

## Chapter 1

### HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT

#### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. In a review of several self-report studies from high income countries, Gilbert, Widom, and Browne estimate that actual child maltreatment rates are \_\_\_\_\_ times higher than reported in official statistics.
  - a. 3
  - \*b. 10
  - c. 100
  - d. 1,000
  
2. Research in child victimization shows that children are most likely to be assaulted
  - a. in school.
  - b. in day care.
  - c. on the street.
  - \*d. at home.
  
3. Research on the locations of violence shows that children are
  - a. usually safest from violence in their own homes.
  - \*b. often at greater risk for violence at home than on the street.
  - c. most frequently assaulted in subways and in other public transportation.
  - d. more at risk on streets in urban areas than in their homes.
  
4. The recognition of child maltreatment as a social problem can be attributed to each of the following EXCEPT
  - a. the liberation of women.
  - b. claims-making.
  - \*c. an increase in the rate of child maltreatment.
  - d. the founding of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.
  
5. Claims-makers
  - a. have reached a consensus about the definition of family violence.
  - \*b. shape society's conception of what a social problem is.
  - c. have forced family violence researchers to employ their (i.e., claims-makers') definitions.
  - d. usually negotiate their definitional preferences with small groups like judges.
  
6. Many trace the discovery of child abuse to \_\_\_\_\_ of the early 1800s.
  - \*a. the Mary Ellen Wilson case
  - b. the Puritan Reformers
  - c. the House of Refuge Movement
  - d. the C. Henry Kempe Foundation
  
7. When Etta Wheeler discovered that 8-year-old Mary Ellen Wilson was being beaten and starved she sought help from which of the following organizations?
  - \*a. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
  - b. Department of Children and Family Services
  - c. Puritan Reformers of America

d. Child Protective Services

8. Sexual interaction between children and adults was/is condoned by  
a. ancient Greeks.  
b. Aristotle.  
c. the Sambia of Papua New Guinea.  
\*d. all of the above
9. Wars tend to produce \_\_\_\_\_ ratios and infanticide tends to produce \_\_\_\_\_ ratios.  
a. high boy to girl; high boy to girl  
b. high boy to girl; low boy to girl  
\*c. low boy to girl; high boy to girl  
d. low boy to girl; low boy to girl
10. One reason why children are over represented in victimization data:  
a. Children are physically dependent on adults.  
b. Societal norms of family privacy prevail.  
c. Children cannot retaliate when victimized.  
\*d. All of the above
11. Child maltreatment was \_\_\_\_\_ before it was considered as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. disguised; a social condition  
\*b. a social condition; a social problem  
c. a social problem; a social condition  
d. not pervasive; a social condition
12. Dr. Henry Kempe's work was most important because he  
a. discovered child abuse.  
b. defined child abuse.  
\*c. identified child abuse as a widespread problem.  
d. identified victimization rates for abused children.
13. The research community began to notice child maltreatment in  
a. the 1980's.  
\*b. the 1960's.  
c. the early 1900s.  
d. the late 1800s.
14. Social constructionist sociologists like Spector and Kitsuse (1977) have pointed out that  
a. society defines a social condition as a social problem as soon as many people want to know more about it.  
\*b. social reactions are central to defining social conditions as social  
social  
problems.  
c. claims-makers tend to provide helpful and accurate facts about social  
social  
problems.  
d. when enough different groups in society determine "facts" separately, they combine these facts into knowledge.
15. Which of the following is NOT central to the social constructionist perspective on social problems?  
\*a. A social problem is a condition that causes harm.  
b. Social problems are discovered through societal reactions and social definitions.  
c. Social problems come and go as societal reactions change.  
d. A social problems is any condition successfully defined as such by claims-makers.

