



Classroom Supplement for Preventing child maltreatment and neglect in the United States: Opportunities for change

Discussion questions

How can documenting the perspectives of CPS-impacted parents help inform policy related to maltreatment and neglect prevention? Why is it important to also consider systemic issues—which are often invisible to those in power—such as systemic racism, sexism, ableism?

In what ways do individual- and family-level risks for child maltreatment and neglect interact with community or neighborhood-level factors? How are these distinct from (yet related to) societal-level factors such as social norms and expectations about the social safety net?

What specific primary, secondary, and tertiary services and programs are available for preventing child maltreatment and neglect in your neighborhood, region, or state?

Why is failing to acknowledge financial hardship as a causal factor in child neglect problematic? How does alleviating financial hardship for parents center the safe and consistent care of children in the “systems synergy” approach?

IRP resources

IRP Podcast: “Eric Chyn on the Impacts of Removing Children from Abusive or Neglectful Homes.” August 2020. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/eric-chyn-on-the-impacts-of-removing-children-from-abusive-or-neglectful-homes/>

IRP *Focus on Poverty* article: “Interactions between human services programs and the opioid crisis: Child welfare,” based on a presentation by Ken DeCerchio. February 2020. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/interactions-between-human-services-programs-and-the-opioid-crisis-child-welfare/>

IRP *Fast Focus Policy Brief*: “A new federal law changes child welfare system financing as we know it.” September 2018. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/a-new-federal-law-changes-child-welfare-system-financing-as-we-know-it/>

IRP *Fast Focus Policy Brief*: “Are recent increases in child welfare cases and the opioid epidemic related?” July 2018. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/are-recent-increases-in-child-welfare-cases-and-the-opioid-epidemic-related/>

IRP webinar: “Parental Substance Use, Opioid Misuse, and Child Welfare: A Mixed Methods Research Study,” Robin Ghertner and Annette Waters. January 2018. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/parental-substance-use-opioid-misuse-and-child-welfare-a-mixed-methods-research-study/>

General resources

Edwards, F., Wakefield, S., Healy, K., & Wildeman, C. (2021, July). Contact with Child Protective Services is pervasive but unequally distributed by race and ethnicity in large US counties. Brief Report, PNAS, 118(30). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2106272118>

Berger, L. & Slack, K., (Eds). (2020, Nov.) Toward a Better Approach to Preventing, Identifying, and Addressing Child Maltreatment. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 692(1). <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/anna/692/1>

Font, S., Cancian, M., Berger, L., & DiGiovanni, A. (2020, January). Patterns of intergenerational child protective services involvement. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 99. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104247>

Fong, K. (2019, June). Concealment and Constraint: Child Protective Services Fears and Poor Mothers' Institutional Engagement. *Social Forces*, 97(4), 1785–1810. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soy093>

Falletta, L., Hamilton, K., Fischbein, R., Aultman, J., Kinney, B., Kenne, D. (2018, May). Perceptions of child protective services among pregnant or recently pregnant, opioid-using women in substance abuse treatment. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 79, 125–135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.01.026>