



Department of Social Policy and Intervention

Franziska Meinck

Instruments for the assessment of child maltreatment

University of Ulm – Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Background

- Approximately 1 billion children victims of violence each year (Hillis et al 2016)
- Child abuse associated with immediate and long-term consequences (Norman et al 2012)
- Risk of intergenerational continuity (Widom 2011)
- Vast economic burden (Fang et al 2011)
- Little robust evidence for what works to prevent violence against children (Mikton et al 2009)

Use of child maltreatment measures

1) For screening

- Clinicians/ professionals

2) To assess burden or trends

- Epidemiological studies

1) To assess incidence and service provision

- Sentinel surveys

3) To assess outcomes

- Intervention studies

Respondents of self-report measures

1) Children and adolescents

- Usually aged >10
- Retrospective and current self-report

2) Parents/ Caregivers

- Retrospective and current self-report
- Report on their parenting/their child's victimisation

3) Young adults

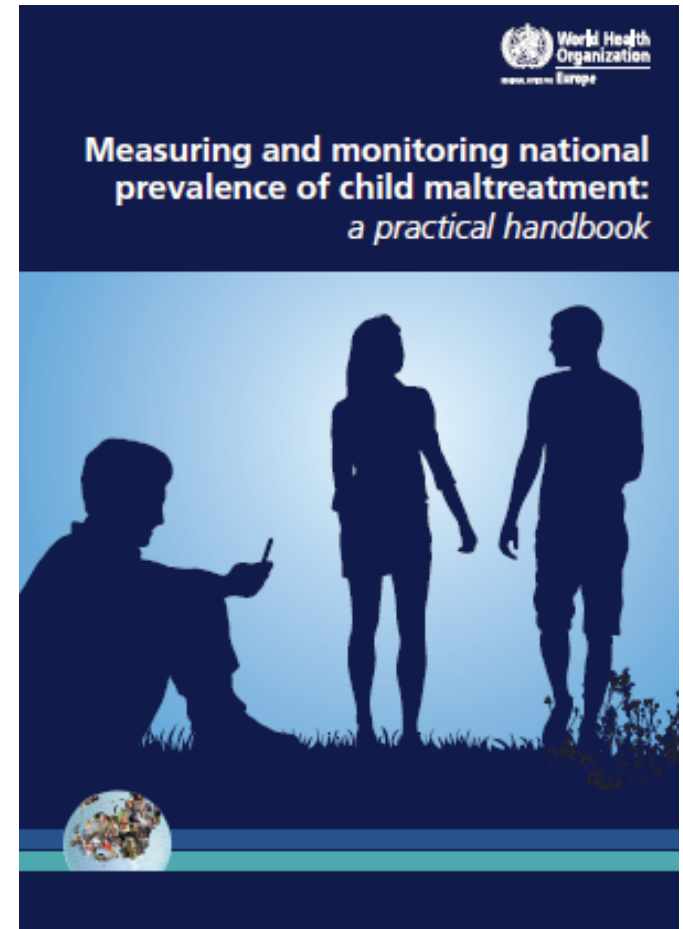
- Retrospective self-report

Some background work

- Rapid review of child abuse measures for WHO European Office
- WHO handbook on how to set up child abuse surveillance systems
- Work on the Sinovuyo Teen Child Abuse Prevention Trial in South Africa
- Large scale child abuse surveys in South Africa
- Networking and listening to the “experts”

Measuring and monitoring child maltreatment

- 'How to' handbook for setting up child maltreatment surveillance systems
- Considers different ways in setting up surveillance systems
- Reviews different measures for child maltreatment



Two major gaps in methodology impede development of evidence-base

1) Lack of adequate and comparable international survey data

- Lengthy questionnaires
- Expensive to conduct (particularly in HiCs)
- No consensus on item content

2) Lack of child abuse measures for interventions

- Sensitivity to change in severity and frequency
- Studies use proxies (i.e. child behaviour) or agency data

Ongoing systematic review

UNIVERSITY *of York*
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination


National Institute for
Health Research

PROSPERO International prospective register of systematic reviews

Systematic review of the psychometric properties of measures for child abuse and neglect

