Assessing for Child Abuse Using the Juhnke, Henderson, and Juhnke Child Abuse and Neglect Risk Assessment Scale

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Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

- National (USDHHS, 2011)
  - 3,049,679 reports that received CPS response
  - 676,569 victims of child abuse and neglect
- Texas (DFPS, 2011)
  - 297,971 alleged victims reported to CPS
  - 98,435 confirmed investigations
- San Antonio (DFPS, 2011)
  - 21,491 total investigations completed
  - 4,877 confirmed investigations

Child Abuse Assessment Scale

- All counselors are mandated reporters of child abuse
- Purpose of Assessment Scale to help counselors recall risk factors
- Mnemonic memory aid
- Based on 20 identified child maltreatment risk factors from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) Office of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Consultation essential with colleagues and/or supervisors
Mnemonic Sentence

- A BBATCH of SPACY SCRAPP CARDS
- Each letter represents an independent risk factor
- Each mnemonic corresponds with one of four critical maltreatment domains:
  - Physical
  - Familial
  - Demographic
  - Emotional/Behavioral

Scoring

- See Juhnke, Henderson, and Juhnke (2012)
- Depending upon the presence of risk factor criteria, 16 factors receive scores of either 5 or 0 points
- Four risk factors require immediate CPS consultation or reporting (buttocks burns, thigh, history, and report) = 80 or 0 points

Physical Domain

BBATCH
- Buttocks burns*
- Anal
- Thigh*
- Clothing
- History*
Familial Domain

**SPACY**
- Substance
- Poverty
- Away
- Caring
- Young

Demographic Domain

**SCRAPP**
- Smell
- Coming
- Report*
- Accident prone
- Previous

Emotional/Behavioral Domain

**CARDS**
- Cowering
- Age
- Regression
- Disability
- Shrinking
Total Score and Suggested Responses

- General guidelines to adapt to child’s specific needs and context, including age, protective factors, and severity of behavior
- 0-15 total score: Consult whether continued monitoring, intervention, or contact with caregivers warranted
- 20-45 total score: Preceding recommendations, also consult with caregivers, offer interventions for identified needs, monitor for at least 30 days

Total Score and Suggested Responses

- 50-75 total score: Preceding recommendations, reassess within 7 days for safety, consult and document whether CPS consultation/report warranted, monitor for at least 60 days
- 80+ total score: Preceding recommendations, contact CPS, reassess 3 days and 10 days later for safety, monitor for 120 days.
- Document thoroughly.

Limitations

- Only one component of assessment process
- Presence of one maltreatment factor does not necessarily require report
  - Doesn’t mean child was, is, or will be maltreated
  - Consider Client context
  - Pay attention to significant clustering of high-risk factors
- Some factors may indicate need for more general family counseling services
- Further research necessary
Implications

• May facilitate
  – More thorough, efficient assessment of child abuse and neglect
  – Counselor’s recall of child abuse risk factors, especially during emotionally charged maltreatment assessment

References


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