Chapter 2: Defining and Estimating Child Maltreatment

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. Child maltreatment is a synonym for which of the following?
a. child sexual abuse and child neglect
b. child abuse and neglect
c. child physical abuse
d. child emotional abuse and neglect
Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Defining Child Maltreatment: General Terms
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. What statement best characterizes the definition and estimates of "neglect"?
a. Definitions are not consistent making comparing estimates difficult.
b. Definitions include emotional and physical neglect but are not defined the same across agencies.
c. Definitions are not inclusive of medical or educational neglect, making true estimates hard to discern.
d. Definitions are not agreed upon, but estimates of frequency are high.
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Defining Child Maltreatment: General Terms
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. CAPTA, the central legislation dealing with child maltreatment in the United States, stands for?
a. Child Abuse Provisions and Treatment Act
b. Child Abuse Prediction and Treatment Act
c. Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
d. Child Abuse Predilection and Treatment Act
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Child Maltreatment as Defined in Statutes
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Which of the following statements best describes age division in child maltreatment policy?
a. Parents who perpetrate child maltreatment on a young person over the age of 18 can be criminally charged with child maltreatment if the child is living in their home.
b. When legal action is taken on behalf of child maltreatment victims over the age of 18, typically child protection services handle the case.

c. Child maltreatment cannot be charged if the child is over 18, even if the abuse happened before the child was 18.

d. Legal action can be taken for child maltreatment when a victim is 18 or older, if the abuse happened before the child is 18, and criminal and civil court typically handle these types of cases.

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Victim in a Report of Child Abuse Must Be a Child

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Among officially recognized perpetrators of child maltreatment in 2014, about _____ were parents, legal guardians, other relatives, or unmarried partners of parents.

a. 88%

b. 90%

c. 75%

d. 82%

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Maltreatment Requires a Caregiver as the Perpetrator

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Which best describes the way child maltreatment is defined throughout the United States?

a. There is one federal overarching definition, and then counties are free to elaborate.

b. Some policies are defined at the federal level, child maltreatment is typically operationalized at the state level, but counties also have discretion.

c. States are given individual discretion over child maltreatment definitions.

d. Counties are given full discretion in "county administered" states.

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Unsettled Issues in Defining Child Maltreatment: State Statutes

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Which of the following might be considered corporal punishment?

a. A parent forces their child to wash all the dirty windows, which requires using a ladder that may be unsafe.

b. A parent spanks their child three times, over the pants as punishment for running away, no visible marks are left.

c. A parent uses a switch to punish the child for not turning off the television when asked, marks are left on the child's bottom.

d. A child is put in a time-out for so long, the child wets his pants.

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Physical Abuse/Corporal Punishment: Where's the Line?

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Are children who are born with illegal substances in their systems victims of abuse?
a. Sometimes, it depends on the circumstances and the state.
b. Yes, always.
c. No, not if the mother has taken steps to treat the drug addiction.
d. Only if the child is subsequently exposed to drug manufacturing after birth.
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Substance Abuse Issues
Difficulty Level: Hard

9. What does the "iceberg" metaphor refer to?
a. The cold nature of child abuse perpetrators.
b. Most child abuse is "above water" where it can be detected.
c. Only a small portion of maltreatment is visible with other parts being much less visible.
d. Maltreatment known to family members is the portion of maltreatment typically seen.
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Child Maltreatment Is Innately Private
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. The tradition of "neglecting child neglect" refers to what?
a. The fact that the courts often do not recognize child neglect.
b. Child protective agencies often overlook neglect.
c. Neglect is often not defined by states and therefore unmeasurable.
d. Many studies only examine physical or sexual abuse.
Ans: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What Kinds of Maltreatment Are Being Measured?
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. In measuring maltreatment if you look only at officially substantiated cases in official records, about _____children are victimized per year in the United States.
a. 700,000
b. 1.25 million
c. 3.2 million
d. 500,000
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: How Restrictive Is the "Threshold" of the Measurement for Identifying Maltreatment?
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Estimates of child maltreatment among the general population can only be reliably formulated from samples which are either _____ or _____.
a. representative; universal

b. generalizable; universal
c. Random; representative
d. generalizable; random
Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Sampling Is Critical
Difficulty Level: Medium