Franziska Meinck, Janina Jochim, Michael Dunne, Janina Steinert, Louis Pilard, Elona Toska, Mark Boyes, Jane Barlow

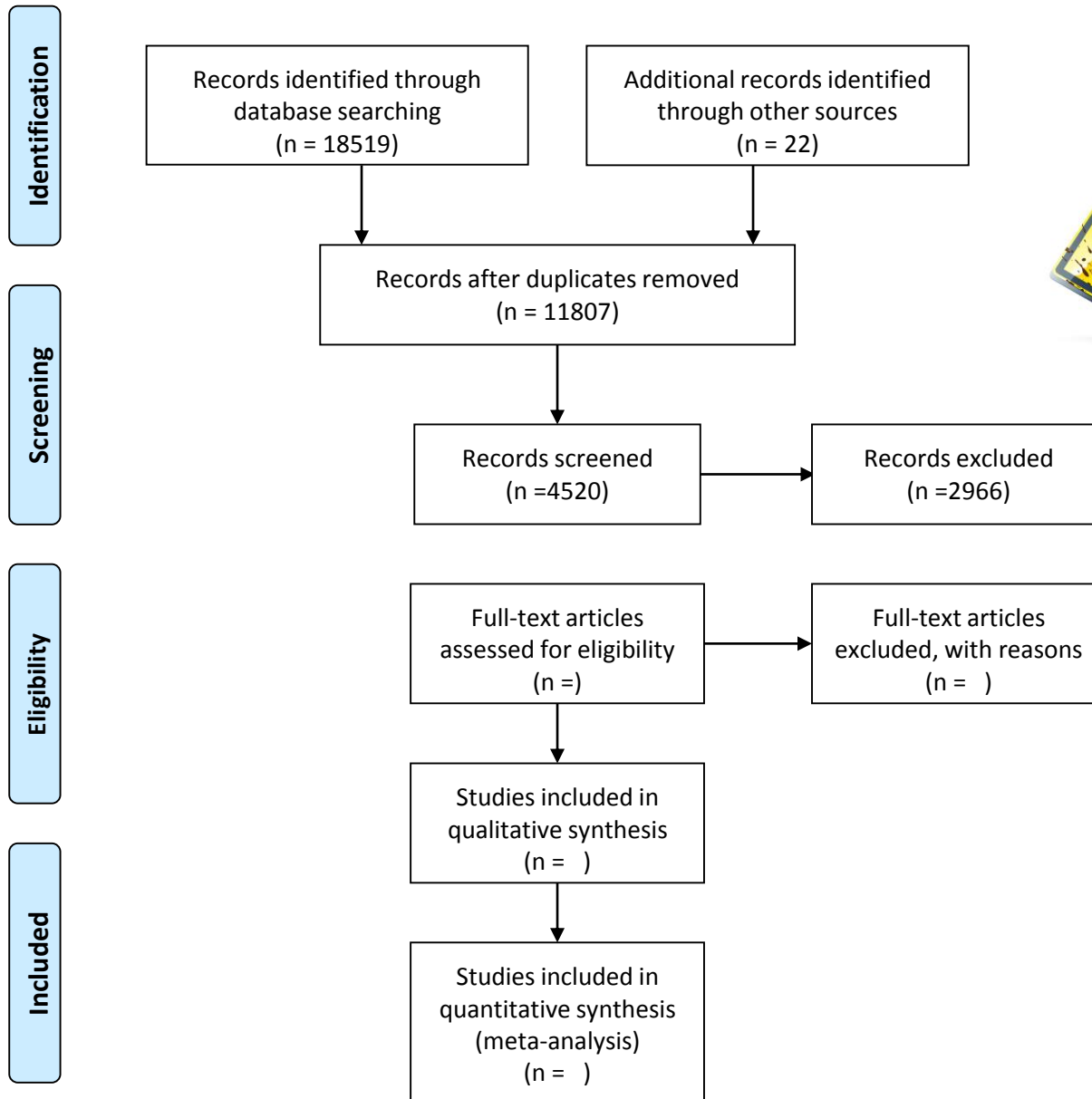
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Review question(s)

- 1) What instruments to measure child abuse victimisation and adverse childhood experiences exist?
- 2) What are the psychometric properties of the identified measures?
- 3) Are the measures suitable for use in social surveys and intervention studies?
- 4) What is the acceptability and functionality of the measure across contexts?

