Child Neglect – An Overview of Incidence, Reporting and Child Characteristics

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National Child Maltreatment Data: National Efforts

» Major US National Data Collection Activities
  » National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)
    » Primary focus of this presentation
    » Begun in 1988
    » Most Recently Released Data 2004
    » 2005 Data to be Released in April 2007
  » National Incidence Study
    » NIS 4 Underway Currently

Example Comparison of Incidence and Reporting:
NIS - NCANDS Comparison Overlapping/Non-Overlapping Data

Neglect Incidence

» NIS 3 (1993-1994)
  » Harm Standard:
    » 358,900 Children Physically Neglected
  » Endangerment Standard
    » 1,335,100 Children Physically Neglected
  » Between 46 and 47 Percent of Maltreated Children experienced Physical Neglect

» NCANDS (2004)
  » Children Victimized According to CPS
    » 544,000 Children Neglected (duplicate count)
    » 62.4 Percent of Victim Children Experience Neglect

NCANDS Data Collection and Analysis Methods

» Sample
  » Universe of Reported Child Maltreatment
  » Data are administrative and derived from state Child Protective Service Agencies.

» Representation
  » Represents National Child Protective Services
  » Includes data from all US states (case level data from 45 of 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in 2004).

» Data Collection
  » Aggregate Data are survey.
  » Case level from State information systems.
Session A4: Using NCANDS Data for Developing Trajectories of Children in CPS

Rates of Children Investigated and Victimized Since 1990

Figure 3-3 Victimization Rates by Maltreatment Type, 2000-2004

Profiles of CPS Neglect Populations
All Allegations

- Based on 35 States
- Average Age 7.2 (n = 1,429,450)
- Male 50.2%
- Race/Ethnicity (n = 1,440,786)
  - African American: 20.6%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.9%
  - Hispanic: 18.7%
  - Native American: 1.6%
  - White: 49%

Profiles of CPS Neglect Populations
Victims

- Based on 35 States
- Average Age: 6.7 (n = 429,757)
- Median Age: 6
- Male: 50.5%
- Race/Ethnicity (n = 431,180)
  - African American: 21.5%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 1.0%
  - Hispanic: 18.4%
  - Native American: 1.4%
  - White: 49.9%

Age/Sex Distribution – All Allegations
(N = 1429438, 35 States)

Age/Sex Distribution – Victims,
Comparing African American to White
Profiles of CPS Neglect Populations (continued)

> Victims
  » Services (compared to physical abuse)
    » Any Service: 1.15 times more likely
    » Foster Care Placement: 1.29 times more likely
  » Recurrence (compared to physical abuse)
    » 1.23 times more likely
  » Fatalities
    » Neglect Only 36% of Fatalities
    » Physical Abuse Only 28% of Fatalities

Discussion

> Neglect is by far the most common form of maltreatment both for victims and all children
> Younger aged children are most impacted, infants in particular
> Males are more commonly neglected at younger ages, females over age 12 even when examining neglect only reports
> The demographic profile does not vary much between all alleged children and victim children
  » The exception is infants which appear to have high comparative rates of victim classification compared to all reported children
  » African American children also have high comparative rates of victim classification compared to all reported African American children

Discussion

> The relative severity of such cases is approximated by
  » Increased comparative service utilization including placement
  » Increased recurrence
  » Comparatively high levels of fatalities
> Several studies including the National Survey of Adolescent and Child Well-Being (NSCAW) and those by Diana English suggest victims and non-victims are essentially the same populations and that the distinction may not be pertinent in terms of service needs

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