

Widom, Cathy Spatz. (2000). Child Abuse and Later Effects. National Institute of Justice Journal, 242, 3-9.

Purpose:

- Identify consequences of childhood abuse and what's the case of them.
- Determine the long-term effects that abuse will have on individuals.

Literature Review: Used prospective cohorts design, which studies a group of people for a certain amount of time. Earlier studies done on child abuse (Dohrenwend, B.P., 1998).

Methods:

- Sample: Studied children's cases that had been abused and/or neglected. Original sample 1,575 — but 908 were study subjects and the other 667 were study controls. A little under half were females, 2/3 white, mean age 28.7.
- Variables: Childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, gender differences, and family and community aspects, psychological and emotional aspects.
- Procedure: Researchers looked at participants' past cases and after 20 years, brought them in and made them take an IQ test, answer questions about their occupational status, employment history, marital history, childhood victimization and later life criminality, childhood victimization and later life psychopathology. Also done by gender, antisocial personality disorder in offspring and the relationship to parental criminality, and about their alcohol abuse/dependence in offspring and their relationship to parental alcohol/drug problem.

Results/Conclusions:

- These are not the only factors that relate to abuse and neglect, but are some key factors.
- I.Q. study showed that among the abused/neglected group, 28% were in the mid to upper 70s, and of the control group, 20% were in the upper 80s.
- Occupational Status showed that of the abused/neglected group, 65% menial/semi-skilled and 5% professional/managerial while the control group was 45% menial/semi-skilled and 15% professional/managerial.
- In the employment history study, abused/neglected group was 40% employed, 25% underemployed, and 25% unemployed with reason. The control group was 60% employed, 15% underemployed, and 25% unemployed with reason.
- Marital history study showed that in the abused/neglected group:
 - 28% one divorce;
 - 22% more than one divorce;
 - and, the control group showed 30% one divorce; and 15% more than one divorce.
- In childhood victimization and later criminality: abused/neglected had higher numbers as adults than they did when they were younger (and the control group as well).
- Childhood victimization and later psychopathology control group lower suicidal rate than abused/neglected group.
- Childhood victimization and later psychopathology, by gender both male and female higher in abused/neglected group.
- Same goes for antisocial personality disorder in offspring and relationship to parental criminality and alcohol abuse/dependence in offspring and relationship to parental alcohol/drug problems.