
Social Work and Family Violence

Theories, Assessment, and Intervention

Second Edition

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction to Family Violence

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this chapter, students are to be able to:

- Know the three categories of family violence
- Explain the Family Health Perspective
- Apply social work values to family violence

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Among the reasons that social workers need to understand family violence is/are
 - a. They, inevitably, will have clients who are experiencing family violence
 - b. They need to be able to identify victims and perpetrators of abuse
 - c. Family violence is closely related to substance abuse, mental illness, physical maladies, and other sources of ill health that are served by social workers
 - d. All the above are reasons to study family violence
2. A conservative annual estimates suggest that ____% of the population are at risk of family violence.
 - a. 10
 - b. 20
 - c. 40
 - d. 60
3. Child abuse is defined as
 - a. Any purposeful acts of violence by a parent to a child
 - b. Any injury to a child by a parent
 - c. Any nonaccidental injury to a child by an adult
 - d. Specific injurious actions from adult to child
4. Child maltreatment is categorized as
 - a. Physical and sexual
 - b. Physical, sexual, and neglectful
 - c. Physical, sexual, emotional, and neglectful
 - d. None of the above is true

5. Intimate partner violence is the commission or omission of a complex pattern of behaviors against
 - a. One spouse by the other
 - b. An intimate partner, which includes same-gender relationships
 - c. An adolescent by his/her dating partner
 - d. All the above replies are true
6. The Family Health Perspective defines family as _____ and who have committed themselves to each other for the purpose of promoting total health
 - a. Those couples who are married with or without children
 - b. Any self-defined individual who claims to be part of a family and who acts as a member of the family
 - c. Two or more persons who are related by marriage, birth, adoption, or personal choice
 - d. “a” and “b” are correct
7. The Family Health Perspective is based on
 - a. Social and ecological perspectives
 - b. Systems theory
 - c. Social constructionist theory
 - d. All the above replies are correct
8. Social workers are legally mandated to report _____.
 - a. Child maltreatment
 - b. Intimate partner violence
 - c. Older adult abuse
 - d. “a” and “c” are correct
9. The social work principle “to pursue necessary changes on all systems levels on behalf of victims and perpetrators of family violence” is consistent with the social work value of _____.
 - a. Service
 - b. Social justice
 - c. Dignity and worth of the person
 - d. Integrity
10. The social work principle to “value relationships between and among victims of family violence, their perpetrators, and professionals” is consistent with the social work value of _____.
 - a. Social justice
 - b. Dignity and worth of the person
 - c. Importance of human relationships
 - d. Integrity

True/False Questions

1. The annual estimated cost of family violence to taxpayers easily exceeds \$1 trillion a year.
2. The Act that defines child maltreatment is referred to as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.
3. Family violence is synonymous with domestic violence.
4. Another term for “child abuse and neglect” is “child maltreatment.”
5. “Older adult abuse,” “mistreatment of older adults,” and “older adult mistreatment” are synonymous.

Discussion Questions

1. What are other reasons for social workers to be familiar with family violence?
2. What are some specialty areas, which are related to family violence, in which social worker can be employed (e.g., Child Protective Services worker)?
3. What is your reaction as to the number of persons involved in family violence?
4. How do you see the Family Health Perspective as relating to the social work curriculum? Consider the numerous areas of “health” and the various theories that this perspective addresses.

Answers for Multiple Choice Questions

1d; 2d; 3c; 4c; 5d; 6d; 7d; 8d; 9b; 10c

Answers for True/False Questions

1T; 2T; 3F; 4T; 5T

CHAPTER 2

Introduction to Child Maltreatment

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this chapter, students will be able to:

- Identify various theoretical perspectives related to child maltreatment
- Describe an historical timeline of child welfare policies
- Identify other policies that affect child welfare
- Know the history of child maltreatment laws
- Define child maltreatment
- Know the various types of child maltreatment
- Know the prevalence of child maltreatment

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Infants and toddlers are most often abused because
 - a. Parents who abuse their children never wanted them
 - b. They are totally dependent upon their caretakers
 - c. They are unable to communicate verbally
 - d. “b” and “c” are true
2. Plasticity of the brain is
 - a. The lifelong ability of the brain to reorganize neural pathways based on new experiences
 - b. The ability of the brain to enter entropy
 - c. The role of the hypothalamus in seeking pleasure
 - d. The portion of the cerebral cortex just above the ears that is involved in hearing
3. “Windows of opportunity” refer to
 - a. Times of attachment between mother and child when the mother best bonds
 - b. Certain times when a child can learn or refine certain abilities
 - c. Physiological underpinnings of temperament
 - d. Glass in the walls that are covered with blinds
4. Inadequate bonding between children and their parental figures may result in the youth’s inability to feel empathy and to cope with life stressors later in life; this is the premise of the
 - a. Social-relational theories
 - b. Intergenerational transmission of violence theories
 - c. Attachment theories
 - d. Cognitive behavioral theories

