Parents with maltreatment experiences and their attitude to infant education

Dr. Andreas Witt
18th International Congress of ESCAP
2019, Vienna
Child Maltreatment

Acts of Omission (Neglect)
- Failure to Provide
  - Educational neglect
  - Dental / medical neglect
  - Emotional neglect
    - Ignoring
  - Physical neglect
    - Nutrition
    - Hygiene
    - Shelter
    - Clothing
- Failure to Supervise
  - Inadequate Supervision
  - Exposure to violent Environments

Acts of Commission (Child Abuse)
- Sexual Abuse
  - Noncontact sexual abuse
  - Abusive sexual contact
  - Sexual acts
- Physical Abuse
  - Intentional use of physical force against a child that results in, or has the potential to result in, physical injury
- Psychological (Emotional) Abuse
  - Terrorizing
  - Isolating

(Leeb et al., 2008)
Economic Burden of Maltreatment

USA
- **56 Billion $ / year**
- **217 $ / person / year**
  (Fang et al., 2012)

Germany:
- **11 – 30 Billion € / year**
- **135 – 360 € / person / year**
- **0.44% - 1.2% of the GDP**
  (Habetha et al., 2012)
Consequences of Maltreatment

Maltreatment and Developmental Diagnostic Domains

PTSD Symptoms

Infancy
- Attachment Disorders

Early to Middle Childhood
- Internalizing Disorders:
  - Separation-Anxiety Disorder
  - Dysthymia
  - Chronic PTSD
- Major Depression

Conduct Disorder
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse

Adolescence to Adulthood
- Externalizing Disorders:
  - ADHD
  - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
  - Suicide Attempts
- Personality Disorders
- Increased Risk to Maltreat One’s Children

Cognitive & Learning Disorders
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder Symptoms
- Poor School Performance

DeBellis, 2001
The Cycle of Violence (Widom, 1989)

1. Children with a history of maltreatment have a higher risk to maltreat their children later in life

2. Not everyone with a maltreatment experience becomes a perpetrator → Resilience
Attitudes towards CP
Representative Sample

- Random Route approach
- Kish selection Grid
- N>2500
- Sex:
  - 45% male
  - 55% female
- Age: M=49 years (14 - >90)

**Instruments:**

- ACE-D
- Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Assessment
- Attitudes towards corporal punishment (CP)
- Experiences of CP
Attitudes towards CP

- Support CP (n=203)
- Support lighter forms of CP1 (n=499)
- Support lighter forms of CP2 (n=388)
- Oppose CP (n=1423)
Attitudes towards CP

- Support CP: 57%
- Support lighter forms of CP: 35%
- Oppose CP: 8%
Attitudes towards CP and own Experiences of CP

- Experience of any type of CP: 90.2% support CP, 58.3% oppose CP
- Lighter forms of CP: 85.3% support CP, 55% oppose CP
- More severe forms of CP: 52.9% support CP, 17.6% oppose CP
Attitudes towards CP and own Experiences of CP

- Spanked: 80.9% support CP, 51.1% oppose CP
- Slap across the face: 74.5% support CP, 28.9% oppose CP
- Hit with a stick/cane: 18.1% support CP, 6.5% oppose CP
Attitudes towards CP and own Experiences of CP

• 47% have experiences CP, but oppose CP ➔ Resilience

• Younger age and higher education are associated with opposing CP despite own experiences

➔ Legislation important in changing attitudes
Attitudes towards parenting
**USUMA 2018: ACE**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): Maltreatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>11.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional neglect</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical neglect</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### USUMA-Befragung: ACE

#### Household dysfunction (ACE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parental separation/divorce</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against (step-)mother</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance misuse in the household</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household mental illness</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarcerated household member</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The percentages represent the proportion of participants with the respective experience.*
Adverse Childhood Experiences
(N = 2531)

- Null: 1066 (56%)
- Eins: 525 (21%)
- Zwei: 218 (9%)
- Drei: 136 (5%)
- Vier oder mehr: 226 (9%)

Mean: 1.03
SD: 1.70
Min: 0; Max: 10
Adverse Childhood Experiences and attitudes

Yell at the baby

Number of ACEs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of ACEs</th>
<th>Yell at the baby male</th>
<th>Yell at the baby female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥4</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR: 3.8
Adverse Childhood Experiences and attitudes

Deny food

Number of ACEs

- 0: 4.7% male, 2.9% female
- 1: 2.7% male, 4.5% female
- 2: 6.3% male, 3.3% female
- 3: 7.4% male, 6.2% female
- ≥4: 10.3% male, 5.5% female

OR: 2.3
Adverse Childhood Experiences and attitudes

Shake the baby

Number of ACEs

0 1 2 3 ≥4

0,6 3,1 2,5 3,7 4,6
0,9 0,7 1,1 3,7 0
0,7 1,1 0 0 0
0,6 0,9 2,5 3,7 4,6

% shake the baby male | shake the baby female

OR: 7,7

shaking the baby male | shaking the baby female
 Limitation

• Cross-sectional

• Retrospective assessment

• Assessment of attitudes
Summary

• Own experiences of CP are associated with supportive attitudes towards CP
  • despite a ban of CP in Germany in 2000
  • also resilience

• Experiences of ACEs are associated with positive attitudes towards harmful parenting techniques
  • High risk group
  • Target for prevention measures
Thank you for your attention!

Contact:
Dr. Andreas Witt
Psychologist
Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist
Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
University of Ulm
E-Mail: andreas.witt@uniklinik-ulm.de