



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SCIENCE @ DIRECT®

Children and Youth Services Review
27 (2005) 1167–1182

Children and
Youth Services
Review

www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth

Domestic violence and pathways into child welfare services: Findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being

Patricia L. Kohl^{a,*}, Jeffrey L. Edleson^b, Diana J. English^c,
Richard P. Barth^a

^aUniversity of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, NC 27599 3550, United States

^bUniversity of Minnesota, United States

^cDepartment of Social and Health Services, State of Washington, United States

Available online 1 July 2005

Abstract

Domestic violence (DV) and child maltreatment co-occur in many families and this may lead to involvement with child welfare services (CWS). This study explores the role of domestic violence in CWS using data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, a large, national probability sample of families investigated for child maltreatment. It relies on child welfare worker report of active DV or a history of DV to examine the association of DV with child maltreatment type, substantiation, and placement of children into out of home care. Maltreatment type classification was similar for children with and without exposure to DV. Families with active DV were substantiated for child maltreatment at higher rates than other groups, but DV was not a powerful contributor to the CWS decision-making process. Families with co-occurring DV and maltreatment often had high levels of cumulative risks, and children in families with the highest level of cumulative risk were 10 times more likely to be placed into foster care than children in families assessed with low levels of risk. The policy and practice implications of these findings are discussed. © 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Domestic violence; Child welfare services; National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: pkohl@email.unc.edu (P.L. Kohl).

1. Introduction

Knowledge regarding the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment has grown over the past several years. Strong evidence indicates that children exposed to adult domestic violence (DV) are at greater risk of also being maltreated with reviews of the empirical literature indicating that upwards to half of children of battered women are also physically maltreated (Appel & Holden, 1998; Edleson, 1999; O'Leary, Slep, & O'Leary, 2000). Co-occurring exposure to domestic violence and child maltreatment increasingly brings families to the attention of child welfare services (CWS). Yet, the involvement of CWS with caregivers exposed to DV is little understood.

Available research indicates that CWS has contact with many children from homes where DV is also occurring or has occurred. Nearly a third of 74 randomly selected families with open CWS in one small Midwestern city were assessed by child welfare workers as also experiencing DV (Shepard & Raschick, 1999). Child welfare workers identified DV as a risk factor in 36% of 407 families referred for an investigation of maltreatment in New Hampshire (Kantor & Little, 2003) and again in 36% of 383 cases investigated in a large urban center in Minnesota (Edleson & Beeman, 1999). Finally, in a statewide study of child protection referrals, English, Edleson, and Herrick (2005-this issue) recently found that DV was present in almost half (47%) of cases accepted for investigation and assigned a moderate to high level of risk.

The high level of DV in the CWS caseload is clear, but what is not so clear is how the CWS responds to these children. In a recent landmark class action suit, the City of New York was found to be violating mothers' constitutional rights as a result of their interventions in cases of children exposed to domestic violence. The City CWS substantiated mothers' maltreatment for "engaging in domestic violence" when they were in fact victims of others' violence. In some cases children were removed from their mothers' custody after such a finding by CWS. A federal court judge has subsequently ruled that removal of children from their mothers' custody solely due to the mothers' victimization was unconstitutional (*Nicholson v. Williams*, 203 F. Supp.2d 153, E.D. N.Y. 2002). This suit has gained the attention of many concerned about how children and their battered caregivers are responded to but does not provide large-scale data from which to judge the practices of CWS.

A few studies do exist that shed light on CWS intervention practices with families in which DV is present, including assessment of risk and differential classification of cases. In one urban Minnesota county, Beeman, Hagemeister, and Edleson (2001) found that child protection workers assessed cases in which domestic violence was also occurring to be significantly more often at higher risk: 45% for such cases vs. 26% for child maltreatment only cases. Families in which domestic violence was occurring were also more likely to have their case opened for services: 22.6% for such cases vs. 10.4% for child maltreatment only cases. Although they found no statistically significant differences in overall classifications of maltreatment type (e.g., physical abuse vs. neglect) for families, with and without DV, families with DV were significantly more likely to be found for *disregard for safety*, a subtype of neglect analyzed separately due to worker indication that this category was frequently used when DV was present in the

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

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