



Pergamon

Child Abuse & Neglect 26 (2002) 1211–1233

---

---

Child Abuse  
& Neglect

---

---

## Negative caregiver strategies and psychopathology in urban, African-American young adults

Amy L. Koenig<sup>a</sup>, Nicholas Ialongo<sup>a,\*</sup>, Barry M. Wagner<sup>b</sup>,  
Jeanne Poduska<sup>c</sup>, Sheppard Kellam<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Department of Mental Hygiene, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University,  
624 North Broadway, Room 809, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Psychology, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, USA*

<sup>c</sup>*American Institutes for Research, Washington, DC, USA*

Received 11 October 2001; received in revised form 3 May 2002; accepted 4 May 2002

---

### Abstract

**Objective:** There were three aims: (1) assess the prevalence of reported exposure to negative caregiver strategies in a community-based African-American population, (2) examine the sources of variation in caregiver parenting strategies, including demographic variables and child characteristics, (3) investigate whether mental disorders in young adulthood may differ based on reported degree of exposure to negative strategies.

**Method:** The participants were 1197 African-Americans involved in a 1999–2001 young adult follow-up (age  $M = 19.6$ ,  $SD = .6$ ) of an evaluation of school-based interventions in the Baltimore, MD metropolitan area. Measures included teacher-report of child aggression in first grade, parent-report of demographic variables in first and sixth grade, and young adult self-report of symptomatology, suicidal behaviors, and childhood caregiver discipline strategies.

**Results:** Fifty-four percent of the sample reported some use of physical discipline by caregivers. Lower family income and younger caregiver age, as well as teacher reports of child aggression, were related to reports of caregiver's high use of negative strategies. In addition, young adults who reported a high rate of negative caregiver strategies had a significantly increased risk for psychopathology and were over twice as likely to have experienced a history of suicidal ideation than those reporting low exposure.

**Conclusions:** The results demonstrate the importance of examining variation in this population, with the poorest and the youngest using negative parenting strategies more frequently. In addition, the present study replicated previous findings of the link between negative caregiver discipline strategies and

---

\* Corresponding author.

psychopathology. This association appears robust across diverse populations. The implications for preventive interventions are discussed.

© 2002 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

*Keywords:* Negative caregiver strategies; Adult psychopathology

---

## Introduction

A significant number of children are exposed to parental maltreatment and harsh discipline strategies, which may lead to serious physical injury or death (Kotch, Chalmers, Fanslow, Marshall, & Langley, 1993; McClain, Sacks, Froehlke, & Ewigman, 1993; Wolfner & Gelles, 1993). In 1997, estimates based on data from 44 states indicated that approximately 984,000 children were victims of maltreatment and that about 1100 children died as a result of child abuse or neglect (US Department of Health and Human Services, 1997). In addition to causing physical injuries, harsh parenting practices have an important influence on children's psychological health (e.g., Cicchetti & Carlson, 1989; Cicchetti & Lynch, 1995). Thus, the use of harsh discipline strategies and, on the extreme end, child maltreatment is an important public health issue.

### *Variation among African-American parents and factors associated with parenting practices*

Numerous studies have found socioeconomic status (SES) and ethnic differences in the use of physical punishment and harsher discipline strategies (Deater-Deckard, Dodge, Bates, & Pettit, 1996; Dodge, Pettit, & Bates, 1994; Luster, Rhoades, & Haas, 1989; McLoyd, 1990; Pinderhughes, Dodge, Bates, Pettit, & Zelli, 2000), and that African-American families are over-represented among substantiated cases of childhood maltreatment (Levine, Doueck, Freeman, & Compaan, 1996). However, not all African-American parents use harsh strategies and little is known about the prevalence of negative caregiver techniques in an African-American community.

In addition, relatively little is known about variations in the use of such techniques within the African-American population (see Kelley, Power, & Wimbush, 1992). In general, there is an increasing awareness of the need for, and value of, exploring the rich degree of variation across families within a given ethnic population (McGroder, 2000; Parke, 2000). Studying within-group variations is important because (a) comparisons between African-Americans and other ethnic groups imply that African-Americans are monolithic in their parenting and discipline styles, which is probably not the case and (b) it allows for examining the possibility that different risk factors may account for discipline strategies in different sub-groups of African-Americans (McLoyd, 1998, 1990; McLoyd, Jayaratne, Ceballo, & Borquez, 1994; McLoyd & Wilson, 1990; Ogbu, 1981). Ultimately, knowledge gained from examining within-group variation can guide public health researchers and advocates in better targeting prevention and treatment programs for parents and offspring.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

**ISI**Articles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات