DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 126 645 EC 090 561

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TITLE Child Maltreatment in the United States: A Cry for Help and Organizational Response.
INSTITUTION Ohio State Univ., Columbus. Mershon Center.
SPONS AGENCY Children's Bureau (DHEW), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE 76
NOTE 231p.; For the appendix, see EC 090 562

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$12.71 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Child Abuse; Child Advocacy; Disadvantaged Youth; Etiology; Exceptional Child Research; Incidence; National Surveys; Needs Assessment; *Program Development; *Program Evaluation; Public Policy
IDENTIFIERS *Neglected Children

ABSTRACT

Reported are the research results from a national child maltreatment study planned around three aspects--intensive interviews with individuals in the field, a survey of organizations and programs related to child abuse and neglect, and the formulation of recommendations for policy and program planning. Covered in Chapter 1 are the background and scope of the work, methodological approaches, attributes of respondents, and the interview situation. Reviewed in Chapter 2 are the rights of children and the role of the state, the status of knowledge and technology in the field, incompatibilities between punitive and therapeutic approaches, conflicts within professional roles, and the protection of organizational and professional domains. The third chapter on the magnitude of the problem and epidemiological patterns provides estimated child abuse incidence statistics. The presentation of findings on the structure and performance of programs concerned with child abuse and neglect is organized in Chapter 4 around the following functional categories: identification and reporting, response to reporting, availability and provision of services, legal intervention and the problems of custody and placement, decision-making, and the coordination of programs. Summarized in the final chapter are goals for child maltreatment programs considered in planning the study, evaluative statements based on study findings, and recommendations for future programing. (SB)

CHILD MALTREATMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

A Cry For Help And Organizational Response

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Submitted To
The Children's Bureau
Office of Child Development
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

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1976

PREFACE

The background of this work may help place the material in perspective. It represents an important part of broader research interests in the structure and performance of human services being pursued for a number of years at the Mershon Center. Interest on the part of sponsors of the study was generated in response to the then pending legislation that has become known as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974. Little information was available to allow for national inferences concerning the problem and the ways it is handled. The attempt in this work was to mobilize knowledge organized around social science concepts and data in ways that would go beyond description and explanation to providing some basis for policy and program development. The path is still largely uncharted and is fraught with many difficulties.

It is with great appreciation that I acknowledge the sponsorship of this work by the Children's Bureau, the Office of Child Development, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The openness, cooperation, and substantive contributions of members of these agencies made a difficult task informative and pleasant. The willingness of the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center to undertake the sampling and the collection and preparation of data, and the willingness of the many respondents and agencies to share their time and thought, were vital to the survey.

Many individuals made substantive and other contributions that were very helpful in improving the inquiry and this product.

Acknowledgements are due Douglas Besharov, Frank Ferro, Charles Gershenson, Helen Howerton, and Cecilia Sudia from the Children's Bureau and the Office of Child Development; Frederick Green and Sally Ryan formerly of the Children's Bureau; Irene Hess, Jeanne Keresztesi, Joan Scheffler, John Scott, and John Siebs from the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center.

I am indebted to the intellectual stimulation of colleagues Ronald Corwin, Harold Lasswell, William Petersen, and Richard Snyder. Also, my gratitude is extended to members of the research group that worked on the study: Richard Haller and his colleagues Bruce Jonas, Ted Smith, and Eve Pease who handled data computation and analysis competently and diligently; Lisa Ede who made the manuscript readable; John Diamond and Semra Somersan who assisted in the research; and Evelyn Rist and Nedra Story who responded to the pressures of manuscript preparation with high standards and good humor.

S.Z.N.

Columbus, Ohio
May, 1976

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CHAPTER I

PROBLEM AND APPROACHES

Background and Scope of Work

As with most social problems, a rise in public awareness of and concern for the maltreatment of children preceded both the development of legal codes and state intervention through active services and law enforcement programs.[1] The nineteenth century witnessed many reform movements spearheaded by religious and other voluntary organizations. During the first half of that century, houses for poor and neglected children were opened in New York, some with private and others with a mix of private and public support. During the second half of the century, societies for the prevention of cruelty of animals took note of abused and neglected children. Both new organizations and new sections in established organizations were developed specifically for the prevention of cruelty to children. Medical recognition of child abuse was introduced in 1868 "in a paper on acute periosteal swelling in infants."[2] In 1889 a juvenile court was established in Chicago, but "the legal presumption of the courts was generally in favor of the reasonableness of parental action."[3] New professions concerned with children and families, such as child psychology and social work, also emerged around the turn of the century.

Efforts on behalf of maltreated children, as well as concern over child welfare in general, culminated in the First White House Conference on Children, held in 1909. The Conference was followed in 1912 by legislation initiating the Children's Bureau, a public

agency to investigate and report "upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life among all classes of people."[4] Although Title IVB ("Child Welfare Services") of the 1935 Social Security Act represented further development of public programs in this area,"[5] its child protection aspects remained under developed and diffused into other social services.

The 1960's and the early 70's were the scene of both heightened public awareness and of the mobilization of interests to protect children against abuse and neglect. During this period, voluminous amounts of literature concerning this problem accumulated in medicine, law, social services, and the behavioral sciences.[6] The mass media played an important role in sensitizing the public-at-large. In 1962, amendments to the Social Security Act "required each state to develop a plan to extend child welfare services, including protective services to every political subdivision."[7] In the same year a model law for reporting abuse and neglect was issued; its language was adopted by most of the states within the following two years.[8] During the latter part of the decade, many states either introduced new or reformed existing legislation to require reporting by certain professions and to lift legal liability for unsubstantiated reports.[9]

The most dramatic results were achieved by Florida, which not only changed the statutes, but also installed toll-free 24 hour WATS lines and mounted an effective campaign of public information through the mass media. Within a period of one year, the number of reported cases increased from 17 to 19,120.[10] From 1971-1974 these stabilized at between 25,000 and 30,000 annually; approximately 60% of these reports were substantiated upon investigation by responsible agencies.[11] Most states made similar legislative changes, and a number of communities in the U.S. exerted greater efforts toward case identification.

During the early 1970's, the problem of child abuse and neglect actively entered the political agenda on the national level. In 1973, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare assigned the Office of Child Development the task of coordinating the efforts of the National Institute of Mental Health, the Public Health Services, the Office of Education, and the Rehabilitation Services Administration concerning this problem.[12] In 1974 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment legislation was enacted. One of its provisions established a National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect; it also funded a number of demonstration programs and projects in various parts of the country "designed to prevent, identify, and treat child abuse and neglect."[13] Amendments to the Social Security Act in 1975 introduced Title XX, which also provided for grants to the states for services to children and families. In addition to other goals, this title was addressed to preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families."[14]

It was within the context of these legislative activities, administrative concerns, and heightened awareness on the part of related professions and segments of the public that this work was initiated in January, 1974.

Deliberations over policies and programs indicated that, with few exceptions, there was a serious lack of information about important aspects of abuse and neglect among children. These exceptions included a comprehensive survey of the status of legislation concerning the problem in the various states,[15] as well as technical developments in the diagnosis and treatment of victims of abuse and neglect in pediatrics, radiology, and related medical and health fields.[16] Furthermore, since the prevailing assumption is that reported

cases of socially unacceptable and legally liable behavior usually represent only the tip of the iceberg, available estimates of the problem were viewed with skepticism. In fact, because neither therapeutic nor law-enforcement agencies had actively pursued case-finding, it was suspected that the submerged portions of the iceberg in this problem might be even larger than with other forms of deviance. Given these limitations in case identification, the state of epidemiological knowledge remained anecdotal and primitive. Some case studies of given communities or programs were reported and others were underway; however, most lacked a comparative perspective and the requisites for generalizability.

This research was planned to address some of these gaps in available information. The purposes were: (1) to gain an analytical, nationally representative picture of the organization of the services and control mechanisms concerned with child abuse and neglect; (2) to identify limitations and strengths in the structure and performance of these programs; and (3) to prepare recommendations for improving the identification and control of the problem. The presentation of findings is organized around these objectives, and is preceded by a discussion of important contextual issues, dilemmas in the field, and estimates of the magnitude and dimensions of the problem. Before turning to these parts of the report, however, we will first review the methodological steps followed in the study.

Methodological Approaches

The study was planned around three complimentary aspects. The first consisted of intensive interviews in a number of communities selected on the basis of variability. These interviews were conducted with judges, physicians, members of police

departments, caseworkers, public health nurses, and others in organizations related to child abuse and neglect. We also attended court proceedings and toured pediatric wards and other facilities. The objective in this phase was to gain an understanding of the issues, problems, weaknesses, and strengths that characterize programs in the field--necessary background information both in the development of a meaningful conceptual framework for a national survey and in the interpretation of its results. In addition, this information constituted an important source of suggestions for program development.

The second aspect of this work involved a survey of organizations and programs related to abuse and neglect. The selection of organizations and respondents was based upon a probability sample of the United States population. Seven agencies and groups of respondents serving this sample were included in the survey. Data were collected through personal interviews (See research schedules in Appendix). These organizations and respondents comprise the four major institutions most often involved with families and children when maltreatment occurs. The following is an account of these organizations and of the priorities used to select respondents within each.

1. Child Protective Services (CPS): Interviewed were directors or supervisors of these agencies or divisions, and the most knowledgeable members of the staff if the director or supervisor had not completed six months or more in the agency.

2. Juvenile and Family Courts (CRT): Interviewed were judges or court referees, when judges felt the latter were more appropriate sources of information.

3. Police and Sheriff Departments (POL): Interviewed were heads of juvenile divisions, if existent, and the heads of departments if no such divisions existed.

4. Public Health Nurses (PHN): Interviewed were supervisors of maternal and child nursing services, if such a specialization existed; and if not, the directors of nursing services in general.

5. School Systems (SCH): Interviewed were assistant-superintendents for pupil personnel or persons in equivalent positions.

6. Hospital Medical Personnel (HMD): Respondents in this group were selected according to the following priorities; pediatricians who headed or participated in hospital teams or special programs; if no such program existed, heads of pediatric departments; if no pediatric department existed, pediatricians most knowledgeable about child abuse and neglect; and if no pediatrician was available, chiefs of staffs in hospitals.

7. Hospital Social Services Departments (HSS): Interviewed were heads of these departments or most knowledgeable members if heads had not been in hospitals for six months or more.

Throughout the survey emphasis was placed upon reaching persons informed about their respective programs. Respondents were to act as informants about what they perceived the programs to be actually like, rather than what they believed they should be like. A total of 1696 interviews were completed, representing 96.4% of the respondents sought in the survey. As shown in Table I-1, the highest completion rates were for police departments (99.3%), child protective agencies (99.2%), and public health departments (98.0%), with the lowest for physicians (90%).

The sampling design and the selection of organizations were based upon a probability sample of 8090 household units located

within 1680 sampling segments selected for an earlier survey conducted by this investigator.[17] These segments were used as points of departure for sampling the organizations. Each segment falls within the jurisdiction of a child protective agency, a juvenile or a family court, a police or a sheriff department, a school system, and a public health department. Agencies representing these jurisdictions were selected for interviews. Included also were all children's hospitals within the counties or the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas where any of the sampling segments were located. Other hospitals were selected on the basis of accessibility to the household units in the sample, the closest hospitals being considered most accessible. Hospital selection was further limited to those operating emergency rooms and/or accepting pediatric patients.

Responses from the organizations surveyed were weighted according to the number of households that fell within their respective jurisdictions. Thus, reports about a child protective agency selected on the basis of serving 100 households in the population sample were given five times the weight of another serving only 20 household units. Similar weighting was applied to responses from all other agencies. Children's hospitals which do not fall naturally in the sample selection were excluded from the weighted results by assigning them a weight of zero. In this sense, the findings represent programs responsible for, or most accessible to, a probability sample of the United States population excluding Alaska and Hawaii. Throughout this report, unless otherwise specified, the percentages shown in the narrative or in tabular forms are of the U.S. population as projected from the weighted responses in the sample. It is also important to note that, as in all surveys, there are missing data for some questions.

These came in the forms of "non-response" and "non-answer." The latter category designates responses that were inappropriate for the questions posed. Both categories of missing data were slight in this survey and, therefore, were neither presented in the tables nor in the distributions cited in the text. Tables are marked when missing data exceeded 5% for any of the variables included.

The third aspect of this work concerned the formulation of recommendations for policy and program planning. In the absence of adequately developed design theories to guide this kind of effort in a systematic manner, reliance was placed upon principles of organization, information about weaknesses and strengths of existing programs, and the opinions of knowledgeable people. Also, much was learned by analogy from studies concerning other sectors of human services.

Attributes of Respondents

Some details about the various organizations' respondents might help clarify their socio-demographic composition. A significant proportion of respondents on behalf of public health nursing (13.3%) were physicians. This was more often the case in larger than in smaller communities. Conversely, 18.8% of the respondents from hospital medical departments were nurses in service or administrative positions. Among respondents from the courts: 71.3% were judges; 15.5% were referees; and the remaining 13.2% were probation officers, intake officers, court social workers, or persons occupying other positions in the courts.