16. Child sexual abuse laws tend to focus on \_\_\_\_\_ and laws on physical abuse, child neglect, and psychological abuse focus on \_\_\_\_\_.
- \*a a. perpetrator actions; injury outcomes  
b. injury outcomes; perpetrator actions  
c. perpetrator actions; injury motives  
d. injury motives; injury outcomes
17. Instrumental violence is
- \*b a. an end in itself.  
b. used as a means to an end.  
c. hurting someone out of anger.  
d. culturally condemned.
18. Adult-child sexual interactions
- a. only came to light in the 1980s.
- \*b b. are promoted by the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA)  
for the sexual "liberation" of children.  
c. are illegal in every state, but not illegal according to federal law.  
d. are not acceptable in any culture currently.
19. Definitions of family violence
- a. has proved to be a simple matter.  
b. has finally reached a consensus among researchers.
- \*c c. are socially constructed.  
d. should be the province of victims.
20. What percentage of Americans agree that it is acceptable to use corporal punishment (spanking) as a way to discipline their children?
- a. 25%  
b. 50%
- \*c c. 75%  
d. 100%
21. \_\_\_\_\_ violence is an act that is culturally condoned, for example, slapping the hand of a 3-year-old, whereas, \_\_\_\_\_ violence is condemned, for example, punching the face of a 3-year-old.
- a. Illegitimate; legitimate  
\*b b. Legitimate; illegitimate  
c. Expressive; instrumental  
d. Instrumental; expressive
22. All of the following professionals are required to report child abuse and maltreatment EXCEPT:
- a. doctors  
b. nurses
- \*c c. lawyers  
d. teachers
23. The activities of individuals or groups making assertions of grievances or claims with respect to some putative condition refers to?
- \*a a. the process of claims-making.  
b. societal consensus about grievances.  
c. the attention given to feminist policy errors.  
d. opposing claims made by liberal vs. conservatives
24. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of the social constructionist agenda?
- a. It provides a theoretical framework for understanding child

- maltreatment.
- \*b b. It helps us understand the true definition of child maltreatment
  - c. It illustrates the importance of advocacy in ongoing debates about child maltreatment.
  - d. It helps to explain cross-cultural variations in definitions of child maltreatment.
25. A probable contributor to child abuse in the past was?
- a. the need for children in urban communities.
  - b. parental disregard for disciplining children.
  - \*c c. the belief that children were small replicas of adults.
  - d. the government's belief in the doctrine of *parens patriae*.
26. In 1874 a court case involving child abuse was prosecuted under the law entitled?
- a. Prevention of Cruelty by Stepmothers.
  - b. Prevention of Sexual Servitude.
  - \*c c. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
  - d. Prevention of Unseemly Public Behavior
27. The full recognition of child abuse as a social problem occurred when?
- a. congress passed legislation outlawing child abuse.
  - \*b b. doctors described the battered child syndrome.
  - c. the women's movement set up shelters.
  - d. the U.N. condemned child abuse globally.
28. All of the following are general categories of programs to prevent/intervene child abuse EXCEPT?
- a. School-based programs.
  - b. Community awareness campaigns.
  - \*c c. Volunteer baby-sitting exchanges.
  - d. Family support and training.
29. The primary problem related to mandatory reporting laws for professionals is the?
- a. failure of legislatures to clarify and publish such laws.
  - b. outspoken criticism of the laws by feminist advocates.
  - \*c c. ethical dilemmas stemming from violating client confidentiality.
  - d. attitudes professionals hold about being "above the law."
30. Options for responding to child abuse do NOT include?
- a. placement in foster care.
  - \*b b. employer-sponsored day care.
  - c. family preservation efforts.
  - d. adoption into a suitable home.

### Essay Questions

1. From a social constructionist perspective, how does a phenomenon like child maltreatment come to be seen as a social problem?
2. Describe the four types of parent-child violence discussed in the book and give examples of each (Gelles & Straus, 1979).
3. What is child maltreatment? Why is this such a difficult question to answer?
4. Briefly discuss the various types of prevention programs that are available to help stop child maltreatment before it starts.
5. Discuss the intervention strategies that have been utilized to help those that have been victims of child maltreatment and their families.
6. After hearing about a particularly disturbing child maltreatment case

on the television show 60 Minutes, your roommate observes that children are more likely to be abused today than at any time in history. Being well aware of the history of indifference and abuse of children, you know that one could easily argue the opposite (i.e., that children are more protected today than at any time in history). Explain the issues to your roommate

### **Fill in the Blanks**

1. The first child abuse case was prosecuted under \_\_\_\_\_ laws
2. Examination of the current sex ratios in countries like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ leads to the conclusion that female infanticide (or sex-selective abortions) still occurs today.
3. The case of Mary Ellen Wilson led to the founding of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1874.
4. In 1962 Dr. C. Henry Kempe along with his colleagues described the \_\_\_\_\_ syndrome which identified child abuse as a widespread problem.
5. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_ holds that the state has the right and responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is an act carried out with the intention of or an act perceived as having the intention of physically hurting another person.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ violence is hitting someone out of anger and has no utilitarian value.
8. Spanking a child in hopes of changing subsequent behavior is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The term \_\_\_\_\_ refers to efforts designed to prevent child maltreatment from occurring in the first place.
10. The term \_\_\_\_\_ refers to practice and policy responses after child maltreatment has occurred.