PRISMA flow diagram



Existing Child Abuse Measures

- Little psychometric testing (USA, China, Germany)
 - diagnostic accuracy (specificity and sensitivity)
 - Reliability (test-retest, internal validity)
 - Construct validity
- Little cultural testing and adaptation other than translation
- Most validated are proprietary and costly
- Debate about item content

Popular proprietary/ fee charging instruments

- Childhood Trauma Questionnaire
 - Pearson Assessments
- Parent Child Conflict Tactics Scale
 - Western Digital Publishing
- ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool (ICAST) (Parent/Child/Institution)
 - \$175 for non members, free to members
- Childhood Experiences of Care and Abuse (CEC.Q)
 - Free questionnaire, paid for training course

Childhood Trauma Questionnaire

- 28 items
- Multiple validation studies including studies on sensitivity and specificity
- Retrospective/lifetime
- Usually used with young adults/adults
- Physical, emotional and sexual abuse and emotional and physical neglect

Parent Child Conflict Tactics Scale

- 27 items
- Multiple validation studies in multiple contexts
- Current self-report (past year)
- Used with children and parents
- Used in intervention studies
- Non violent discipline, psychological aggression, physical assault
- Additional questions on weekly discipline, neglect and sexual abuse

Straus et al 1997

ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool

- 36-77 items
- Widely used particularly in LMICs
- Child (home & institution), parent and retrospective version available
- Current (past-year) and lifetime
- Used in intervention studies
- Physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence, crime, peer violence

Runyan et al 2009, Zolotor et al 2009 & Dunne et al 2009

Childhood Experiences of Care and Abuse

- 29 items
- Used in many EU countries – also German validation available
- Adolescent retrospective self report (often used by social workers)
- Young adult self-report
- Physical abuse, emotional abuse sexual abuse, neglect and loss of parents

Popular non-proprietary instruments

- Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- Childhood Maltreatment Interview Schedule (CMIS)
- Dimensions of Discipline (DDI)
- Multidimensional Neglectful Behaviour Scale

Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire

- 34 items
- Some validity testing
- Two shorter versions are available
- Parent report of violence exposure to child, child self-report,
- Crime, child maltreatment, peer and sibling victimization, sexual victimization and witnessing crime

Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire

- Multiple versions available
- ACE-IQ 31 items, ACE screener 10 items, ACE-ASF 8 items
- Used internationally, some validity testing
- Originally retrospective self-report with young adults
- Physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence, community violence, military conflict, peer violence and household dysfunction

Childhood Maltreatment Interview Schedule

- 11 items
- Adult self-report
- Some validity testing
- Parental substance use, domestic violence, neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse

Dimensions of Discipline Inventory

- 77 items
- Some validity testing
- Parent self-report, child self-report current
- Adult retrospective self-report
- Used in intervention studies
- Discipline used in household and attitudes to different types of disciplinary behaviours

Multidimensional Neglectful Behaviour Scale

- 8-45 items depending on version
- Some validity testing
- Child, adolescent and parental self-report
- Self-report available for children as young as 6
- Current and retrospective
- Childhood emotional, physical, supervisory and cognitive neglect

Popular proxy measures

- Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI)
 - Measures risk factors, proprietary
- Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory (BCAPI)
 - Measures risk factors, proprietary
- Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPAI)
 - Parenting measure, proprietary, contains corporal punishment
- Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ)
 - Parenting measure, non-proprietary, contains corporal punishment

Conclusion

- There are large numbers of child maltreatment questionnaires available
- More work needed on validity particularly sensitivity and specificity
- Most commonly used measures are proprietary or proxy measures
- Few measures have been used in intervention studies
- No agreement on essential items

Funders: thank you.



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