Table I-2 presents the weighted distribution of respondents along a selected number of characteristics. These distributions indicate that only 4.9% of all respondents were below 25 years of age, with an additional 17.9% between 25 and 34. About one half

of them were 45 or older. More respondents from child protective agencies and hospital social services were the younger age categories than from any other organization. Conversely, more of the respondents on behalf of the courts and the school systems were in older ages. Age distributions among respondents from public health nursing were very similar to those from school systems.

Sex distributions conformed to general expectations. Most of the male respondents on behalf of public health nursing were physicians or public health officials other than nurses. Nurses responding for hospital medical departments, however, inflated the proportion of women in this category of respondents. It is interesting to note that women represented the police departments more often in the larger size communities. The great majority of all respondents were white, varying from 90.4% for public health nursing to 96.7% for the police. Blacks ranged from a low of 1.6% for respondents from hospital medical departments to a high of 8.2% for public health. Chicanos, Indians, and Orientals comprised very small proportions of the respondents.

Table I-2 also indicates that most respondents were married at the time of the survey. The single were more highly represented among members of hospital social services, child protective agencies, and public health nursing, respectively. The majority of respondents had children, in most cases under 18 years of age. Nevertheless, it should be noted that substantial proportions of the respondents were childless, especially among those participating on behalf of hospital social services, child protective agencies, and public health nursing. In large part, this is attributable to the greater prevalence of single persons among these respondents.

Educational levels below the bachelor's degree, represented

by 16.8% of the weighted responses, were generally concentrated among respondents from the police. Holders of the bachelor's and master's degrees accounted for 41.3%, and were more often to be found in protective agencies and hospital social services. Finally, 41.9% of the weighted responses were by persons who had pursued graduate work beyond the masters; this included those who completed a doctorate or received a professional degree such as medicine or law. As would be expected, the majority of these respondents were from hospital medical departments and the courts. Most respondents had been in their respective organizations for three years or longer, although not necessarily in the same positions. In fact, excluding respondents from hospital social services, large proportions reported tenures of ten or more years.

The Interview Situation

Information concerning interview situations and interviewers' impressions about the disposition of respondents is seldom presented in reports such as this. Still, comparisons among organizations and groups of respondents along these lines are instructive. Thus, as we proceed with the presentation of findings, these data will be related to some of the important patterns of responses. Table I-3 includes information on the interview situation and the levels of interest and cooperation of respondents. The great majority of the interviews were conducted in private; when others were present, they were most often subordinates or colleagues of the respondents. A small proportion of the interviews, ranging from a high of 13.9% for the police to a low of 5.4% for public health, were frequently interrupted. Most respondents were "moderately" or "very" interested in the interviews, disinterest being most common among those from the courts and hospital medical departments. As would be expected, the levels of cooperation were closely associated with those of interest.

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TABLE I-1

Numbers of Organizations in Sample
Interviews Completed, and Completion Rates

Types of Organizations	Number of Organizations	Interviews Completed	Rates of Completion
Child Protective Services	130	129	99.2
Public Health Nurses	151	148	98.0
School Systems	339	330	97.3
Hospital Medical Personnel	388	350	90.2
Hospital Social Services Depts.	325	317	97.5
Juvenile & Family Courts	137	134	97.8
Police & Sheriff Departments	290	288	99.3
TOTAL	1760	1696	96.4

TABLE I-2

Selected Attributes of Respondents

Attributes of Respondents	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Age							
Under 25	5.5	5.0	0.5	2.6	15.0	0.4	7.9
25 - 34	28.2	12.1	10.5	19.5	34.1	8.4	16.9
35 - 44	33.4	26.6	32.0	35.3	20.1	20.3	31.5
45 - 54	24.1	39.9	40.7	27.5	19.4	42.9	32.8
55+	8.8	16.4	16.3	15.0	11.5	28.1	10.8
Sex							
Male	49.7	9.1	64.7	69.5	16.6	89.2	81.6
Female	55.3	90.9	35.3	30.5	83.4	10.8	18.4
Ethnicity							
White	91.7	90.4	91.1	94.3	92.9	94.1	96.7
Black	7.8	8.2	6.8	1.6	5.3	5.9	2.5
Other	0.4	1.4	2.0	4.1	1.7	0.0	0.8
Marital Status							
Married	69.8	66.3	85.9	83.2	60.5	90.6	81.8
Separated & Divorced	6.0	5.0	4.1	6.3	8.9	4.1	6.1
Widowed	0.0	5.9	2.2	2.5	4.1	1.2	1.1
Single	24.2	22.8	7.7	8.0	26.1	4.1	8.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Children							
None	36.6	35.6	18.7	16.4	46.5	6.6	15.6
Below 18 Only	34.4	27.1	29.9	45.6	32.3	30.3	40.5
Above 18 Only	18.7	27.3	27.9	21.0	11.0	39.4	22.0
Both Below & Above 18	10.3	10.1	23.5	17.0	10.2	23.6	21.9
Education							
Below College	1.1	0.0	1.6	0.0	5.4	3.7	32.1
Some College	4.2	0.0	6.1	0.0	7.7	3.1	48.9
College Degree	37.3	1.9	8.2	0.0	35.1	7.1	11.1
Graduate and Professional Degrees	57.4	98.1	84.0	100.0	51.8	86.1	7.9
Tenure in Organization							
One Year or Less	12.4	9.8	1.2	5.1	17.5	9.8	4.4
Two Years	7.1	7.6	7.7	5.0	22.9	6.4	4.8
Three to Five Years	31.4	17.2	14.6	27.7	35.9	24.3	14.7
Five to Ten Years	18.8	22.1	24.7	19.6	13.9	25.0	21.0
More Than Ten Years	30.2	43.3	51.8	42.6	9.8	34.5	55.0

TABLE I-3

The Interview Situation and the Levels of
Interest and Cooperation of Respondents as Reported by Interviewers

Interviewers' Reports	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Others Present During Interview							
None	76.7	80.0	79.6	87.3	79.2	87.1	71.6
Respondent's Supervisors	6.1	2.2	1.6	1.5	4.8	2.7	2.7
Respondent's Colleagues	2.8	5.5	9.0	3.8	5.9	0.4	4.8
Respondent's Subordinates	12.1	8.5	7.3	6.9	10.0	7.3	19.3
Others Present	2.4	3.7	2.5	0.4	0.2	2.4	1.7
Interruptions							
None or Few	54.0	74.7	72.8	64.5	62.8	70.7	50.8
Some	35.6	19.9	21.2	26.9	24.2	17.7	35.3
Frequently	10.3	5.4	5.9	8.5	13.0	11.6	13.9
Respondent's Interest							
Very Interested	75.8	66.5	62.7	48.7	68.3	52.5	62.8
Moderately Interested	16.6	28.6	25.9	36.6	21.2	27.8	25.1
Slightly Interested	6.3	3.7	8.9	10.2	8.6	14.6	7.0
Not at All Interested	1.3	1.2	1.9	3.3	1.6	5.0	4.8
Bored to Tears	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.3
Respondent's Cooperation							
Enthusiastic, Positive	76.1	68.2	59.9	47.3	69.6	52.8	66.9
Fairly Cooperative	21.6	28.7	31.3	42.2	24.2	33.0	24.3
Neutral	2.3	3.9	7.6	6.4	4.0	8.1	6.4
Somewhat Uncooperative	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.6	2.0	4.6	2.0
Hostile or Suspicious	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.1	1.5	0.5

CHAPTER II

CONTEXTUAL ISSUES AND DILEMMAS

An understanding of the specific structural features of programs in this field, and of their limitations in performance, can only be reached within the context of a number of important social dilemmas, value conflicts, and other issues--not all of which are peculiar to problems of child abuse and neglect. This section of the report will identify some of these dimensions and present related evidence from the survey. To be reviewed are the rights of children and parents and the role of the state, the status of knowledge and technology in the field, incompatibilities between punitive and therapeutic approaches, conflicts within professional roles, and the protection of organizational and professional domains.

The positions and opinions of the respondents on the above subjects were sought by eliciting their reactions to a number of statements (Table II-1) bearing upon these issues and dilemmas. Using a principal component analysis, these statements were further reduced to seven indices by combining those addressing the same issues. The indices and their distributions across organizations and respondents are presented in Table II-2, which will be referred to at various points throughout this chapter. Before turning to substantive discussions, we need to note two technical observations in regard to these indices: (1) when an index represented only one item, it was presented in a dichotomous fashion by combining the responses "tend to agree" with "strongly agree," and "tend to disagree" with "strongly disagree;" (2) when an index comprised two or more items,

it was possible to divide the combined responses into three categories. In dividing the range of the latter types of indices, attempts were made to identify the "natural" clustering of responses rather than draw the lines at arbitrary points.[1]

Rights of Children and Parents.

Evidence concerning a "natural" or biologically based parent-child tie is at best inconsistent. Lower forms of animal life manifest conflicting patterns; while fish feed on their young, mothers in other animal species endanger their own lives to protect their offspring. Among, humans, parents' treatment of their children is equally inconsistent; it extends from infanticide on the one extreme to indulgence on the other. These patterns would hardly constitute convincing evidence that parent-child relations are governed by instincts or intuitions that automatically direct parents to act in the best interest of their children, nor does the state of knowledge about child-rearing warrant the assumption that parents always know the best interests of children. No matter how one conceives of the nature of parent-child relations, however, few would disagree that the basic elements in these relations are socially acquired and culturally conditioned. They are altered and modified as the institution of the family undergoes change in response to a variety of societal forces.

Historically, responsibility for the protection of children, and for that matter for other dependents as well, resided largely in primary groups, particularly the family. The traditional roles of the family, one of the earliest social inventions, have always included both procreation, and the care, protection, socialization, and control of children. The authority of families over their children was dramatically expressed by Hobbes around the middle of the nineteenth century when he stated that "like the imbecile, the crazed and the beasts, over....

children... there is no law."[2] He maintained that children have neither natural rights nor rights by social contract because they lack the ability to make covenants with the other members of society and to understand the consequences of such contracts. To Hobbes, children must acknowledge their fathers as sovereigns; they have the power of life and death over children and "every man is supposed to promise obedience to him in whose power it is to save or destroy him."[3] The rights of biological parents to custody over their children were well imbedded in common-law. In this country apprenticeship, the colonial response to pauper, illegitimate, or orphaned children, was partly based on the belief that "all people should be attached to a family."[4]

"With the advent of the concept parens patrae, it was held in English Law that the king was the ... father of all."[5] Under this doctrine, which became part of early American common-law, the state could intervene in parent-child relations when conditions warranted the protection of children. This principle has evolved into the form of in loco parentis, "wherein the state may stand in the place of the parent," at times assuming the custody of children through its administrative and service organizations and programs.[6]

Opinions vary in regard to the extent and impact of state intervention. Katz concluded, for example:

> When one observes the expanding power of government into the family sphere, one must begin to readjust one's legal concept of family relationship, especially that of parents and child. It is not accurate to portray the parent-child relationship as one of the most jealously guarded in society - a frequently stated myth. Indeed, the greatest inroad the government has made in the family setting has been in the parent-child relationship... The point is that no longer is it possible to delineate sharply, the jurisdictional lines between government, parents, and children.[7]

Yet, after an examination of relevant decisions, Foster and Freed asserted in 1972 that "sweeping declarations aside, there is a paucity of legal authority for the general proposition that children are persons under the law."[8] In 1973 another analyst observed that the thrust of most reform had been to persuade parents to treat children better, "but has not changed the position of children within society or made them capable of securing such treatment for themselves."[9] Interestingly enough, some have come to view child labor laws to be as much a response to the industrial revolution and a protection for adults against work displacement and devaluation of the price of labor as a manifestation of concern over securing opportunities for children's education.[10]

In spite of differences over the status of the legal rights of children and the impact of state intervention, most analysts agree that modification of strict paternalism has been slow and fraught with dilemmas. Among the factors contributing to this cautious change of pace are: (1) emphasis on the perservation of the institution of the family, with no appropriate substitute in sight; (2) fear of the consequences of legal intrusion upon the authority structure within the family, and uncertainty about the secondary effects of such intrusion upon the welfare of children themselves; (3) reluctance based upon this fear and reinforced by the relatively low incidence of reported cases of maltreatment, still considered by many to be an exceptional situation; (4) difficulties in articulating appropriate laws for regulating parent-child relations, and anticipated difficulties in enforcing such laws if enacted, especially in regard to children in ages when they can neither define problems nor assess motives; (5) "the limitations on state control of private conduct are transformed into parental control in a kind of mirror image; to the extent that the state may not interfere in some sort of conduct,

it often may not interfere with parental regulation of that sort of conduct in children";[11] and (6) the widely held opinion that the problem cannot be addressed primarily through legal means, but falls equally within the domains of other institutions such as health care, social services, and education.

