or penalty enforces reliance on prayer for healing, but it is a natural part of the way of life.

# Christian Scientist

- “The use of the rod is virtually a declaration to the child’s mind that sensation belongs to matter....if you educate educate him to love God, good, and obey the Golden rule, he will love and obey you without having to resort to corporeal punishment.”



# Christian Scientist

- “Children not mistaught, naturally love God.....Teach the children early self-government, and teach them nothing that is wrong”
- “If some fortuitous circumstance places promising children in the arms of gross parents, often these beautiful children early droop and die”

# Christian Scientist

- “The theory of three persons in one God suggests polytheism....They represent a trinity in unity, three in one—the same in essence, though multiform in office: God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter”



# Jehovah's Witnesses

- 1870's: Charles Taze Russell begins bible study group: "The Bible Students"
- 1880's incorporated the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
- Name of Jehovah's Witnesses was adopted in 1931; Isaiah 43:12 "Ye are my witness, saith Jehovah, and I am God"
- Resurrected Jesus to be divine in nature, but as God's son not equal to God the Father

# Jehovah's Witnesses

- Bible as SOLE guide to belief
- Exclusive devotion to Jehovah
- Obey Jesus' command to preach "this good news of the Kingdom"
- Consider themselves to be only true Christians; shun others



# Jehovah's Witnesses

- Religion of personal conscience
- Teachings regarding transfusion of whole blood products (not necessarily blood components); based on Lev.17, Acts 15
- Do NOT reject children who are transfused by court order



# Child neglect cases on rise

North Miami police say child neglect cases are increasing because of changing demographics. 'The parents just need to be educated. You can't leave a baby home alone with a 9-year-old in this city,' a detective says, **3.**

# Rastafari

- Afro-Jamaican religious movement that blends Revivalist nature of Jamaican folk Christianity with Pan-Africanist perspective promulgated by Marcus Garvey and Ethiopianist reading of Old Testament



# Rastafari

- Founded in 1932; inspired by the crowning in 1930 of Ras (Prince) Tafari Makonnen as Emperor of the Ethiopian Kingdom (only one of two sovereign nations on African continent)
- Link between crowning of Ras Tafari (who took name of Haile Selassie upon coronation) and teachings of black nationalist Marcus Garvey



# Rastafari

- No central authority
- Organized into numerous sects with executive councils of “elders”
- Holy Books: Old Testament and New Testament (usually Macabbes version), Books of the Apocrypha, Book of Enoch, Kebra Nagast
- Works and teaching of Marcus Garvey

# Rastafari

- Diet: most kosher (mostly chicken, fish and goat), 50% vegan vegetarians; BUT not required
- No specific teachings regarding physical punishment or discipline



# Rastafari

- Use of marijuana: used in services in Jamaica as sacrament, but two largest groups in US do NOT use in worship
- Used during discussion sessions “reasoning”; boys allowed to smoke around 8-10 years old; girls post-puberty
- Women do not smoke while menstruating (unclean)



Stop using words  
that hurt.

**Start using words that help.**

Words can hit a child as hard as a fist. And leave scars that last a lifetime. Even when you're upset...stop! Think about what you're saying. For helpful information, write: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 2866E, Chicago, IL 60690.

Ad  
Council