### *Answers to Fill in the Blanks*

1. cruelty to animals
2. India; China
3. the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
4. Battered Child
5. parens patriae
6. violence
7. expressive
8. instrumental
9. primary prevention
10. intervention

## Chapter 2

### THE STUDY OF CHILD MALTREATMENT: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

#### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is a type of official estimate of child maltreatment?
  - \*a a. National Incidence Study
  - b. Uniform Child Maltreatment Report
  - c. Conflict Tactics Scale
  - d. National Crime Victimization Survey
  
2. Which of the following estimates the amount of neglect and abuse reported to mandated professionals?
  - \*a a. The National Incidence Studies
  - b. The Conflict Tactics Scale
  - c. Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
  - d. The National Crime Victimization Survey
  
3. Which of the following estimates the amount of neglect and abuse reported to CPS
  - a. The National Incidence Studies
  - b. The Conflict Tactics Scale
  - \*c c. Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
  - d. The National Crime Victimization Survey
  
4. In the child maltreatment funnel illustrated in Figure 2.1, which of the below is the correct order from greatest number of cases to least number of cases?
  - a. actual cases; cases in which the state intervenes; substantiated cases
  - \*b b. actual cases; cases that come to attention of mandated reporters; substantiated cases
  - b. cases reported to the police; substantiated cases; cases referred to CPS
  - d. substantiated cases; cases reported to the police; cases that come to attention of mandated reporters;
  
5. Which of the following statements is/are true about self-report surveys?
  - a. They can provide access to information about violence not reported to official agencies.
  - b. They are often retrospective.
  - c. Respondents might not be truthful.
  - \*d d. All of the above are true about self reports.
  
6. Which statement is true of self-report victimization surveys?
  - \*a a. They capture a wealth of information about crimes that do not come to the attention of officials.
  - b. The data show that victims still prefer reporting to the police rather than to confidential surveys.
  - c. Since respondents are anonymous, they are always truthful.
  - d. They are good at tracking the chronic nature of child maltreatment.

7. The most important advantage of self-reports is that they
- \*a a. provide information about crimes not reported to official agencies.
  - b. ensure that respondents are telling the truth because respondents do not fear disclosure.
  - c. are less subject to individual interpretations.
  - d. can better track information back over several years.
8. The most serious flaw in official reports of child maltreatment is
- a. the failure to track crime against children under 12.
  - b. that only the most severe violence is reported.
  - \*c c. that only a small proportion is reported.
  - d. the miscategorization of crimes.
9. Which statement is true about the Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS) (Straus, 1979)?
- a. It is used primarily when several tests/retests are required.
  - \*b b. In its original form it was designed to measure marital/domestic violence rather than childmaltreatment.
  - c. The scale focuses exclusively on physical forms of violence.
  - d. It is intended to measure conflict within group settings.
10. Americans tend to believe that it is acceptable to
- a. mildly hit a stranger.
  - b. kick a spouse in the shins or legs.
  - \*c c. hit a child when he/she misbehaves.
  - d. push a sibling off a porch.
11. "Normative" violence refers to
- a. frequent types of violence.
  - b. neighborhood violence.
  - \*c c. culturally acceptable violence.
  - d. socially condemned violence.
12. The main reason given in chapter 2 for a no-spanking policy is
- a. spanking is a form of child maltreatment.
  - \*b b. societal encouragement of normative aggression (i.e., spanking) indirectly contributes to abusive aggression.
  - c. spanking does not work.
  - d. spanking is correlated with antisocial behavior.
13. Which of the following is NOT a structural factor that makes families prone to violence?
- a. time risk
  - b. intensity of interactions
  - c. power differential among family members
  - \*d d. the frustration-aggression hypothesis
14. Social ecology theory finds the cause of child maltreatment in
- \*a a. the breakdown of community controls
  - b. the destruction of the earth and the long-term effect this will have
  - c. social class
  - d. the breakdown of the nuclear family
15. According to Hirschi (1969) the three components of the social bond that are most relevant in preventing deviant behavior are
- a. belief, commitment, feeling states.
  - \*b b. commitment, attachment, belief.
  - c. commitment, attitude, attachment.