Underlying much of the ambiguity that surrounds the role of the state in parent-child relations is that "nowhere in American law is there a comprehensive statement that adequately describes the full range of the legal responsibilities of parents to children."[12] Katz attempts to develop some norms in his position that corresponding to the rights to secure and stable parent-child relations free from unreasonable interference, parents are expected to provide for their children's financial security, health, education, and morality; to teach them respect for authority and for others; and to provide an environment conducive to the development of sound character.[13] The literature shows other attempts toward clarifying these rights and obligations. Important among these are Kadushin's specifications of the reciprocal roles of children, parents, and the community.[14]

Although statutes may refer to optimal and desired states, their enforcement, however, is generally based upon definitions of the minimum standards below which the children's health and well-being are considered endangered. Proper administration of programs on child maltreatment thus require not only the clarification of parental responsibilities, but also those of the state. In this respect, Sussman and Cohen point out that:

> The degree to which the state is permitted to interfere with the traditional right of the parent to guide the physical and emotional development of his child should be contingent upon the nature of the harm society and the legislature wish to prevent and the ability of the state to correct that harm. Statutes which authorize the conditions, methods, and extent

> of state interference into the privacy of the family should therefore be written with careful and constant reference to the purposes which legitimize such intervention.[15]

Index A in Table II-2 assesses the positions of respondents on the rights of parents and of children. A majority, ranging from a low of 53.1% for the police to a high of 76.7% for child protective agencies, strongly felt that children's rights have not been receiving appropriate emphasis compared with those of parents. Though expressed infrequently by all respondents (11.0%), the opposite opinions were most prevalent among respondents from the police, courts, and hospital medical departments, in that order. Index B in Table II-2 is based upon responses to the statement "public agencies should stay out of the relations between parents and their children." As the distributions in the table show, the overwhelming majority of respondents reacted negatively to this statement; that, they did not see parent-child relations as immune from state intervention. As will be seen later, however, there were greater differences over the forms such intervention should take.

The respondents' positions concerning these issues were found to relate to several attributes. Persons who felt the rights of children were neglected and who expressed no aversion to the intervention of public agencies tended more often to be females, in higher levels of education, older, non-married, with no children, and in communities reporting the existence of inter-agency teams, liaisons, or other forms of coordination. These respondents were also more likely to have shown greater interest in the study and to have been more cooperative during the interviews.

Status of Knowledge and Technology

The status of knowledge and technology concerning child abuse and neglect poses many difficulties in controlling the problem. The lack of epidemiological knowledge, for example, has been a major factor in retarding preventive efforts. More will be said about this at a later point in the report. Two other issues concerning knowledge and technology in this field are particularly significant to the purposes of this work. The first involves the diffuseness of the criteria which define and identify what constitutes an abusive or negligent act. The second relates to the issue of the adequacy and effectiveness of available knowledge and technology.

Criteria for Identification and Decisions

While cases closer to the two ends of any continuum are more readily identifiable, doubt increases as one moves from either end toward the middle. Although such vagueness is not uncommon to criteria defining social problems, the area of doubt in regard to child abuse and neglect seems to include a larger proportion of cases. At the heart of the problem lies the question of when and what forms of maltreatment are to be considered disciplinary, excessive, or abusive. Much has been written about this question, ranging from societal prescriptions denouncing violence to specific justifications for court rulings. Nevertheless, the numerous statements made about the subject thus far have neither significantly furthered the clarification of criteria nor narrowed the range of doubtful cases.

The delicate and often unclear balance of the two sides of this issue is typified by an examination of the language of a court ruling on a case of "excessive punishment" in 1840 and a statement on children's rights made in a report to the President by the White House Conference on Children in 1970. The court ruled that:

> The right of parents to chastise their refractory and disobedient children is so necessary to the government of families, to the good order of society, that no moralist or lawgiver has ever thought of interferring with its existence, or of calling upon them to account for the manner of its exercise, upon light or frivolous pretenses. But, at the same time that the law has created and preserved this right, in its regard for the safety of the child it has prescribed bounds beyond which it shall not be carried.
>
> In chastising a child, the parent must be careful that he does not exceed the bounds of moderation and inflict cruel and merciless punishment; if he does, he is a trespasser, and liable to be punished by indictment. It is not, then; the infliction of punishment, but the excess, which constitutes the offense, and what this excess shall be is not a conclusion of law, but a question of fact for the determination of the jury.[16]

The White House Conference on Children confirmed a commitment to the rights of children to optimal health, growth and development, and to security--which was further specified as:

> ... an absence of want; it also includes a sense of future security - an absence of fear of the future, a sense of the regularity of basic necessities defined in the context of a society with material abundance, and a sense of control over important life choices. When such security cannot be afforded by parents alone, society must provide the means for achieving it; at the same time society must preserve the family's dignity and its right to decision making.[17]

Although perhaps helping to sensitize the reader to general conditions and forms of behavior, terms and phrases like "refractory," "disobedience," "cruel," "merciless," "excessive," "optimal health and development,"

"security," and "family's dignity," do not in themselves lead to specific criteria, especially in cases toward the middle of the continuum. This lack of clear and objective criteria reflects fundamental limitations in the state of knowledge about child development; it constitues the most difficult obstacle to appropriate decision-making in connection with child maltreatment.

The reactions of respondents attest to the ambiguity and diffuseness of decision-criteria at crucial junctures in the process of intervention with abuse and neglect. As the distributions on Index C (Table II-2) indicate, only small minorities of the weighted responses, ranging from 5.0% for hospital medical departments to 20.7% for child protective services, considered available criteria sufficiently specific and clear. Conversely, much greater proportions of these responses, ranging from a high of 67.9% for respondents from school systems to a low of 43.5% for those from child protective agencies, found decision-criteria badly lacking in specificity and clarity. It is interesting that physicians, whose fields are based on the harder and more advanced technologies, expressed much greater skepticism about the current status of decision-criteria than did personnel from child protective agencies.

Respondents' evaluation of criteria exhibited a weak relationship to community size and the number of reported cases of abuse and neglect: the larger the community size and the number of cases, the greater the tendency to view the criteria as clear and unambiguous. The existence of interagency teams and liaison activities was also associated with positive assessments of available decision-criteria. These relationships might have suggested level of education as the underlying link, since higher levels were more characteristic of larger communities, as were teams and liaisons. The relations

between the educational levels of respondents and their assessment of the status of criteria, however, followed a somewhat curvilinear pattern. Respondents in the highest and the lowest levels of education were similar in viewing the decision-criteria as diffuse and ambiguous, with those in the middle educational levels reporting fewer problems with the clarity of criteria. None of the other respondents' attributes related to this index in a consistent manner.

Adequacy of Knowledge and Technology

The second issue concerns the adequacy and effectiveness of available knowledge and technology in coping with the problems of abuse and neglect. Technologies determine the means available for reaching the goals of agencies and programs.[18] Of the different fields involved in the problems of abuse and neglect, certain areas of medicine stand out as the most technologically advanced. The knowledge and skills of pediatricians, radiologists, and surgeons in diagnosing and treating physical damage sustained by victimized children constitute impressive coping capabilities. Unfortunately, the complexity of the problem goes beyond the diagnosis and treatment of physical problems. It entails identifying and treating whatever emotional damage the children might have sustained, motivating parents and others to report cases of suspected abuse, changing the behavior of abusive parents and guardians in order to prevent repetition, making decisions as to when it is to the benefit of children to separate them from or leave them with their families, and collecting legally admissible evidence for protecting the rights of children.

Aside from the medical fields mentioned above, technologies for reaching these latter objectives are seriously underdeveloped.

Consider counseling, for example, which underlies many of the services addressed to parents. There is no reason to believe that counseling is based on firmer technological foundations than those of psychiatry, once described as not offering a viable technology.[19] The literature includes conflicting reports on the effectiveness of various approaches, both in changing the abusive behavior or parents and in dealing with their related emotional problems. While social welfare agencies continue their professional approach to the problem, some advocate the help of laypersons as being more effective; still others find greater assistance in organizations of parents experiencing similar problems (Parents Anonymous) modeled after "Alcoholics Anonymous" type groups.[20]

Technology offers a useful insight into the structure and performance of service and law enforcement organizations. Developed technologies lead to a greater articulation of roles in the structure of organizations, less subjectivity in decisions and operations, more identifiable outcomes, and greater specificity in criteria for assessing these outcomes. Index D (Table H-2) presents respondents' opinions about the effectiveness of available technology, based on their reactions to the following two statements: "We just don't know enough to deal effectively with problems of child mistreatment," and "Treatment for parents who mistreat their children is largely ineffectual."

The reactions of respondents varied widely. Holding high opinions about the effectiveness of current intervention techniques were weighted responses ranging from a high of 57.4% for child protective agencies to a low of 22.1% for the police. The prevalence of negative assessments ranged from 34.6% for the police to 15.1% for public health departments. Considering the strength of the two statements, and

that the respondents are involved in the application of whatever technological developments there are, the distribution of responses is not reassuring.

Positive assessments of technology's effectiveness tended to come from respondents from larger communities or those reporting higher numbers of abuse and neglect cases. More women than men believed available technology was highly effective. Once again, however, educational levels showed a curvilinear relation to these assessments. More of the weighted responses among persons with the highest and the lowest educational attainments questioned the status of technological developments in the field, while respondents in the middle levels viewed the status of such developments more positively. Does this pattern reaffirm the adage about the dangers of "half-knowledge?"

Punitive and Therapeutic Approaches

One of the most significant policy and program dilemmas concerning child maltreatment is that of conflicts between and ambivalence over, therapeutic and punitive approaches, particularly to neglectful and abusive parents and guardians. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century organizations concerned with the prevention of cruelty to children improved the therapeutic milieu for affected children; however, the approaches of these organizations to abusers were strictly punitive. Convinced that cruel and irresponsible parents or guardians deserved to be punished, and that punishment can serve as a deterrent to the initiation or repetition of abusive acts, these institutions pursued abuses into the courts.

More recently, significantly different perspectives concerning the interpretation of deviant acts such as child abuse and neglect have been introduced. Individual responsibility, upon which punitive

approaches were predicted, yielded to interpretations involving mental and emotional conditions beyond the individual's control. Also, greater weights were assigned to environmental factors in the precipitation of these acts. Both of these perspectives lessen the attribution of responsibility and blame to abusers, previously considered completely willful and fully aware of the consequences of their acts. Rather than deserving punishment, abusers have come to be regarded as needing therapeutic intervention and assistance in coping with their health problems or in overcoming environmental stresses. The fact that most victimized children are either left with, or are eventually returned to, their parents adds considerable strength to the justification of therapeutic approaches to the problem.

Although the current prevailing attitudes are less punitive toward abusive and neglectful parents and guardians, emphasizing protection rather than prosecution, the punitive-therapeutic dilemma remains a significant issue in the structure and provision of services. Regardless of how the intervention of public agencies is perceived and defined by their personnel (protection and prosecution), most parents are unlikely to view police or social services investigations, court hearings, and custody challenges over their children to be anything but punitive.

Statements constituting Index E (Table II-1), which assesses positions on this dilemma, were phrased in a way that openly polarizes the two alternatives. The distribution of weighted responses (Table II-2) shows that espousal of the strongest therapeutic orientation ranged from a high of 91.8% for respondents from child protection agencies to a low of 44.7% for those from the police. Very few, mostly respondents from the police and the courts, were willing to characterize parents who mistreat their children as "criminals"

rather than "sick," and as deserving "punishment" rather than "therapy," Nevertheless, sizable proportions of the weighted responses were in a middle position.

Differences in orientation between law enforcement agencies (the police and the courts) and those of social and health services are clearly reflected in the patterns of reactions to the statements comprising this index. Equally important are differences within each of the groups of respondents. A therapeutic orientation was more likely to be characteristic of women, persons with higher education attainments, and those in communities with developed interagency teams or other forms of coordination.

The issue of therapeutic versus punitive orientations was further pursued in this study by seeking the respondents' assessments as to whether or not differences inherent in the two approaches are reconcilable. Index F (Table II-2) measures the reactions of respondents in this respect. The majority of the weighted responses indicated that conflicts between the two orientations are reconcilable. It is interesting to note that respondents from the police and the courts were more likely than those from child protective agencies to view differences as reconcilable. Though expressed infrequently by all respondents (4.2%), the opposite position was most prevalent among protective agencies and the police. Equally important are the sizable proportions of respondents from all agencies who took a middle position in their assessment of the potential for bridging the gaps between punitive and therapeutic approaches. There were no strong patterns of association between positions on this index and respondents' attributes, except that optimistic views about reconciling these conflicts were more characteristic of men than women, and of respondents from

communities where teams and other interagency liaisons existed. Also, those who held these views were more cooperative during the interviews.

Conflicts in Roles

When the punitive and therapeutic approaches are combined in the same role set, conflicts in roles can ensue. Physicians encounter this conflict when required by law to report suspected cases of abuse among people in their care, as do caseworkers when obliged to initiate legal proceedings against parents to whom they are also expected to extend counseling and other services. At issue is the relationship of trust and openness to the demands of effective therapy; its necessity is undoubtedly one of the reasons for the AMA's opposition to statutes requiring physicians' reporting. It should be noted that the mere potential for the involvement of therapists in initiating or participating in punitive proceedings is sufficient to affect adversely the establishment of appropriate therapeutic relationships with parents. The impairment of such relationships assumes greater significance in view of the fact that parents and guardians are not only the sources of information about themselves, but also often the sources of information about the children. This role conflict has serious implications for case identification, the likelihood of services being sought for affected children, the response of parents to therapy, and relations among agencies.

