



Youth Self-Report of Child Maltreatment in Representative Surveys

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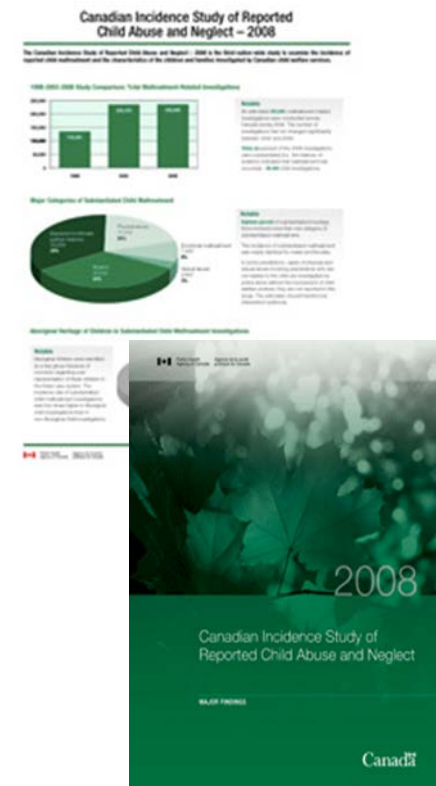
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Limited National Representative Child Maltreatment Data, in Canada

- Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS)
- Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR)
- Canadian Community Health Survey-Mental Health-2012 (CCHS)
- General Social Survey (GSS) Victimization



Child Maltreatment has Negative Health Consequences

- Child maltreatment is a public health issue that poses unique challenges to quantify and study
 - Interferes with youth development
 - Leads to youth morbidity and mortality e.g.
 - Alcohol-related injury
 - Drug use
 - Self harming behaviour
 - Suicide



Child Maltreatment Data Collection



- A growing body of describes child maltreatment:
 - Prevalence
 - Risk factors
 - Social and health impacts
- Population-based data from other countries allows for international comparisons
- The ethical implications of collecting child maltreatment survey research data are crucial
- Appropriate measures need to be taken to avoid emotional distress

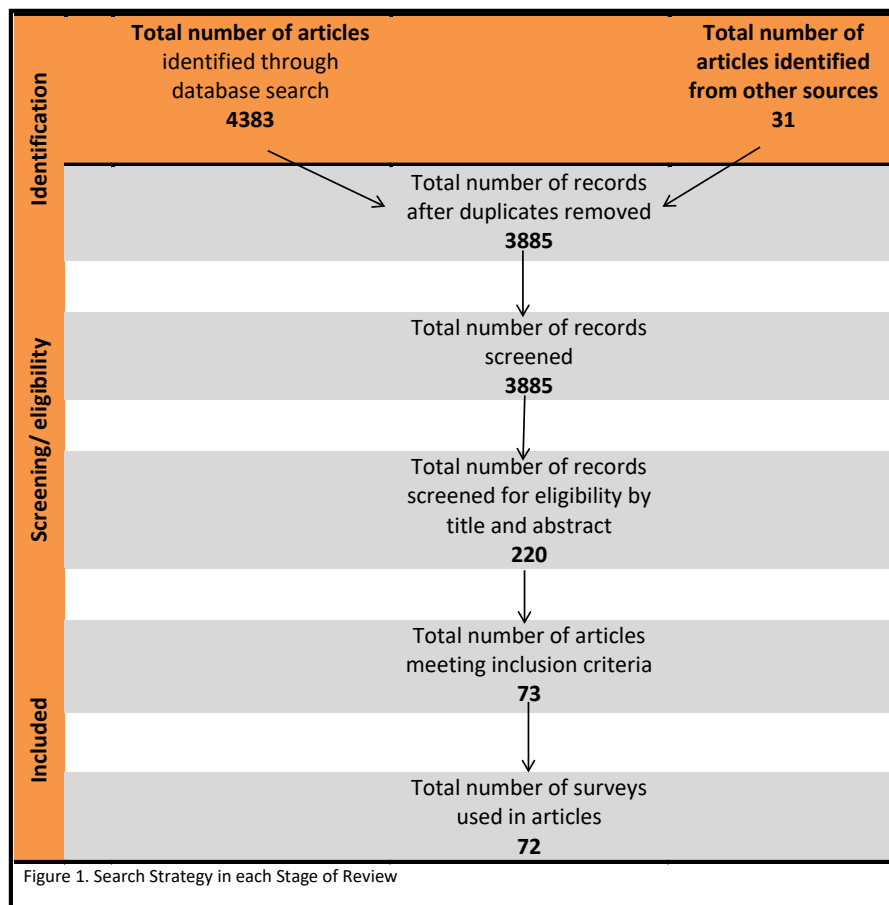


Objectives



1. Identify representative surveys that collect data from youth on their exposure to child maltreatment
2. Examine the quality of methods used to measure child maltreatment
3. Assess practices and procedures undertaken to address ethical issues

Methods: Selection Process and Search Strategy



Search terms used included: youth, adolescent, young adult, child, abuse, maltreatment, violence, neglect, assault, rape, representative, national, and school surveys.