- d. belief, attachment, attitude.
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ a father's "stake in conformity" the \_\_\_\_\_ he is to be abusive.  
 a. weaker; less likely  
 b. greater; more likely  
 \*c c. greater; less likely  
 d. weaker; more likely
17. According to social bonding theory, social integration is a type of \_\_\_\_\_ bond and investment in conventional activities is a type of \_\_\_\_\_ bond.  
 a. commitment; attachment  
 b. attachment; belief  
 \*c c. attachment; commitment  
 d. commitment ; belief
18. \_\_\_\_\_ theory proposes that children who witness or are victims of violence repeatedly begin to believe that violence is an acceptable way of resolving family violence.  
 \*a a. Social learning theory  
 b. Parent-child interaction theory  
 c. Structural Strain theory  
 d. Cultural interaction theory
19. The aspect of social learning theory that most accurately explains child maltreatment is  
 \*a a. observation of others.  
 b. punishment.  
 c. biofeedback.  
 d. active participation.
20. Which of the following costs are discussed as part of deterrence theory?  
 a. severity of condemnation; severity of punishment  
 b. moral outrage; severity of punishment  
 c. moral outrage; severity of condemnation  
 \*d d. certainty of punishment; severity of punishment
21. Deterrence theory assumes that humans  
 \*a a. rationally weigh the costs and benefits of a behavior.  
 b. are born "evil" and are molded into conformity.  
 c. are violent because they have never received punishment.  
 d. adopt a "tit-for-tat" exchange of behaviors.
22. People who believe that deterrence theory explains child maltreatment point out that  
 a. justice is not meted out equitably.  
 b. only public violence is condemned.  
 \*c c. all too often, family abusers are no punished severely.  
 d. victims should responsibly avoid violence.
23. Most research in child maltreatment is  
 a. controlled experimental designs.  
 \*b b. retrospective and correlational.  
 c. longitudinal research.  
 d. none of the above
24. Child maltreatment research has revealed that  
 \*a a. abused children have more behavioral, cognitive, and emotional problems.



- b. child abuse leads directly to drug use and academic problems.
  - c. child abuse inevitably causes depression, low self worth, and aggression.
  - d. all of the above
25. The clinical fallacy refers to the inappropriate generalization of results from
- \*a a. a clinical sample to the entire population.
  - b. one clinical sample to another clinical sample.
  - c. a nonclinical sample to a clinical sample.
  - d. a group of clinicians to a group of nonclinicians.
26. The most serious methodological problem in research on child maltreatment is
- \*a a. definitional ambiguity.
  - b. the use of nonrepresentative samples.
  - c. the lack of comparison groups.
  - d. over reliance on female victims' reports.
27. Which of the following samples have been used in child abuse research?
- a. Random samples of the population
  - b. Convenient samples of available parents
  - c. Clinical samples
  - \*d d. all of the above
28. Which of the following is NOT a risk factor for being a child abuser?
- a. psychopathology
  - b. low self-esteem
  - \*c c. hyperresponsive physiological activity to positive and/or negative stimuli
  - d. physical health factors
29. Factors like poverty, financial worry, and ill health indirectly contribute to child maltreatment through
- a. decreased discipline.
  - b. decreased safety.
  - \*c c. increased stress.
  - d. social isolation.
30. Which statement is true?
- a. Most people who were abused as children become abusive adults.
  - \*b b. Abuse victimization as a child is correlated with abusive behavior as an adult
  - c. Witnessing parental violence has a much more powerful effect on children than experiencing direct abuse.
  - d. Abuse by fathers has a stronger negative impact than abuse by mothers.
32. Most research designs used to study child maltreatment are which of the following?
- a. cross-sectional
  - b. retrospective
  - c. self-report
  - \*d d. all of the above
34. The social learning model holds that perpetrators of child physical abuse
- \*a a. learned from their parents that the use of violence is an acceptable method of child rearing.