Index G (Table II-2) represents reactions to the statement: "Physicians who are known to report cases of mistreatment of children lose the confidence of their patients." Although a majority of the weighted responses from each group gave negative reactions to this statement, the proportions in agreement were sizable, ranging from

a high of 47.4% for respondents from school systems to a low of 22.9% for those from child protective services. Of particular importance are responses from hospital medical personnel, 30.4% of whom affirmed the reality of this conflict. Also to be noted are the affirmative responses of personnel from public health services (41.2%) and those from hospital social services (26.2%). These two groups of respondents can be expected to be fairly accurate in their assessment of the existence of such role conflicts among independent practitioners and hospital-based physicians. Finally, the smaller the size of the community, the greater the likelihood that respondents would have perceived physicians to experience role conflicts when required to report suspected child maltreatment among their patients. This is consistent with the anonymity and diminished emphasis upon informal relations in larger communities.

Conflicts within the role sets of given personnel in the field also arise when their positions entail responsibilities for the welfare of multiple clientele, whose interests are not always compatible. Caseworkers in child protection agencies often find themselves caught in this form of conflict because they represent the interests of both abused and neglected children and of abusive and neglectful parents and guardians. A common criticism leveled against these agencies' practices is that caseworkers either identify with the children to the point of antagonism toward parents, or with the parents to the point of endangering the safety of children.[21] Conflicts in caseworkers' roles are further compounded when they become simultaneously involved with a third group of clientele, foster parents, especially those who are potential adopters. Although their positions are most illustrative, caseworkers are not unique in experiencing these conflicts.

Organizational and Professional Domains

The multi-dimensional nature of the problem of child abuse and neglect necessitates the involvement of a number of independent agencies and a variety of professions. Several public agencies, whose domains include responsibilities toward the prevention and control of these problems, have already been identified. In addition, there are numerous voluntary organizations in the field. As Rein observed, social services are in many ways the last bastion of free enterprise; any time two people come together in the name of good works, they can start a service agency.[22] "They can even claim to be coordinating the work of other agencies who, in turn, have the right to ignore them."[23] Involvement in abuse and neglect programs extends beyond public and voluntary agencies to include individual physicians and other clinicians who encounter the problem in their private practices, and who are often required to report suspected cases to appropriate authorities.

This multiorganizational and multiprofessional involvement makes it informative to view new program developments in the field from interorganizational and interprofessional perspectives; this inevitably raises the issue of "domains." Warren's conception of organizational domain, applicable also to professions, is helpful analytically:

> ...organizational domain is the organization's locus in the interorganizational network, including its legitimized 'right' to operate in specific geographic and functional areas and its channels of access to task and maintenance resources. The two important components here are the organization's right to do something, and its access to the resources it needs in order to do it.[24]

In this sense, the domains of the organizations and professions involved with child maltreatment can be defined in terms of the legitimized

rights of (1) access to populations of children at risk, abused and neglected children, and/or potential and actual perpetrators; (2) specialization in areas of knowledge, techniques, and a sphere of functional activities appropriate to the tasks of control and treatment of the problem; and (3) access to manpower, technological means, facilities, and other resources to maintain the organizational and professional concerns themselves and to enable them to address these tasks. It is often the case that interests in maintaining and enhancing the ongoing organizational and professional concerns supercedes interest in the populations served and in effective control and treatment programs.

The relations among organizations and professions can be seen in large part as the management of domains and the articulation of boundaries. Several propositions have been advanced to characterize and explain these relations, especially concerning interaction among organizations. Important among these propositions is one that postualtes a tendency for organizational decisions and actions to be oriented toward protecting and expanding their domains.[25] This proposition sheds light on competition among organizations and professions, especially when access to new or additional resources is at stake.

Such competition was experienced, covertly and overtly, by many communities attempting to respond to the problems of child maltreatment by selecting organizations to seek domonstration grants and to coordinate activities for the demonstrations themselves. The tendency toward expanding domains was manifested also in many demonstration proposals, in which applicant organizations emphasized one creation of new services under their control rather than further development of and closer working relations with agencies already offering these services. Thus, for example, the plans of an applicant hospital were

more likely to have called for developing a new child mental health clinic within its own structure, than for sharing resources with an independent clinic in the community. Similarly, the plans of an applicant mental health clinic were more likely to have called for adding social workers to the clinic's staff to work with the families involved, than for sharing resources with existing social and protective services. This form of organizational behavior is not unique to hospitals or clinics. The attempts here are not just to expand domains, but to expand them in certain ways that would assure control over wider aspects of the "task environment."

While the expansion of domains might account for the behavior of some organizations involved in coping with child maltreatment, it cannot explain the tendency on the part of others either to resist participation or to do so only reluctantly. The schools, for instance, a natural place for early detection and successful intervention, have a much lower record of reporting suspected cases and of contributing to control programs than would have been expected. The same can be said about the frequent failure of offices of prosecuting attorneys to provide adequate legal support to child protection agencies in pursuing their services.

An understanding of the factors that both motivate and enable organizations to assume a negative stance toward such a problem is necessary in order to build appropriate incentives and conditions to insure their effective participation. To consider this form of organizational behavior as simply a negation of a tendency toward expanding domains would be mistaken, for these organizations strive to expand in other areas; namely, instructional programs in the case of schools, and criminal justice in the case of prosecuting attorneys. Rather, the explanation lies in the priorities accorded alternative

directions for extending the organizational boundaries, that is, the functions to be added, and the potential for a corresponding increase in resources. With the exception of family and juvenile courts, pediatric services in hospitals, and child protection agencies, other organizations in this study are preoccupied largely with objectives different or much broader than the control of child abuse and neglect. The performance of these latter organizations is not being judged by their contributions to the control of this problem, nor is their involvement likely to enhance their access to resources commensurate with the efforts required.

Three approaches suggest themselves in dealing with this problem: (1) to motivate agencies to undertake certain activities through an increase in resources, appropriate recognition of efforts and results, and other types of incentives; (2) to mandate legally that certain functions and tasks be performed by given agencies, thus defining the boundaries of their responsibility toward the problem in a statutory manner; or (3) to increase awareness about the respective roles they can constructively perform in the control of the problem through educational programs within and outside the agencies. Undoubtedly, the solution lies more in a mix of all three approaches than in an exclusive emphasis upon one.

Two conditions mitigate the effectiveness of these approaches in resolving the articulation of boundaries of agencies addressing the problems of child maltreatment. First, some organizations and professions might view involvement as at least controversial or, worse yet, as conflicting with their primary objectives. The second condition involves the ambiguity that surrounds definitions, criteria, and approaches to the problem, an ambiguity that has been reflected all along in uncertain jurisdictional boundaries and unclear divisions of responsibility among agencies.

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TABLE II-1

Opinion Statements Concerning Contextual Issues and Dilemmas

Responses*				Indices and Statements**
SA	TA	TD	SD	
				Index A: Rights of Parents and Children
31.8	41.6	21.0	5.6	1. The rights of children have long been neglected in favor of parental rights.
31.9	49.5	16.3	2.3	2. Too many children have been mistreated in the name of discipline.
				Index B: State Intervention
1.9	5.4	29.5	63.3	3. Public agencies should stay out of relations between parents and their children.
				Index C: Decision Criteria
16.8	52.4	24.9	5.8	4. It's difficult to say what is and what is not child mistreatment.
13.0	66.1	18.3	2.7	5. It's difficult to determine when parents should have their children returned.
				Index D: Effectiveness of Technology
7.0	29.1	49.0	14.8	6. Treatment for parents who mistreat their children is largely ineffectual.
7.1	31.9	40.7	20.3	7. We just don't know enough to deal effectively with problems of child mistreatment.
				Index E: Punitive Versus Therapeutic Orientation
57.2	36.6	4.7	1.5	8. It is therapy that parents need, not punishment.
5.8	19.9	48.9	25.4	9. People who mistreat their children should have their parental rights terminated.
29.2	60.8	9.1	0.9	10. Parents who mistreat their children are sick, not criminals.
				Index F: Conflicts between Punitive and Therapeutic Approaches
1.5	6.3	49.3	42.9	11. Conflicts between therapeutic services and law enforcement activities cannot be reconciled.
8.1	18.6	46.8	26.5	12. In dealing with child mistreatment, law enforcement efforts should not be mixed with service programs.
				Index G: Role Conflict
4.7	25.9	43.9	25.4	13. Physicians who are known to report cases of mistreatment of children lose the confidence of their patients.

*SA = Strongly Agree, TA = Tend to Agree, TD = Tend to Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree.

**These statements were not presented to the respondents in this order. Also, the interview schedule included opinion statements other than these.

TABLE II-2

Opinions of Respondents on Contextual Issues Related to Child Maltreatment

Indices	Organizations and Respondents							
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL	TOTAL
A. Rights of Parents and Children								
Parent Oriented	6.2	5.3	7.2	15.0	5.2	18.0	18.5	11.0
Medium Position	17.1	21.2	22.8	26.6	20.8	27.7	28.4	23.6
Child Oriented	76.7	73.4	70.0	58.4	74.0	54.3	53.1	65.4
B. State Intervention								
Supports	96.6	93.3	93.4	90.2	95.6	89.7	89.3	92.5
Opposes	3.4	6.7	6.6	9.8	4.4	10.3	10.7	7.5
C. Decision Criteria								
Clear, Specific	20.7	10.9	6.4	5.0	10.4	13.0	10.7	11.1
Medium Position	35.7	25.5	25.7	30.9	26.3	35.8	33.6	30.6
Diffuse, Ambiguous	43.5	63.6	67.9	64.1	63.4	51.6	55.7	58.2
D. Effectiveness of Technology								
Effective	57.4	35.8	44.6	40.5	47.2	43.4	22.1	41.3
Medium Position	26.5	49.1	37.4	38.3	34.3	34.8	43.3	37.8
Not Effective	16.1	15.1	17.9	21.2	18.5	21.8	34.6	20.9
E. Punitive Versus Therapeutic Orientation								
Punitive Orientation	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	1.7	5.1	1.1
Medium Position	8.2	9.9	23.4	20.5	16.7	28.2	50.2	22.7
Therapeutic Orientation	91.8	90.1	76.4	79.5	83.0	70.0	44.7	76.2
F. Conflicts Between Punitive and Therapeutic Approaches								
Reconcilable	58.2	64.4	79.7	65.0	62.2	70.3	76.0	68.3
Medium Position	35.7	34.3	18.5	28.8	32.2	26.5	18.2	27.5
Irreconcilable	6.1	1.3	1.8	6.1	5.7	3.2	5.8	4.2
G. Role Conflict								
High	22.9	41.2	47.4	30.4	26.2	31.3	32.8	33.4
Low	77.1	58.8	52.6	69.6	73.8	68.7	67.2	66.6

CHAPTER III

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PATTERNS

Magnitude of the Problem

Accurate assessments of the magnitude of the problem of child maltreatment and of its dimensions in the various communities would provide a rational basis both for the distribution of resources among agencies and programs and for a meaningful evaluation of their performance. To account for the "true" incidence of abuse and neglect, however, is more of an ideal than attainable goal. Still, an ideal goal serves the important function of indicating ways to improve attainable approximations. Available national estimates of the number of cases of abuse and neglect vary widely. In the following passages, which we quote at length, Sussman and Cohen detail some of the important variations:

> The most commonly quoted national figure is that of 60,000 incidents each year, but what this number denotes is subject to wide interpretation. Senator Mondale, in his opening remarks before the Subcommittee hearings on the Child Abuse Prevention Act of 1973, stated, "Each year, some 60,000 children in this country are reported to have been abused." The Education Commission of the States reports the same figure, but claims that 60,000 children are actually physically abused each year...
>
> David Gil, citing data from a 1965 National Opinion Research Center survey of public attitudes and opinions about physical abuse, estimated that "the figures 2.53 and 4.07 millions, respectively, would represent... the lower and upper limits of

the annual nationwide incidence of child abuse resulting in some injury..." Due to some limitations of the NORC study, however, Gil added that the actual incidence rate, " was not determined by the survey, and is likely to be considerably lower.".

Using Gil's NORC data, but making slightly different assumptions, Richard Light estimates that between 200,000 and 500,000 children are physically abused each year. Additionally, he suggests that 465,000 to 1,170,000 children are severely neglected or sexually molested each year in America.[1]

Sussman and Cohen went on to derive their own national estimates based on the reported incidence of abuse and neglect in the ten most populated states, which include about one-half of the U.S. population, and the confirmation rates of reports in eight states where such records were maintained.[2] Their projections for 1972 and 1973, respectively, yielded 35,267 and 38,779 confirmed cases of abuse figures which they considered to be the "uppermost permissible estimates" from the data available to them.[3] Sussman and Cohen further qualified their findings, noting that the current status of reporting suffers many limitations. Important among these are differences in the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect, in the ages of children covered by the laws, and in the types of cases for which reporting is mandated; diffuseness in identifying criteria; reluctance on the part of many laymen and professionals to report cases they suspect; and the wide discretion officials who receive the reports have in decisions concerning record-keeping and confirmation.