13. In general the longer the time frame of measurement, you will find _____ maltreatment.
a. less
b. steady
c. more
d. varied amounts of
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Issues Having to Do with Time.
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. _____ is a general term used to describe reported cases nationally in which the state child protective agency has determined that maltreatment occurred.
a. Proven
b. Known
c. Reported
d. Substantiated
Ans: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Substantiation
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Which of the following best describes the two main issues in determining how much child maltreatment occurred using official reports?
a. Not all maltreatment is reported and states vary in numbers and types of cases reported.
b. Not all states report and states vary in numbers and types of cases reported.
c. Not all maltreatment is reported and not all states report.
d. Some unsubstantiated maltreatment is reported and not all states report.
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (Official Reports, National, All Ages)
Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Using NCANDS data from 2004 to 2011, approximately _____ of children would be officially classified as "victims" before their 18th birthday.
a. 15%

b. 39%
c. 12.5%
d. 4.4%
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (Official Reports, National, All Ages)
Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Why is 1% a serious underestimation of maltreatment?
a. Many cases go unreported and some unsubstantiated cases include maltreatment.
b. The number is not using verifiable data.
c. The 1% estimate does not include states that do not report.
d. Most unsubstantiated cases are mislabeled and actually include maltreatment.
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (Official Reports, National, All Ages)
Difficulty Level: Medium

18. Which study reports the highest estimates of child maltreatment?
a. NCANDS
b. DVS
c. NIS
d. Add Health
Ans: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Add Health Study (Nationally Representative Sample, Four Retrospective Questions Given to Adults About Their Child Maltreatment Experiences Prior to 6th Grade)
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. The two main factors that influence the rate of child maltreatment estimates are which of the following?
a. state statute and time frame
b. national definition and time frame
c. quality of survey and time frame
d. nature of the data and time frame
Ans: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Summary of Above Studies
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. The most current common range estimates that _____ of children are maltreated at some point in their lives.
a. 5–10%

b. 15–30%
c. 10–15%
d. 15–25%
Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Conclusion
Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay

1. Please explain the ongoing debate on whether or not exposure to domestic violence constitutes child abuse?
Ans: Whether or not being exposed to domestic violence constitutes abuse varies by state. Child protection services are often asked to protect children from domestic violence but have no authority over noncustodial adults. Therefore, often the action to protect children from exposure is taken against the adult victim of domestic violence, as opposed to the perpetrator. The child can be taken away from the adult victim based on the adult victims "failure to protect." Domestic violence advocates believe that the nonperpetrating adult, and the child should be treated as victims of domestic violence. Some think that child services should act as a gateway for services for the adult victim. The only consensus is that there needs to be training and coordination between domestic violence and child maltreatment agencies.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Is Witnessing Domestic Violence Abuse?
Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Please explain the difference between administrative data and survey data and give an example of each.
Ans: Administrative data can be found at the national, state, or local level, which are usually in the form of official reports, sometimes in conjunction with data from other sources like the health or educational sector. An example of this type of data would be the National Incidences Studies. Survey data are much more varied and can use a single question or multiple questions to get at the frequency, type, duration, and consequences of abuse. An example of survey data would be the Conflict Tactics Scale for Parent and Child.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Operationalized Characterizations of Maltreatment Used by Researchers & Instruments Which Ask If Maltreatment or Maltreatment-Like Events Have Occurred.
Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Given that measuring child maltreatment is so difficult, why are definitions and measures important for practitioners? Please provide an example.
Ans: Definitions and measures are important for practitioners, because they vary widely depending on location. Thus, the practitioner's duty to report, what constitutes maltreatment, and available resources will also vary based on definitions and measures.

For example, if you live in a state that requires exposure to domestic violence to be reported, you will need to know about coordinating services that address domestic violence and child abuse simultaneously.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Summary of Above Studies
Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Please discuss at least three reasons measurement and estimation of child maltreatment is difficult, as cited by the authors.
Ans: Child maltreatment is innately personal, and often not disclosed to reporting agencies, or readily visible to mandated reporters. Definitions of what constitutes child maltreatment vary from nation, state, and local levels, making comparisons and estimations difficult. What is included as child maltreatment in state and local statutes is also different. For example, exposure to domestic violence may be counted as child maltreatment in one state, but not another, making the former state's rates of child maltreatment higher than the latter's.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Why Measuring Child Maltreatment Is Hard
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Please provide a summary of the best estimates of child maltreatment in the United States, including a discussion of the limitations of these estimates.
Ans: Rates of child abuse and neglect have varied from about 1% to over 50%, but the most common range is between 15% and 30% of children are maltreated at some point in their lives. These estimates are based on self-report and substantiated cases that have been reported. Additionally, the actual rates of child maltreatment are dependent upon the nature of the data, (e.g., survey or administrative), the definitions, measurement, and timeframe in which the data are collected.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Summary of Above Studies
Difficulty Level: Hard