- b. learned that society generally condones parental discipline of children that went "too far."
  - c. learned from peer models in the neighborhood that violence was necessary for survival.
  - d. learned that certain situations (e.g., single parenting) make violence against children permissible.
35. Evidence cited within the social learning model of child physical abuse
- a. suggests that witnessing abusive parental behaviors is the major precipitant of later adult-child abuse.
  - b. shows that the earlier abuse begins in childhood, the more apt it is to manifest itself in perpetration.
  - c. shows that reinforcement of violence in a toddler leads to paradoxical violence in the adult perpetrator.
  - \*d. suggests the intergenerational explanation is not a universal law.
36. Which of the following is LEAST likely to be a situational or social precipitant of child physical abuse?
- a. low income/unemployment
  - \*b. weather extremes
  - c. illness/large family
  - d. social isolation
37. Which of the following would be most relevant in a social ecology theory of child maltreatment
- \*a. neighborhoods with vacant houses
  - b. children's relative powerlessness
  - c. support for corporal punishment
  - d. pervasiveness of violence
38. What is meant when referring to child maltreatment as having a large dark figure?
- a. it is largely unknown to the general public
  - \*b. The large difference between reported rates of child maltreatment and actual rates.
  - c. little is known about its origins and causes
  - d. child maltreatment is a huge looming issue that we have difficulty defining and fixing in society
39. The most important data source in the United States about child maltreatment comes from where?
- a. NIS- National Incidence Study
  - \*b. NCANDS- National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
  - c. CPS- Child Protective Services
  - d. U.S. Census Report on Incidences of Child Maltreatment
40. The Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire was designed to measure what?
- \*a. exposure of a wide variety of childhood victimization, both within and outside the family
  - b. the rate of juvenile delinquency in children exposed to violence
  - c. the amount of children who victimize others and are tried in Juvenile court
  - d. the influx of juvenile crime in schools, incarcerations and foster homes
  - e. the amount of violence juveniles witness

### Essay Questions

1. Explain social learning theory and its applicability to child maltreatment.
2. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of self-report data about child maltreatment.
3. Discuss the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale in terms of its purpose, questions, and use.
4. Explain the problems associated with official estimates of child maltreatment. How do self-report estimates attempt to overcome these problems?
5. Discuss the funneling metaphor. Why is it a helpful way in which to view child abuse data?
6. Discuss some of the most common methodological problems in conducting child maltreatment research.

### **Personal Thought Questions**

1. What do you think is (are) the root cause(s) of child maltreatment?
2. Propose an investigation of child maltreatment that you would like to conduct. Describe the populations and data sources that you plan to use.
3. Propose an investigation of child maltreatment that you would like to conduct. Describe the ethical safeguards that you deem necessary to protect the subjects.
4. Can child maltreatment researchers claim to be scientific? Outline and defend your opinions.

### **Fill in the Blanks**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ attempt to measure and estimate reported child maltreatment, whereas \_\_\_\_\_ attempt to measure and estimate the actual occurrence of child maltreatment.
2. The official data source that surveys mandated professional is the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The important and widely cited official data relies on reports from CPS agencies around the country and is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The most commonly cited self-report survey of crime victims is the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are the most widely use scales in self-reported family violence research, but the \_\_\_\_\_ are more appropriate indicators of parent-child interaction.
6. The gap between the amount of a crime actually committed and the officially reported numbers of that crime is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Self-report \_\_\_\_\_ surveys ask respondents about their own abusive and neglectful behavior.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ theory suggests that children who are victims of assault often think that violence is an acceptable way of resolving conflict.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ theory maintains that deviance is common in societies that emphasize and promise financial success but do not provide equal access to opportunities for achieving that success.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ focuses on social forces that prevent people from committing violent acts.
1. \_\_\_\_\_ focuses on the influence of informal social controls on people, and \_\_\_\_\_ focuses on the influence of formal social controls on people.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a process in which a person learns social and cognitive behaviors by observing and imitating others.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a macro level theory that focuses on the breakdown of environmental controls.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ theory focuses on the factors that contribute to a breakdown in the relationship between a parent and a child.

*Answers to Fill in the Blanks*

1. official statistics; self-reports
2. National Incidence Study
3. National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
4. National Crime Victimization Survey
5. Conflict Tactics Scale; Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale
6. Dark figure
7. perpetration
8. learning
9. strain
10. social bonding
11. social bonding; deterrence
12. modeling
13. social ecology
14. attachment