Although aware of these and other shortcomings in the reporting and registering of abuse and neglect, we still felt that an account of the number of reported cases in jurisdictions included

in this survey would be informative, and furthermore, that projections of these figures to the national population would provide useful approximations of the magnitude of the problem in the United States. Three estimates were computed in this analysis of the national incidence of abuse and neglect during the year 1972. These estimates were based upon rates in (a) all sampling jurisdictions in this survey, (b) the State of Florida, and (c) the high-reporting jurisdictions in the survey sample. Data on reporting and confirmation rates, in the sample jurisdictions were also used in projections to arrive at estimates of the "true" rates of confirmable abuse, under existing laws and practices, and estimates of the probabilities of confirmation of reports at varying levels of reporting. This chapter presents the rationale for the assumptions, data elements, computational procedures, and results of these estimates and projections.

Before turning to these estimates, however, it is important to clarify the types and meaning of rates in this analysis. Distinctions need to be made between three types of rates. First, are incidence rates of maltreatment, which constitute the number of new cases that occur during a specified period of time in relation to a given population at the mid-point of that period. A specification of these rates requires knowledge of the time of onset of maltreatment and whether the rates are of episodes or of a pattern of maltreatment. Second, are prevalence rates, which refer to the proportions of victims of maltreatment in a given population at any given time in relation to that population. The third type of rates might be termed incidence of reporting, which comprises the number of cases reported during a period of time in relation to a given population at the mid-point of

that period. Discussion in the literature on child maltreatment often confuses these three types of rates. Because of the chronic nature of much of abuse and neglect, we believe the term prevalence is more applicable than incidence to current data in the literature. In this presentation, the term incidence is used to designate incidence of reporting, rather than that of maltreatment. Exceptions will be found when quoting or referring to the work of others, where the term incidence was used indiscriminately.

Estimates Based on Incidence In All Sampling Jurisdictions

Information was sought from each of the various agencies and respondents covered in this study about the number of abuse and neglect reports or referrals. Since reports from agencies serving the same populations were expected to entail considerable overlap, it was necessary to decide which responses were to be used in estimating incidence rates for the sampling jurisdictions and in projecting estimates to the nation. Controversy over the designation of agencies to be recipients of reports of abuse and neglect generally centered around the relative availability and merits of social service versus the police departments.[4]

For several reasons, incidence estimates from this survey are based on responses from child protection agencies. By 1973, the trend among the states was toward naming child protection agencies either exclusively or in combination with other agencies to receive reports of abuse and neglect. Furthermore, protection agencies are the only organizations whose mission is totally addressed to this problem. These factors alone would have been

sufficient to weight the decision in favor of using responses from these agencies for estimating incidence. However, the sampling plans also made it necessary to rely on data from child protective agencies. These data were the most appropriate for national projections since the jurisdictions of the agencies are coterminous with population reporting units of the U.S. Census.

Questions about the experiences of agencies with the magnitude of the problem elicited data on:

1. The number of cases (children under 18) of abuse and neglect referred or reported to the agency or identified by its personnel during the last year, prior to interviews, for which figures were available.
2. Definitions of the years for which figures were available.
3. The proportions of cases considered abuse and those considered neglect.
4. The proportions of reports of suspected abuse and those of suspected neglect that were subsequently confirmed.

Often, interviewers made second visits to obtain figures related to these questions and, in many instances, were given copies of the agencies' statistical reports or records. It should be noted that interviews were conducted in 129 of the 130 counties and equivalent jurisdictions in which the survey sample was located. Of these 129, data on reported cases were obtained from 116.

These new figures were utilized in computing the incidence for the sample jurisdictions and making national projections based on the weighting framework described in Chapter I. The 13 counties which failed to provide data on the reported incidence of abuse and neglect were assigned the average weighted rates

of the 116 that provided such information. As pointed out earlier, incidence rates of reporting represent the numbers of new reports that occur during a specified period of time, divided by the reference population at the mid-point of that period. Because of the many crudities characteristic of available data on reports of abuse and neglect, however, it was believed unnecessary to make specific population projections for the various sampling jurisdictions for the midpoints of the years represented by the incidence data provided. Instead, it was decided to rely on population figures from the 1970 U.S. Census updated to reflect 1972.

The first two columns in Table III-1 show estimates for the sampling jurisdictions and projections to the U.S. population along several dimensions of the problem. The national projections in the second column were based on the weighted incidence of reported abuse and neglect in the sample areas; this rate was 8.78 per 1000 children under 18 years of age. This means that 611,684 children in these age categories were reported as suspected victims to protective services throughout the country during 1972. Of these, 27.3% (166,702) were considered by these agencies to be cases of abuse; and the remaining 72.7% (444,982) cases of neglect. Of the reported abuse cases 71.3% were confirmed, as were 69.6% of the reported neglect cases.

Projecting these proportions to the U.S. population would lead to estimates of 118,794 confirmed cases of abuse and 309,592 confirmed cases of neglect. In other words, for every 1000 children below 18 years of age in the country, 1.71 cases of abuse and 4.45 of neglect were suspected, brought to the attention of protective services, and confirmed. Because of inadequacies in reporting, to be more fully discussed at a later point, the

numbers of cases and rates of incidence presented above constitute the lowest of the three estimates of the magnitude of the problem prepared for this analysis.

Estimates Based on Incidence In the State of Florida

Whenever the issue of a standard for case identification and reporting is discussed, the State of Florida comes to mind. As mentioned earlier, change in the statutes which govern the reporting of abuse and neglect, as well as the implementation of statewide WATS lines, backed by an effective campaign of public information, raised the number of cases reported in one year (1970 to 1971) from 17 to 19,120 cases. From October 1972 through September 1973 -- the year that most closely represents the period for which figures were obtained from most of the agencies in this survey -- the frequency of such reports had stabilized, reaching 29,013 for children under 17 -- the age limit for which reporting was required by law.

Aside from these statutory age limitations, there were no special reasons to believe that reporting in Florida would have been different for 17 year old children than it was for the 16 year olds (1115 persons). Therefore, it was estimated that 30,099 cases would have been reported in Florida during that year if the ages of children for whom reporting was required had included the 17 year olds. In 1972 the population of children below 18 in Florida was estimated at about 2,118,000.[5] When the rates of reporting are related to this population, the yield is an incidence rate of approximately 14.21 reported cases per 1000 children. Should all parts of the nation have had a level of reporting similar to that of Florida, 1,000,420 reports of

suspected cases would have come to the attention of public authorities (Table III-1).

No precise distinctions are made in the Florida data between "abuse" and "neglect." Nevertheless, on the basis of the types of maltreatment acts committed, Polansky and his associates attempted to classify the cases into these two categories.[6] The results of their efforts led to a ratio of 23.7% cases of abuse to 76.3% of neglect, which differs little from that yielded through the national survey. Applying this ratio to national projections yields 237,100 cases of suspected abuse and 763,320 of suspected neglect. Assuming that the rate of confirmation for all reported cases in the state (56.0%) applies equally to both abuse and neglect, it is possible to estimate 132,776 confirmable cases of abuse and 427,459 of neglect.[7]

If it is warranted to assume that differences between projections based on reporting in Florida and on the weighted average of the sampling jurisdictions is due to under-reporting in the latter, it would be meaningful to compare figures in the second and third columns of Table III-1 for an approximation of the magnitude of under-reporting. Considering the differential rates of confirmation, such a comparison would reveal that 13,982 confirmable cases of abuse and 117,867 of neglect were not reported during the year covered in this study. For these to be identified, 388,736 more cases in the nation would have had to have been brought to the attention of appropriate agencies.

Estimates Based on Incidence In The High-Reporting Jurisdictions

A priori expectations were that, with very minor exceptions, the rates of reporting in Florida (14.21 per 1000 children below 18) would have far exceeded those of all jurisdictions in the sample.

Responses in the survey indicate, however, that the rates of reported incidence of abuse and neglect in the sampling jurisdictions ranged from 0.25 to 59.62 per thousand. Furthermore, of the 129 agencies participating in the study, 21 (representing 21.7% of the population) had actually reported higher rates of incidence than those of Florida. Utilizing data from these 21 jurisdictions, a third set of national projections was prepared, as shown in the fourth column of Table III-1. These projections constitute the upper limits of estimates for the magnitude of the problem that can be derived from our data. It might be argued than an average of the highest ten per cent, or even a more restricted portion of the range of rates, would have been a better estimator of the upper limits. There are no specific rules for selecting among alternative cutting points on a continuum of this type. In order to allow for greater stability in estimates, preference was given in these computations to including all jurisdictions that exceeded Florida. Naturally, this position yields more conservative projections.

As shown in Table III-1, the average weighted rate of reporting for the "highest jurisdictions" was 21.47 per 1000 children under 18 years of age. Of these cases, 17.0% were considered abuse; and the remaining 83.0% neglect. The rates of confirmation for high-reporting jurisdictions varied little from those for the total sample. Projecting these rates to the U.S. population of children under 18 would indicate that a much larger portion of the problem remains unidentified. These projections (last column in Table III-1) show that during that year there would have been 171,547 confirmable cases of abuse or 886,408 of neglect in the nation; these confirmable cases would have

resulted from 254,573 and 1,240,894 reports of suspected cases, respectively.

Should figures from the high-reporting sample jurisdictions constitute closer approximations of the "true" incidence, and considering the differential rates of confirmation, it can be said that 52,753 confirmable cases of abuse and 576,816 cases of neglect failed to be reported during the year covered in the survey. To have reached these cases would have required 87,871 more cases of suspected abuse and 795,912 of neglect to have been reported during the year.

Estimates of "True" Rates of Confirmable Maltreatment and Probabilities of Confirmation

The relations among the rates of reporting of abuse and neglect, the rates of confirmed abuse in the population, and the estimated probability that a case will or will not be confirmed exhibited important patterns. As the rates of reporting increased, the rates of confirmed maltreatment increased rapidly up to a certain point, after which the rate of increase tended to lessen considerably (see the solid part of the curve in Figure I). The relations between the rates of reporting and the estimated probability that maltreatment cases will be confirmed, however, depicted the reverse pattern: the probability of confirming reports of suspected cases dropped sharply as the rates of reporting increased. The curves representing data collected in this study are shown in Figure II. The behavior of these two curves enabled us, through projections based on available data, to obtain three crucial estimates: (1) the rates of confirmable abuse and neglect in the nation under current laws and practices; (2) the rates of reporting needed to uncover given proportions of confirmable maltreatment:

and (3) the probability of confirmation at varying levels of reporting and at varying proportions of known abuse and neglect.

Estimates of the national rates of confirmable abuse were obtained by projecting the curve relating the rates of reporting to those of identified and confirmed abuse to the maximum where all children under 18 would have been reported (Figure I). (To spare the reader the complex technical procedures involved in this projection, this information has been placed in a reference.)[8] The projections yielded a rate of 3.53 per 1000 (± .56) confirmable abuse cases under current laws and organizational practices. These figures indicate three projected rates of confirmable abuse for the year 1972.[9] The rates and the numbers they represent are as follows:

Low (2.97 per 1000)	=	204,978 children
Medium (3.53 per 1000)	=	243,626 children
High (4.09 per 1000)	=	282,275 children

These projections fall within the range of Light's estimates, which ranged from 200,000 to 500,000.[10] It should be noted also that, during 1972, according to the middle projections, 49.1% of the confirmable abuse cases in the nation (involving 124,084 children) remained unidentified.

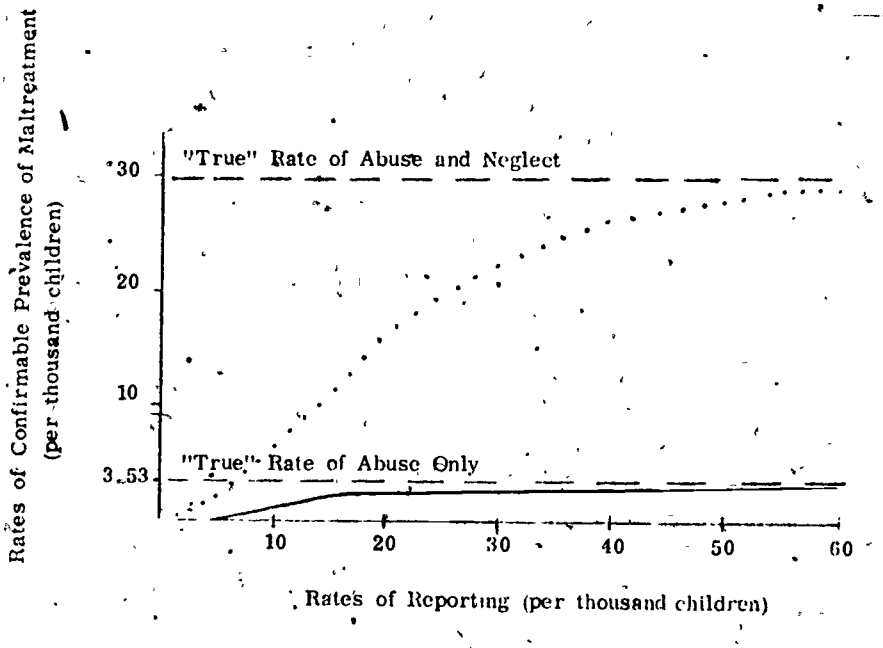
When neglect cases were added to those of abuse, the total rates of confirmable maltreatment in the nation increased dramatically. The estimates obtained for these total rates reached 29.7 per 1000 (± 2.0) for the year 1972. The rates and numbers these figures represent are:

Low (27.7 per 1000)	=	1,911,743 children
Medium (29.7 per 1000)	=	2,049,775 children
High (31.7 per 1000)	=	2,187,807 children

Projections of the rates of reporting in relation to those of identified and confirmed child maltreatment (Figure I) help in estimating the levels of reporting of suspected cases necessary for uncovering given proportions of confirmable cases. For example, according to these estimates, to identify 75% of the confirmable cases of abuse would require reporting at the rate of 20 per 1000; to identify 90% of the confirmable cases would require reporting at the rate of 28 per 1000; and for 95%, 34 per 1000 would be needed. The corresponding figures for total maltreatment (abuse and neglect) are 30 per 1000, 43 per 1000, 52 per 1000, respectively.

