

Bringing It All Together

Critical Conversations
Child Development and Mental Health Conference
Swan Lake State Park
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Reid et al., 1999

- “There is an irreconcilable clash between the rapidly ticking clock of cognitive and physical development for the child and the slow motion clock of recovery for the parent addicted to alcohol or drugs”

Number of Incidents by Abuse Category, 2015--Iowa

Incidents by Abuse Category	Number	Percent
Denial of Critical Care	8,852	71.7%
Physical Abuse	1,491	12.1%
Drug-Affected Child	1,164	9.4%
Sexual Abuse	600	4.9%
Sex Offender Allowed Access to Child	158	1.3%
Meth Manufacturing near a Child	74	0.6%

Parental Substance Abuse

- Parental substance abuse is recognized as a risk factor for child maltreatment and child welfare involvement (Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, 2013).
- Research shows that children with parents who abuse alcohol or drugs are more likely to experience abuse or neglect than children in other households (Dube et al., 2001; Hanson et al., 2006).

Children AT RISK! Abuse AND Drugs

- • 85% of States report substance abuse as one of the major problems in homes with suspected maltreatment of children.

Source: Childwelfare.gov

Children at Risk : 2015

- 728,796 children in Iowa under the age of 18
- Just over **1 in 10** children (81,000) have parents who need treatment for a substance use disorder

Source: Center for Children and Family Futures

The High Price of Addiction

- Chemically-dependent parents are having their parental rights terminated at alarming proportions
- More Iowa children in foster care

Foster Care

- 9,811 children placed in foster care in Iowa
- Alcohol and other drug use was the **number one** reason for removal

Source: Center for Children and Family Futures

Substance Abuse Treatment

- 230,973 people in Iowa needed treatment for a substance abuse disorder
- 91.9% of those who needed treatment services for a substance use disorder **did not** receive them

Source: Center for Children and Family Futures

Monetary Costs of Child Abuse

- The monetary costs associated with child abuse are staggering as well. An economic impact analysis study released by Prevent Child Abuse America in April 2012 estimates the cost of child abuse and neglect in the U.S. at \$80 billion, or nearly \$64,000 per child, this year.
- These estimates include direct costs (hospitalizations, mental health treatment, child welfare system, and law enforcement) as well as indirect costs (special education, early intervention, adult homelessness, mental health and health care, juvenile and adult criminal justice, and lost work productivity).

Societal Cost of Child Abuse

- According to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), the state spent over \$224 million in 2009 due to child abuse. This money includes the cost of out-of-home placements, in-home services, subsidized adoptions, and child protection staff, but doesn't include medical and psychological treatment or special education for abuse-related cognitive challenges.

■ Source: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Implications for Practice and Policy

- Professionals need to be prepared to screen for substance abuse
- Professionals need to screen for domestic violence
- Professionals need to be aware of the relationship between substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse—physical, sexual and neglect
- Children exposed to drugs/alcohol prenatally need long term follow up of their growth and development
- Children need to be monitored for exposure to drugs after birth
- Increased access to substance abuse and mental health treatment is critical
- Permanency planning is major issue

Issues

- For substance abuse, attaining abstinence is a key goal;
- for domestic violence programs, ensuring survivors' safety is of paramount concern.
- While both goals are valid, the reality is that they may be difficult to balance.

Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

- child protection and domestic violence programs have historically responded separately to victims.
- The divergent responses are largely due to the differences in each system's historical development, philosophy, mandate, policies, and practices.



Protective Services

- For CPS caseworkers, whose legal mandate is the protection of the abused child, responding to domestic violence has been widely regarded as a peripheral issue.

Domestic Violence

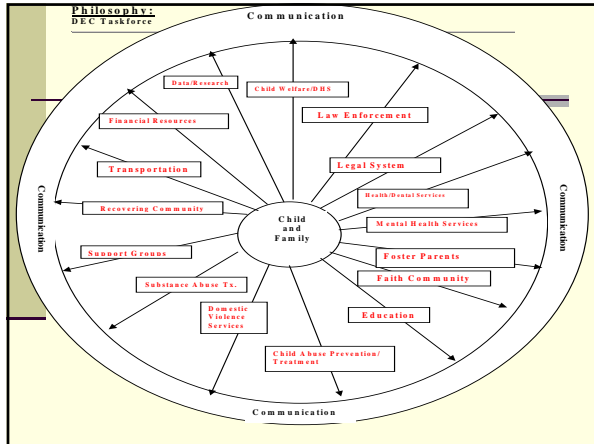
- Service providers have primarily focused on pursuing safety and empowerment for adult victims. The differing opinion about whose safety is paramount has led to misconceptions and critical accusations by both systems.

Common Ground

- Both want to end domestic violence and child maltreatment;
- Both want children to be safe;
- Both want adult victims to be protected—for their own safety and so their children are not harmed by the violence;
- Both believe in supporting a parent's strengths;
- Both prefer that children not be involved in CPS, if avoidable

Opportunity Lies in Iowa's Response

- Manage addiction as a public health problem
- Recognize the relationship between substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse
- Support recovery by providing effective substance abuse treatment resources
- Intervene to Protect Children
- **Connect Services and Work Together**



Web Sites

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
<http://www.pcaiowa.org>

Iowa Drug Endangered Children
<https://odcp.iowa.gov/DEC>

Center for Children and Family Futures
<http://www.cffutures.org/>

Web Sites

National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.nida.nih.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Adoption Institute
www.adoptioninstitute.org

Web Sites

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/>

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://search.aap.org/find?source=aap.org&k=substance%20abuse>
