

Is there a relationship between child abuse and child development?

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Introduction

Child abuse is a problem that is still going on in society. Many children suffer from child abuse which has consequences that can be drastic to their development. Is there a relationship between child abuse and child development? In this project I will explore the types of child abuse. This should give an understanding of the consequences that it can have on child's mental, emotional, and social development.

Results

- There were findings in the reports that found a relationship between childhood abuse and the impact it on health risk behaviors.
- The health risk behaviors were higher for children who reported being abused than those who didn't.
- Respondents who reported physical abuse were 1.42 times more likely to smoke than the respondents who did not reports abuse.
- There was also a strong relationship between childhood abuse and a life time history of mental health problems

Conclusions

There is an overview that suggests that there is a link between child abuse and child development. There has been evidence that it can cause mental disorders. With all the evidence and research presented there should be awareness on the long term consequences it can have on a child's development. The evidence presented should encourage that there is a connection between child abuse and child development. The significance of this research is to bring awareness of the effects that child abuse can have on a child's development.

Methodology

- Literature synthesis
- Multiple articles were used that were related to the topic of child abuse
- The information gather was used to determine the effects that child abuse can cause on a child's development

Relationship of Childhood Physical and Sexual Abuse With Adult Health Risk Behaviors and Mental Health Problems: Ontario Health Survey Mental Health Supplement, 1990–1991

	Without Abuse, Weighted No. (%)	With Abuse, Weighted No. (%)	OR (95% CI)
Relationship between childhood physical abuse and			
Smoking	1267 (26.2)	582 (34.0)	1.42 ^a (1.19, 1.71)
Alcohol problems	607 (10.2)	410 (19.3)	1.87 ^a (1.52, 2.31)
Low exercise	3263 (70.0)	1163 (70.6)	1.04 (0.86, 1.26)
Obesity	567 (12.5)	245 (15.0)	1.18 (0.92, 1.51)
More than 1 sexual partner	324 (7.4)	148 (9.4)	1.49 ^a (1.06, 2.09)
Mental health problems	1360 (22.7)	735 (34.7)	2.04 ^a (1.73, 2.41)
Relationship between childhood sexual abuse and			
Smoking	1638 (27.8)	217 (35.7)	1.52 ^a (1.16, 1.99)
Alcohol problems	890 (12.1)	117 (16.2)	2.44 ^a (1.74, 3.44)
Low exercise	3965 (69.7)	431 (73.3)	0.99 (0.74, 1.33)
Obesity	687 (12.3)	106 (18.2)	1.61 ^a (1.14, 2.27)
More than 1 sexual partner	411 (7.6)	64 (11.5)	2.34 ^a (1.44, 3.80)
Mental health problems	1768 (24.1)	323 (44.4)	2.26 ^a (1.78, 2.87)

Note. OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval. The ORs are for the relationship between childhood abuse and health risk behaviors or mental health problems. Covariates included age, gender, low education, and marital status.
^aP ≤ .05.

Types of child abuse?

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Emotional abuse

Neglect

Table 8. Summary of the strength of the evidence for related health outcomes.

Robust Evidence	Weak/Inconsistent Evidence	Limited Evidence
Physical abuse		
Depressive disorders	Cardiovascular diseases	Allergies
Anxiety disorders	Type 2 diabetes	Cancer
Eating disorders	Obesity	Neurological disorders
Childhood behavioural/conduct disorders	Hypertension	Underweight/malnutrition
Suicide attempt	Smoking	Uterine leiomyoma
Drug use	Ulcers	Chronic spinal pain
STIs/risky sexual behaviour	Headache/migraine	Schizophrenia
	Arthritis	Bronchitis/emphysema
	Alcohol problems	Asthma
Emotional abuse		
Depressive disorders	Eating disorders	Cardiovascular diseases
Anxiety disorders	Type 2 diabetes	Schizophrenia
Suicide attempt	Obesity	Headache/migraine
Drug use	Smoking	
STIs/risky sexual behaviour	Alcohol problems	
Neglect		
Depressive disorders	Eating disorders	Arthritis
Anxiety disorders	Childhood behavioural/conduct disorders	Headache/migraine
Suicide attempt	Cardiovascular diseases	Chronic spinal pain
Drug use	Type 2 diabetes	Smoking
STIs/risky sexual behaviour	Alcohol problems	
	Obesity	

doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001349.t008

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