Figure I

The Relations Between Rates of Reporting
And Rates of Confirmable Prevalence of Child Maltreatment

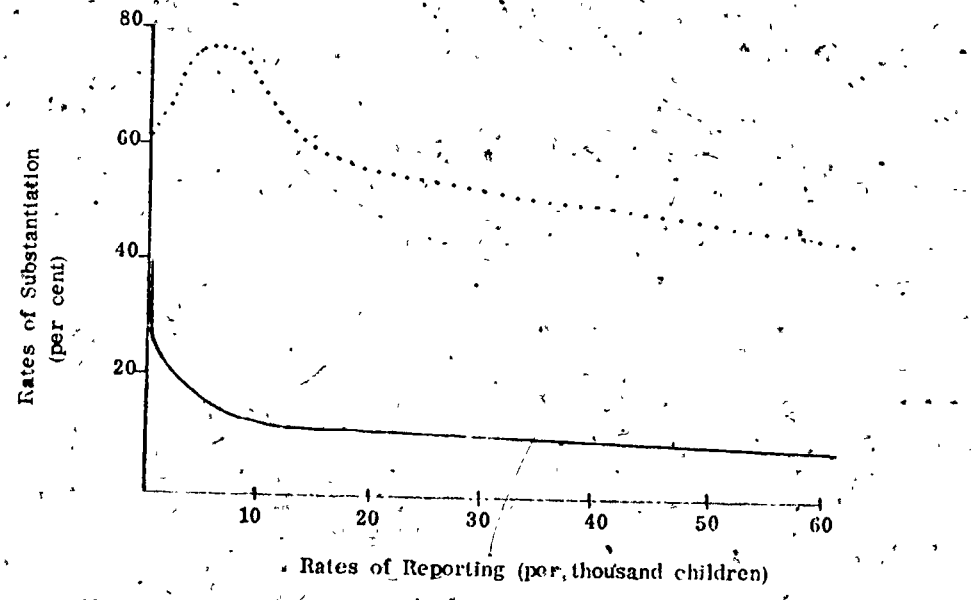


The relations between proportions of the prevalence rates of identifiable maltreatment and the corresponding rates of reporting required holds many implications in regard to policy and program operations. Central in this respect is the question of how much effort and cost in generating and investigating reports would be justified in relation to the additional increments of confirmable abuse uncovered. Information about the severity of maltreatment and the degree of threat to victims would have been very helpful in resolving this question. If the severity of abuse is associated with the rates of reporting and identification in such a way that the more severe cases surface earlier, then the small increments requiring substantially increased reporting would be the least serious and urgent. Because no data on severity were within the scope of this work, however, the issue remains open. It is one that deserves research attention.

Moving now to the third set of estimates yielded through this analysis, we take up the probability that a case will or will not be confirmed at varying levels of reporting. These estimates are commonly referred to as "true positives" and "false positives," respectively. Estimates of the "true negatives" and the "false negatives" were beyond the range of our data, since they would require the screening and investigation of a random sample of non-reported children. The curves in Figure II depict the estimated relations between confirmation rates for abuse cases, for total maltreatment, and for rates of reporting. The confirmation rate for abuse cases declines rapidly as reporting increases. For example, a reporting rate of 10 per 1000 would be associated with a confirmation rate of about 13%; for a reporting rate of 50 per

Figure II

The Relations Between Rates of Reporting
And Rates of Confirmation of Child Maltreatment



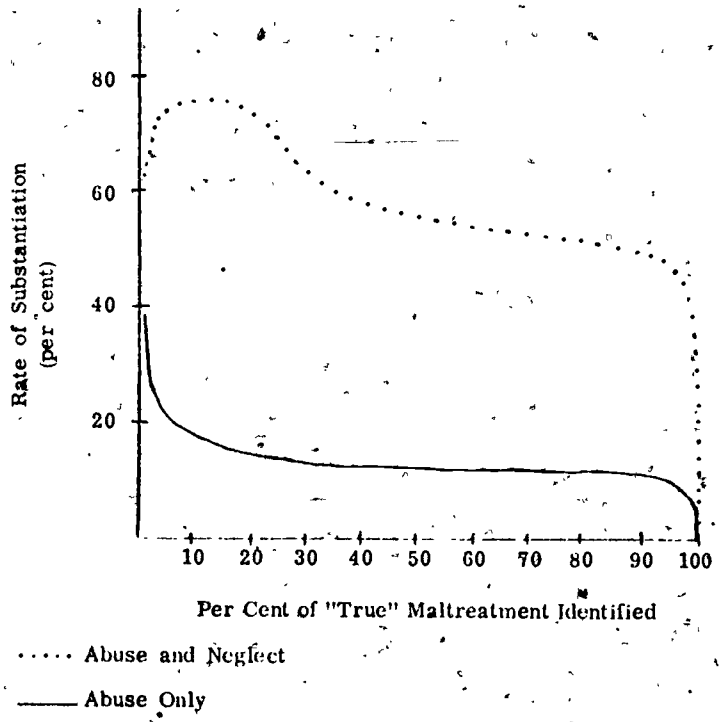
1000, the confirmation rate for abuse cases would drop to about 7%. Projecting this trend up to the maximum point of having all children reported,[11] shows a continued decline in the rates of confirmation. When reporting rates reach 100 per 1000 and 200 per 1000, the rates of confirmation would have decreased to 3.1% and 1.6%, respectively. The rates of confirmation for abuse and neglect combined show a similar pattern. Confirmation rates of 70% and 46%, would be associated with reporting rates of 10 per 1000 and 50 per 1000, respectively. Projections to reporting rates of 100 and 200 per 1000 would mean confirmation at the rates of 32% and 15%, in that order. In other words, the reverse proportions,

68% and 85%, in that order, would have been reported, investigated, and found to entail neither abuse nor neglect as defined by current laws and organizational practices.

Equally, if not more, applicable to policy and program decisions and operations is the ratio of true positives to false positives, that is, the relations between the rates of known maltreatment and the probability that a case will or will not be confirmed. Figure III incorporates a graphic representation of this relation, which shows a rapid decline as the rates of confirmed maltreatment increase. To identify 50% of confirmable cases, false positives will have reached 44% of the cases reported.

Figure III

The Relations Between Proportions of Maltreatment Identified And Rates of Confirmation



According to these projections, to identify 75% and 90% of confirmable maltreatment cases, the proportions of false positives will have reached 48% and 54% of the reported cases. The policy and program issues engendered by these relations concern the appropriate trade-offs between the numbers of families brought into question and subjected to investigation in comparision with the proportion of abused children who remain unidentified. Data on the distribution of severities of abuse in relation to early and later reporting would be equally useful in resolving this issue.

The estimates and figures presented in this analysis represent projections based on a limited range of the rates of reporting, and therefore should be interpreted with caution. Equally important, however, are the techniques used in these projections, which can be applied toward better estimates as data on reporting and rates of confirmation are improved. The same techniques can be used to arrive at estimates specific to the age of children, sex, socio-economic levels, or to any other characteristics. Should data on the severity of abuse become available, this approach to analysis would hold even greater promise for addressing crucial policy and program issues.

Epidemiological Patterns

Initially limited to studies of "epidemics," the field of epidemiology now incorporates the study of the rates, distributions, and determinants of a wide variety of phenomena such as other diseases and disorders, accidents, different forms of deviant behavior, and even health.[12] This change represents an expansion in the concept of what might constitute an epidemic

and a realization that epidemiologic perspectives need not be restricted to the interpretation of epidemic patterns.[13]

Any epidemiological study, including that of child maltreatment, involves both descriptive and analytic aspects. Descriptive epidemiology concerns the estimation of rates of prevalence and incidence, and of the distributions of these rates according to population characteristics. The objective in analytical epidemiology is to derive and ascertain causal inferences about determinants of child maltreatment. Such inferences form the basis for defining the populations at risk, helping to develop preventive measures and to focus their application.

Advancement in epidemiologic knowledge requires the presence of a number of elements: (1) clear definitions; (2) classifications useful to both conceptual and applied purposes; (3) specific and objective criteria and empirical indicators; (4) thorough case identification and the absence of systematic bias in unidentified cases; and (5) plausible and verifiable conceptual frameworks or theories that specify explanatory factors and help guide the collection and analysis of data. A realistic assessment of the current status of the epidemiology of child maltreatment would reveal that developments along all of these five aspects remain primitive.

Descriptive Aspects

From a descriptive viewpoint, reported cases of abuse and neglect constitute the most meaningful source of data. Estimates of the magnitude of the problem, presented in the foregoing section of this chapter, were based upon the frequency of new

reports, and thus represent neither the incidence nor the prevalence of child maltreatment. The incidence of maltreatment requires knowledge of the time of onset; such information would be difficult to verify. Furthermore, estimates of the prevalence rates of maltreatment would have required the inclusion of cases already part of the case loads of agencies. Consequently, considering the present status of definitions, classification, and case identification, the incidence of new reports constitutes an important estimator of the magnitude of the problem.

Inconsistencies among the sampling jurisdictions in the agencies' systems of classification hampered the collection of meaningful data on the characteristics of abused and neglected children, alleged abusers, and the nature of maltreatment acts or their manifestations. Reports of suspected abuse and neglect in Florida during the year covered in the survey were converted into rates specific to age, sex, and ethnic categories. The significance of these rates (Table III-2) derives from the fact that they represent the situation in a large state with a diversified population and a nationally acclaimed system for case identification and reporting.

For the heuristic value this might serve, the social distributions of abuse and neglect indicated by these rates were projected to the national population. As distributions in Table III-2 show, the rate of reported maltreatment was highest among children below four years of age (20.9 per 1000) and declined with advancing age. Grouping children in the age categories presented in the table did not obscure major fluctuations from year to year. To illustrate, the rates for

below one year, one, two, and three years of age did not vary greatly. The same can be said for differences by individual years within each category. Aside from the ethnic category "other," figures in this table also show that the rates of reported abuse and neglect in Florida were highest among whites and lowest among Spanish-Americans. The rates were consistently higher for females than for males across all ethnic groups except among American-Indians, where differences in rates are clearly in the reverse direction.

Continuing with projections based upon the incidence of reporting maltreatment in Florida, Table III-3 shows the distribution of alleged abusers in the state and the corresponding numbers in the nation for each of the three national estimates presented earlier. We shall designate the estimates based on all sampling jurisdictions, on the State of Florida, and on the high-reporting jurisdictions in the sample as low, medium, and high, respectively. The figures indicate that allegations in reported cases would place mothers as the most frequent abusers, followed by both parents, and then fathers. A sizable proportion of suspected abuse and neglect was attributed to stepparents and mothers' boyfriends. Furthermore, when one considers the relatively smaller proportions of children in foster homes, the significance of involvement of foster parents in the maltreatment of children in their custody becomes apparent.

The Florida data also included a classification of the types of abuse and neglect reported. Again, in Table III-4, the distributions of these types were projected to the three national estimates of the magnitude of the problem. As would be expected, categories

indicative of neglect account for the great majority of cases. For example: medical neglect, disorganized family life, abandonment, being left unattended, and the lack of necessities (food, clothing, and/or shelter) exceeded two-thirds of all cases. Among problems suggestive of abuse: beatings, bruises, and sexual abuse constituted the highest proportions, in that order.

Especially significant are projections to the ratio of the numbers of children who died because of suspected abuse; they ranged from a high of 927 to a low of 380. Of all dimensions of child maltreatment, cases resulting in death can be most expected to exhibit the iceberg phenomenon, where the submerged portions are much larger than that which appears on the surface. In fact, many forms of death in early infancy previously attributed to a variety of natural causes are now being seriously questioned concerning the possibility of consciously or subconsciously motivated acts of negligence on the part of parents and guardians.

Analytic Aspects

Advancement in the analytic and descriptive aspects of epidemiology are highly interdependent. The reciprocal nature of their relations is emphasized when one considers, for example, that although clarifying concepts and improving estimates of rates and distributions aids chiefly in testing explanatory propositions and theories, the resulting increase in the sophistication of the explanations in turn contributes greatly to the clarification of concepts and classifications and hence, ultimately, to better collection of data.