Methods

- 217 articles were screened
- 72 different surveys were included - based on 73 articles
- Coding key:
 - Method of data collection
 - Sample characteristics
 - Child maltreatment instrument
 - Reliability and validity
 - Approaches to increase response rate
 - Approaches to increase comfort
 - Procedures in place to deal with participant distress
 - Specification of child maltreatment behaviours
 - Prevalence estimates



Results: Child Maltreatment Prevalence Estimates



- Data collected in 36 countries

Type of Child Maltreatment	Prevalence Estimates	Number of Studies
Sexual Abuse	0.3-44.3%	47
Physical Abuse	4.2-58.3%	36
Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence	0.6-30.9%	27
Emotional Maltreatment	3.1-78.3%	26
Neglect	0.9-38.3%	14

Results: Characteristics of Reviewed Studies

- Range of sample size: 419 – 109,104 respondents
- Response rate: 40.4 - 99.9%
- Data Collection:
 - Self-administered questionnaire: 45
 - Face-to-face interview: 8
 - Telephone: 7

Results: Reliability and Validity

Reliability	
Internal consistency	11 studies
Test-retest	1 studies

Validity
2 studies reported validity testing

Results: Characteristics of Review Studies

Approaches to Increase Comfort of Respondent



Approach	Number of Studies
Anonymity	34
Confidentiality	30
Consent (parent)	29
Voluntary Participation	28
Consent (youth)	26
Privacy Ensured	25
Safe Setting	23
Right to Withdraw	13
Assent (youth)	6
Consent (school)	4
Assent (parent)	2

Results: Ethical Procedures



Procedures in place for reducing distress:

Procedures	Number of Studies
Provide respondents with information and telephone numbers of support services	20
Follow up with distressed respondents	6
Train interviewers / use clinical interviewers	7
Alert appropriate authorities	7

Discussion: Summary



Child maltreatment:

- Data can be obtained from youth in representative surveys
- Data quality requires further study
- Research can be ethically conducted



Discussion: Influences on Prevalence Estimates



- Wide variation in estimates
- Definitions of child maltreatment
- Perception of what constitutes discipline versus abuse
- Factors that may affect self-reporting:
 - Fear of retaliation by perpetrator
 - Self - blame
 - Cognitive development and age
 - Stigma
 - Not recognising the behaviour as abusive
 - Parental consent required

Discussion: Quality of Data?



- Limited research conducted on validity and reliability
- Unsatisfactory and limited information provided
- Potential biases
 - Social desirability
 - Representativeness
 - Absenteeism
- Minimal recall bias compared to adults

Discussion: Quality of Data/Ethical Considerations

Influences on response rates:



- Conducting school surveys
- Providing safe setting (especially for younger participants)
- Maximizing privacy
- Guaranteeing anonymity
- Questioning parental consent
(among youth exposed to maltreatment)

Discussion: Ethical Considerations



- Appropriate measures to address potential risk of emotional distress:
 - Protect confidentiality
 - Administer questionnaire sensitively and appropriately
 - Obtain informed consent/assent
 - Provide follow-up intervention if necessary
- Youth are generally comfortable answering child maltreatment questions
- Lack of data on effectiveness of distress reducing procedures

Discussion: Distress - Participation



- No participation due to content – 0.3% (Finkelhor et al., 2014)
- Reported being upset but benefits of participation outweighed this feeling (23%) (Ybara et al., 2009)
- Reported some distress (5.7%) (Zajac et al., 2011)
 - Distressed at the end of the survey (0.2%) (Zajac et al., 2011)
- Felt discomfort but still wanted to participate (Helweg-Larsen and Boving-Larsen, 2003)

Limitations of our Review



- Inconsistency in child maltreatment measures across surveys
- Insufficient methodological information
- Prevalence estimates were not provided in a standardised way
- Missing information on validity and reliability
- Only peer-reviewed English articles were included
- Review was mostly limited to article content

Implications



- Child maltreatment is common
- Data on child maltreatment:
 - can be collected from youth safely
 - would enhance our understanding if collected regularly
- Data quality need to be studied and improved
- Follow-up questions on distress could be added to surveys

Suggested Readings

- Amaya-Jackson L, Socolar RRS, Hunter W, Runyan DK, Colindres, R. Directly questioning children and adolescent about maltreatment: a review of surveys measures used. *J Interpers Violence*. 2000;15(7):725-59.
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- Helweg-Larsen K, Boving-Larsen H. Ethical issues in youth surveys: potentials for conducting a national questionnaire study on adolescent schoolchildren’s sexual experiences with adults. *Am J Public Health*. 2003;93(11);1878-82.
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- Ybarra ML, Langhinrichsen J, Friend J, Dienner-West M, Impact of asking sensitive questions about violence to children and adolescents. *J Adolesc Health*. 2009;45:499-507.
- Zajac L, Ruggieor KJ, Smith DW, Saunders BE., Kilpatrick DG. Adolescent distress in traumatic stress research: Data from the National Survey of Adolescents-Replications. *J Trauma Stress*. 2011;24(2):226-229.

Questions and Comments

Thank you!

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