5. Child abuse is often related to parents imitating the discipline they received as children; this is the premise of the
 - a. Social-relational theories
 - b. Intergenerational transmission of violence theories
 - c. Attachment theories
 - d. Cognitive behavioral theories
6. Two major theories that had a significant impact on the concept of “childhood” as separate and important developmental time are
 - a. Real time and behavioral
 - b. Feminism and globalization
 - c. Colonialism and Christianity
 - d. Evolution and psychoanalysis
7. Charity Organization Societies (COS) arose to
 - a. Organize the Orphan Trains
 - b. Organize friendly visitors and charity groups
 - c. Register settlement houses
 - d. Begin Child Protection Services
8. Settlement houses were formed
 - a. On the belief that the environment contributed to the condition of families in poverty
 - b. To organize friendly visitors
 - c. Based on the belief that natural caregivers’ homes best served children’s welfare
 - d. “a” and “c” are true
9. The first modern-era case in which child abuse received legal recognition and prosecution occurred in 1874 in New York City on behalf of a 9-year-old child named
 - a. Mary McCormack
 - b. Etta Wheeler
 - c. Mary Ellen Wilson
 - d. None of the above responses is correct
10. A physician, John Caffrey, identified several cases of children who had subdural hematomas and other injuries that were similar in nature and that were probably inflicted by adults using
 - a. Evaluations of psychological disorders
 - b. Radiology
 - c. MRI
 - d. Neuroimaging
11. Dr. C. H. Kemp proposed a definition and diagnosis based on children who had physical injuries that could not be explained except as the result of abuse; this diagnosis is referred to as
 - a. Traumatic stress syndrome
 - b. Battered child syndrome
 - c. Posttraumatic stress disorder
 - d. Psychic trauma
12. The Child Abuse Preventive and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
 - a. Defined child abuse and neglect
 - b. Established mandatory reporting policies
 - c. Provided funding to support prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment
 - d. All the above replies are correct
13. “Spanking” as a form of discipline requires special discussion as acts of abuse because
 - a. Spanking can result in severe psychological harm
 - b. Spanking can result in other forms of family violence

- c. Spanking can result in intergenerational violence
 - d. All the above responses are true
14. Failing to provide for a child's basic needs, including physical, educational, emotional needs, or medical care is a type of
- a. Physical abuse
 - b. Sexual abuse
 - c. Emotional abuse
 - d. Neglect
15. The Child Maltreatment Reports are
- a. The result of the two major studies conducted in 1975 and 1985
 - b. The annual reports sponsored by the National Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting System (NCANDS) using data gathered from CPS agencies throughout the country
 - c. Reports using data gathered from agencies required to investigate child abuse and from other professionals having knowledge of incidences
 - d. Reports that categorize data by either the "Harm Standard" or the "Endangerment Standard"
16. Boys and girls less than 1 year of age have child maltreatment victimization rates of
- a. 23.1 per 1,000 children
 - b. 15.2 per 100 children
 - c. 17.8 per 1,000 children
 - d. 30.2 per 1,000 children
17. _____ was known as the "Decade of the Brain."
- a. The 1910s
 - b. The 1890s
 - c. The 1980s
 - d. The 1990s
18. The 1904 White House Conference on the Care of Children resulted in the formation of the following governmental organization in 1912:
- a. The Children's Bureau
 - b. Children's Rights Society
 - c. National Child Labor Bureau
 - d. Child Welfare League of America
19. All of the following are family characteristics that increase the likelihood of child maltreatment except for
- a. Unemployment of parents
 - b. Families with more than four children
 - c. Living in urban areas
 - d. Single-parent households

True/False Questions

- 1. According to biologically based theories, the older children become, the more likely they are to get into trouble and, thus, suffer abuse.
- 2. Neurobiological theories focus on children's brain development as influenced by traumatic events.
- 3. Children's brains hold approximately 1,000 neurons.
- 4. Childhood is a concept as old as the 12th century.

5. Orphan Trains created a new type of slavery.
6. Friendly visitors were the first professionals to organize efforts to keep children in their homes.
7. The CAPTA establishes maximum standards for defining child abuse.
8. “Nonaccidental” abuse to a child is harm inflicted as a result of discipline, even if the adult did not “intend” to harm the child.
9. Often, an act of sexual abuse is perpetrated by an individual younger than 18.
10. Polyvictimization refers to children whose type of abuse cannot be identified.
11. The definition of child maltreatment is used interchangeably with child abuse.

Discussion Questions

1. Imagine that you are in a grocery store and witness a parent spanking a 3-year-old with his/her hand. What would you do?
2. Imagine that you are in a grocery store and witness a parent spanking a 3-year-old with his/her belt. What would you do?
3. How do you think the definitions of child abuse and neglect should be changed?
4. There are more than 1.25 million children who annually experience child abuse and neglect. What do you feel are some reasons for this number? How does this number compare to other countries?

Answers to Multiple Choice Questions

1d; 2a; 3b; 4c; 5b; 6d; 7b; 8d; 9c; 10b; 11b; 12d; 13d; 14d; 15b; 16a; 17d; 18a; 19c

Answers to True/False Questions

1F; 2T; 3F; 4F; 5T; 6F; 7F; 8T; 9T; 10F; 11T