A plethora of hypotheses have been advanced in attempts to explain child abuse and neglect. They have been related to poverty and economic stress, especially in the case of neglect;[14] to male unemployment, because of the role problems it creates

and the economic stress it precipitates;[15] to the culturally sanctioned use of physical force in child rearing;[16] and to other cultural values concerning child care.[17] Child maltreatment has been also explained in terms of the psychopathology of parents, their addictive or alcholic behavior, their isolation and loneliness, unwanted pregnancies, the pressure of large numbers of children, and the prevalence of marital problems.[18] Furthermore, repeated references have been made to child abuse as a learned behavior, in the sense that abusive persons were themselves the victim of abuse during their childhood, and that they even tend to apply the same methods.[19]

In pursuit of additional epidemiological leads, and to assess existing propositions against the experiences of respondents in this survey, respondents were asked to characterize those parents and guardians "most likely to abuse" and those "most likely to neglect" their children. The weighted responses are presented in Tables III-5 and III-6. Although many of the responses coincide with propositions in the literature, it would be difficult to ascertain whether these consistencies represent confirmation through truly independent observations, or merely reflect the respondents' knowledge of the literature. A comparison of distributions in the two tables clearly indicates that economic factors were assigned a greater role in neglect than in abuse. Comparisons across groups of respondents also reveal some interesting differences; caseworkers and nurses, for example, tended to mention emotional states more frequently than respondents from police departments and the courts. Alcoholism, drug addiction, mental and emotional disturbance, and stepparents were more often mentioned by respondents from law enforcement agencies.

Much of the writing and most empirical studies are concerned with the attributes of perpetrators of abuse and neglect, rather than with the characteristics of the children involved, other than the standard socio-demographic identifications. Questions were included in this survey seeking information about the traits of those children more likely, as well as those less likely, to be abused or neglected. Consistently, both abuse and neglect were reported by the various groups of respondents to have occurred less frequently among adopted children than among others. On the other hand, the general consensus of respondents was that the mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed were more likely to be the target of abuse and neglect. These latter observations raise the question of causal direction, that is, whether such forms of maltreatment occur more often among children with these impairments, or whether the impairments are the result of the maltreatment. It is highly probable that there are mutual influences in the relationship. Characteristics mentioned of children more likely to have been maltreated included "hyperactive," "bright," and "young." The latter responses are consistent with the age specific rates of cases reported in Florida.

Towards an Epidemiologic Theory of Child Maltreatment

It was not the intention of this work to develop an epidemiological theory of child maltreatment, nor are the elements of such a theory sufficiently identified, let alone tested. Nevertheless, certain features and considerations might be anticipated in relation to both substance and form. First, it must be recognized that child maltreatment is a multicausal phenomenon; hypotheses and

propositions need not be viewed as competing explanations. Rather, attempts should be made to integrate hypotheses into cumulative systems which, as they grow, would explain more of the variance in that type of behavior.

Second, it is important to emphasize that explanations of child maltreatment, or of any other phenomenon for that matter, can be formulated at varying levels of abstraction. Although highly abstract formulations exhibit greater elegance and provide for more economy of thought, they are generally less amenable to verification and are less likely to include guides for action. It is one thing, for example, to relate child maltreatment to the feelings of alienation and powerlessness over forces that shape one's life. To explain maltreatment in terms of unwanted pregnancies or drug addiction constitutes a different, and a more concrete, level of explanation. Theoretical developments at one level of abstraction facilitate those on other levels. The current state of epidemiological knowledge is such that systematic developments at any level on the continuum of abstractness-concreteness should be welcomed.

Third, it is necessary to note that there can be economic, psychological, political, sociological, and other theories of maltreatment, each providing only a partial explanation of the problem. This is an extension of what was mentioned earlier concerning the segmental nature of explanations that any single hypothesis can provide. The same can be said for any given discipline, as well as its basic theories. For example, propositions derived from learning theories can only account for a portion of the variance in child maltreatment, as can

propositions derived from a theory of motivation. It is one thing to use a behavioral pattern such as child maltreatment as an instance for testing a theory of socialization, learning, or the labor market, the interest primarily being to attend and add confirmation to that theory. It is a different matter when the task is to look for explanatory propositions that account for as much variance in child maltreatment as possible, regardless of their theoretical or disciplinary origins.

An examination of Kaplan's two types of theories can illuminate the point under discussion. Building upon distinctions made by Einstein concerning forms of theory construction, Kaplan differentiates between "hierarchical" and "concatenated" theories. A hierarchical theory is organized like "a deductive pyramid in which we rise to fewer and more general laws as we move from conclusions to premises which entail them."[20] In contrast, the concatenated or "pattern" type is one "whose component laws... typically, ... converge on some central point, each specifying one of the factors which plays a part in the phenomenon which the theory is to explain."[21]

The hierarchical model is better suited for codifying the principles of the disciplines, that is, their basic and often abstract theory. The concatenated or pattern form, however, is more appropriate for theories explaining given problems, such as child maltreatment, which become the focal point for the convergence of contributing factors. The eclecticism implied in this latter type of theory need not lead to the unsystematic selection of causal factors, nor should the product constitute an unintegrated inventory or collection of these factors. The chief merit of the concatenated form is

that it organizes knowledge in a way that offers as complete an explanation of the problem as possible. Furthermore, it allows for the integration of propositions from potentially diverse perspectives, and it can be formulated at concrete enough levels to provide guides for action.

From a substantive viewpoint, child maltreatment is the result of interaction among a number of constellations of factors. An uninclusive set of categories for such factors would include the perpetrators, the victims, the personal attributes each brings to the interaction, the environmental and situational factors that influence the behavior of both parents and children leading to such acts, and the critical incidents that may act as catalysts triggering episodes of abuse or other forms of maltreatment. Clear and useful classifications and typologies are sorely needed, for specific types may require differing explanations. The episodic physical violence of a mother against an infant during the early months of life may have little in common with malnutrition because of lack of resources, and both can be expected to vary widely from the sexual abuse of a teenage girl by a parent or guardian.

At present, the difficulties facing the creation of an epidemiological theory of child maltreatment are numerous; to begin with, arguments still rage over such basic etiological questions as whether maltreatment is of psychogenic or sociogenic origin.[22] Useful as they are, each of the propositions in the literature can only offer a segmental explanation of child maltreatment. The lack of coherent theoretical frameworks capable of interrelating these propositions has contributed to a number of fruitless tendencies and limitations in current analytical

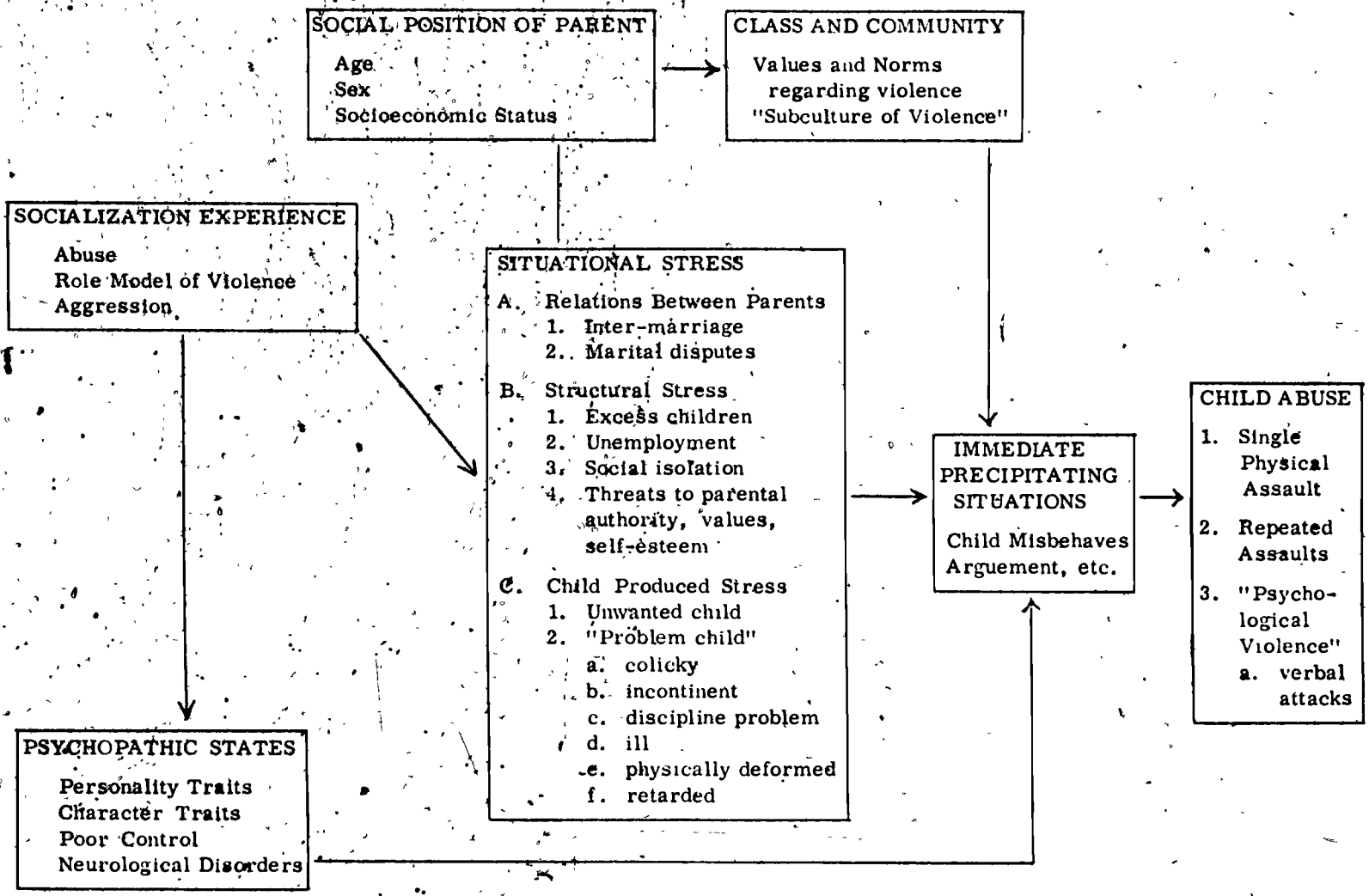
material about the problem. Thus hypotheses tend to be offered as mutually exclusive alternatives, rather than as complimentary aspects of broader explanatory systems. Furthermore, in the absence of developed theories to guide the identification of significant propositions, the selection of explanatory factors has proceeded on a highly empirical and accidental basis. Thus, the more common explanations are of the ex-post-facto type.

Recognition must be given, however, to efforts toward broader frameworks that attempt to integrate existing classifications and propositions. An example of these is one offered by Gelles (Figure IV), described as representing a social-psychological perspective.[23] Appropriately, the author qualifies the scheme by concluding that "the purpose of presenting this model of factors influencing child abuse is not to suggest an exhaustive list of approaches nor to select one that is superior to the others... the purpose is to illustrate the complexity and the interrelationships of the factors that lead to child abuse."[24]

Also useful in presenting a more dynamic, process-oriented picture of the problem of maltreatment is the stress curve. Suggested by Koos and further illustrated by Hill and others, it has been employed in studies related to families during the depression and under conditions of war separation.[25] The conceptual structure underlying this curve should also assist in organizing the variables involved beyond simple inventories. As shown in Figure V, the wavy line between (a) and (b) represents fluctuations in family relations that remain within limits of acceptable behavior. At (b) a critical incident may occur that precipitates a crisis situation leading to an incidence of abuse. A severe or a series of repeated incidents might result in a serious problem for the child,

FIGURE IV

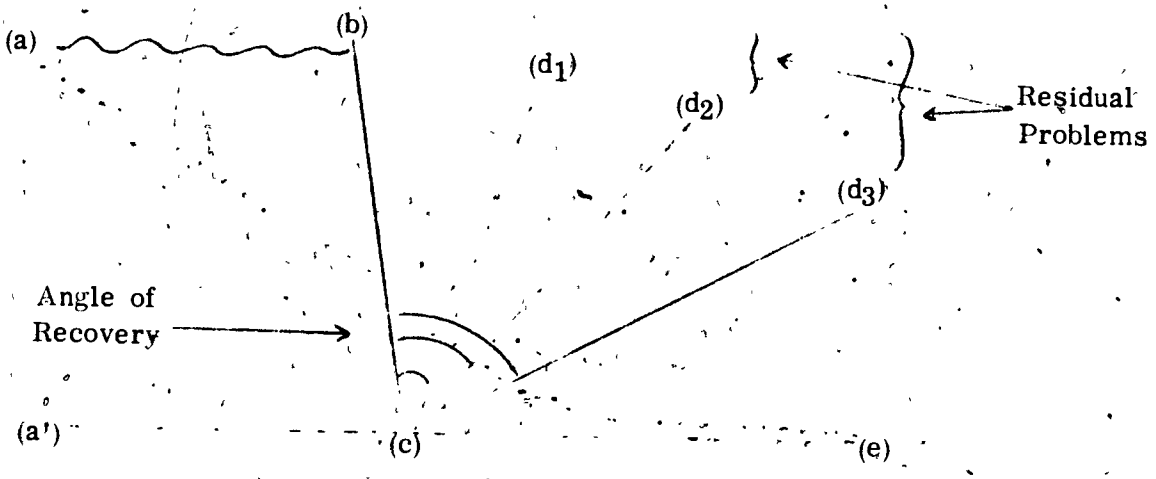
Gelles Social Psychological Model of The Causes of Child Abuse



and most likely the family as well. Reports and investigations may occur, plunging the family into the level of disorganization depicted by (c). The objective of intervention is to stop the deteriorating conditions and redirect the trend toward greater family adjustment and higher levels of performance, as depicted by (d_1, d_2, and d_3, etc.). Differences between (a) and (d_1, d_2, and d_3) represent the residual malfunctioning of the family.

Figure V

Abuse and Neglect Within The Context Of Family Functioning



Hypotheses have been formulated concerning the relations between the "angle of recovery" and the levels of performance regained. It is generally postulated that the narrower the angle, the higher the level of functioning that families attain. It has also been hypothesized that the level of pre-crisis organization the family had attained is an important factor in determining the levels of functions regained after the crisis. It should be mentioned also

that the fluctuations between (a) and (b) may include repeated incidents of abuse that do not precipitate major crises. Finally, in terms of severity, timing, angle of recovery, and the level of functioning regained, the process will vary depending on the perspective from which it is viewed. Considered from the perspectives of the victimized children, the perpetrators, and the family as a whole, different curves can be expected to emerge.

Not all cases of child maltreatment follow this pattern in their natural history, where the points of onset, the points of control of crises, and the angles of recovery can be identified. Certain forms may represent a steady, slow, progressive decline--a pattern of neglect or insidious non-manifest abuse as depicted by the dotted line (a) to (e) in Figure V. Another pattern common to neglect stemming from insufficiency of economic resources is that shown graphically by the broken line (a') to (e) in the same figure. It represents families that have never been in position to provide appropriate levels of care for their children.

The interactions of perpetrators and victims is governed by certain values and norms that constitute the institution of the family. Although child abuse and neglect predate the emergence of the nuclear family, generally considered characteristic of modern industrial states, the question persists as to whether or not changes in the family have led to an increase in the incidence of abuse and neglect. There are fundmental issues to be explored in this respect. To begin with, the question must be raised as to whether or not there has been an actual increase in incidence and prevalence, or whether this problem is taking new and different forms and is only becoming more evident through better identification and reporting.

Is the interaction among members of nuclear families becoming too intensive for some parents and children to bear without breaks or other kinds of relief? Did the time children spent with relatives or others in extended families and traditional communities, which often acted as an extension of familial relations, formerly provide such relief? Are families finding it difficult to insulate children from influences contradictory to their values and beliefs, with the result that their controls are challenged beyond their tolerance? Are children actually confronted with "generational gaps" that create or accentuate conflicts? Are the emergence and prevalence of contractual forms of social and economic security through public and private programs changing the meaning and significance children once had for the security of the parents at times of need? Are the rise of careerism, notions of self-fulfillment, and similar movements -- as well as changes in other institutions, such as the economy, religion, education, and the law -- affecting the norms defining parental responsibilities and their dispensations toward fulfillment? To be applicable, a theory addressed to these issues must not only identify those factors in the family that relate to the incidence of child maltreatment, but also seek explanations for their change as well.

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2. Ibid., pp. 121-26.
3. Ibid., pp. 125-26.
4. For a more detailed discussion, see: Ibid., pp. 87-96.
5. This estimate was based on statistics provided by the following source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. City and County Data Book: 1972. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973), p. 78.
6. Polansky, N.A., C. Hally and N. F. Polansky. State of Knowledge of Child Neglect: Final Report to the Community Service Administration. (Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia, 1974).
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8. Two important relationships were discovered to follow clear patterns conceptually and in the data: (a) the rate of confirmation of abuse reports, defined as the number of confirmed abuse cases divided by the total number of reports at any level of reporting; and (b) the identifted abuse rate, defined as the number of confirmed abuse cases divided by the number of children in the population, for any level of reporting. Thus, both relationships are functions of the rate of reporting and will be referred to hereafter as S(R) and A(R), respectively, where R is the rate of reporting per child (in other words, the proportion of children upon whom reports are being received).

   Conceptually it is clear that A(R) increases monotonically throughout its entire domain, since the number of confirmed abuse cases either increases or remains the same as the rate of reporting increases. Conversely, except for extremely small reporting rates, S(R) decreases monotonically, since the confirmation rate is

8. (continued)

expected to be high for moderately small reporting rates and low for higher rates. This can be easily seen in the extreme case where the entire population of children is being reported, and clearly, only those actual cases of abuse would result in confirmed reports. For extremely small reporting rates, however, no clear conceptual pattern exists because the value S(Ø) is indeterminate.

Additionally, other patterns can be derived. First, S(R) and A(R) are clearly related by their definitions. In fact, S(R) = A(R)/R, thus making either derivable from the other. Secondly, A(R) and S(R) converge to the "true" rate of child abuse, that is, S(1) = A(1) = "true" rate of abuse.

The objective was to identify this "true" rate of abuse by identifying a family of curves which possess all these characteristics, and from this family to choose the one best fitting the data collected in the study. Given this exact curve, the "true" rate of abuse can be estimated, as well as other relationships important to the policy level decision process, such as the proportion of the "true" cases being identified and the rate of nonconfirmation for any level of reporting.

The following is the family of functions that has the appropriate properties:

$$\text{Let } G(R) = G(R;a,b,c) = c \cdot \int_0^R t^{a-1}(1-t)^{b-1}\,dt,$$

where a, b, c, are parameters whose values were to be estimated from the data. Once these values were computed, the estimated "true" rate of child abuse becomes:

$$G(1) = c \cdot \frac{\Gamma(a)\,\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)},$$

where $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function evaluated at the value x.

Preliminary trials indicate that by setting a to equal 2 and by varying b and c, a good fit for A(R) could still be achieved. In this case,

$$G(R,2,b,c,) = c \int_0^R t\,(1-t)^{b-1}\,dt = \frac{c}{(b+1)b}\,[1-(1+bR)(1-R)^b] =$$

$$c^*\,[1-(1+bR)(1-R)^b].$$

8. (continued)

Now $G(1) = c^*$. Using weighted data from the CPS jurisdictions in the sample, which provided data on reporting, and the BMD07R (BMDX85) non-linear regression routine estimates of b and c^* were obtained that minimized the mean square error. A number of different starting values were chosen for b and c^* to demonstrate the stability of the final estimates. The final estimates were:

$b = 138.22$ with standard deviation 28.52

$c^* = .0035293$ with standard deviation .00056

The same relationships exist between (c) the rate of confirmation of abuse and neglect reports and (d) the identified abuse and neglect rate for any level or reporting. Using the same family of functions as before and the same computational techniques, the final estimates were:

$b = 88.42$ with standard deviation 6.06

$c^* = .02974$ with standard deviation .00196

9. Estimates are based on the number of children under 18 in the U.S., as estimated for 1972 (69,016,000). See Resident Population, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 511, Department of Commerce, The U. S. Bureau of the Census, (January 1974).

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TABLE III-1

Estimates of Reported Incidence of Child Abuse and Neglect in the Sampling Jurisdictions and Three Projections To the United States Population

Items	Estimates in Sampling Jurisdictions	Projections to the U.S. Population		
		Based on Incidence in all Sampling Jurisdictions	Based on Incidence in Florida**	Based on Incidence in Highest Sampling Jurisdiction
Number of Children* Below 18 years of age	21,673,282	69,644,081	69,644,081	69,644,081
Weighted Incidence Rates of Abuse and Neglect. (per 1000 children)	8.78	8.78	14.21	21.47
Numbers of Reported Cases of Abuse and Neglect	185,850	611,684	1,000,420	1,495,467
Weighted Proportion of All Reports Considered Abuse	27.3	27.3	23.7	17.0
Number of Cases Considered Abuse	50,737	166,702	237,100	254,573
Weighted Proportion of All Reports Considered Neglect	72.7	72.7	76.3	83.0
Number of Cases Considered Neglect	135,113	444,982	763,320	1,240,894
Weighted Proportion of Reported Abuse Confirmed	71.3	71.3	56.0	67.4
Number of Cases of Reported Abuse Confirmed	36,156	118,794	132,776	171,547
Weighted Proportion of Reported Neglect Confirmed	69.6	69.6	56.0	71.4
Number of Cases of Reported Neglect Confirmed	94,004	309,592	427,459	886,408

For calculating numbers of cases, the rates used included three decimal digits. Therefore, differences are due to rounding off to one decimal digit.

*Based on population figures reported in 1970 U.S. Census.

**Rates of confirmation in Florida were 56.0% (see Sussman and Cohen, op. cit., p. 129).

TABLE III-2

Florida Rates of Reported Incidence of Abuse and Neglect by Age, Sex and Race, and Projecting to the U.S. Population

Characteristics	Reporting Incidence per 1000 Children*	Numbers in the U.S. Population**
Age Categories		
Less Than 4	20.9	282,747
4 - 5	17.2	127,286
6 - 8	14.7	176,693
9 - 12	12.2	204,846
13 - 15	11.7	142,893
16 - 17	8.5	65,955
TOTAL	14.2	1,000,420
Sex and Race		
White Male	15.2	425,573
White Female	16.0	429,166
Black Male	13.3	64,168
Black Female	14.1	67,689
American Indian Male	6.5	1,103
American Indian Female	2.7	463
Oriental Male	8.8	2,051
Oriental Female	9.4	2,193
Spanish-American Male	1.1	2,223
Spanish-American Female	1.2	2,454
Other Male	19.6	1,482
Other Female	23.8	1,760
TOTAL	14.2	1,000,325

*Based on projected 1972 Florida population and 1972 reporting rate.

**Based on population figures reported in the 1970 U.S. Census.

TABLE III-3

Distributions of Alleged Abusers in Florida
and Projected Numbers in the U.S. Population

Alleged Abusers	Florida Distributions %	Projected Numbers in the U.S.* Low Estimates	Medium Estimates	High Estimates
Total	100.0	611,684	1,000,420	1,495,467
Mother	50.5	308,814	505,070	754,999
Father	15.5	94,817	155,075	231,812
Both Parents	22.6	138,590	226,666	338,830
Aunt	0.6	3,751	6,136	9,171
Uncle	0.3	1,939	3,171	4,740
Grandfather	0.3	1,686	2,757	4,122
Grandmother	1.2	7,671	12,546	18,755
Grandparents	0.4	2,339	3,826	5,719
Step-Mother	0.6	3,562	5,825	8,708
Step-Father	3.4	20,927	34,227	51,165
Foster Mother	0.2	1,370	2,241	3,349
Foster Father	0.1	443	724	1,082
Babysitter	0.6	3,541	5,790	8,656
Mother's Boyfriend	1.4	8,304	13,581	20,301
Neighbor	0.2	1,075	1,759	2,628
Other	1.8	10,769	17,614	26,329
Unknown	0.3	2,086	3,412	5,101

*Based on population figures reported in the 1970 U.S. Census.

TABLE III-4

Distributions of Types of Abuse and Neglect In
Florida and Projected Numbers in the U.S. Population

Type of Abuse and Neglect	Florida Distributions %	Projected Numbers in the U.S.* Low Estimates	Medium Estimates	High Estimates
Total	100.0	611,684	1,000,420	1,495,467
Dead on Arrival	0.3	211	345	515
Death Due to an Injury	0.3	169	276	412
Sexual Abuse	2.7	16,860	27,575	41,220
Skull Fracture	0.1	653	1,068	1,597
Broken Bones	0.4	2,402	3,930	5,874
Cuts	0.6	3,836	6,274	9,378
Burns	0.7	4,489	7,342	10,975
Bruises	4.6	28,472	46,568	69,610
Beatings	16.0	97,978	160,245	239,541
Malnutrition	0.8	5,374	8,791	13,139
Medical Neglect	6.0	36,650	59,940	89,602
Disorganized Family Life	31.0	189,655	310,183	463,675
Abandonment	3.5	21,792	35,640	53,277
Unattended	21.6	132,246	216,290	323,321
Lack of Food, Clothing and Shelter	7.5	45,754	74,831	111,861
School Problems	2.3	14,479	23,680	35,398
Other	1.5	9,652	15,787	23,599
Unknown	0.1	1,012	1,655	2,473

*Based on population figures from the 1970 U.S. Census.

TABLE III-5

Characteristics of Persons Likely to Abuse Children

Characteristics	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Unhappy childhood	71.4	51.0	37.8	35.5	45.2	28.0	25.8
Have too many children	5.6	15.8	9.4	9.0	9.3	8.1	9.2
Marital problems	14.9	16.9	8.3	11.7	16.6	14.8	13.3
One-parent family	13.1	8.8	8.3	10.6	7.3	5.2	16.8
Step-parents	1.6	2.0	7.1	5.3	1.9	11.2	13.3
Under emotional pressure	52.4	44.8	35.9	30.5	42.7	29.1	23.8
Low economic level	13.7	14.2	15.0	17.7	12.3	18.7	25.1
Under financial stress	12.6	12.5	20.1	12.1	17.9	14.0	10.3
Higher economic levels	0.1	2.6	4.3	1.4	2.6	0.5	1.8
Strict disciplinarians	10.4	3.7	4.2	3.4	8.1	6.6	1.2
Uninterested in their children	0.0	1.7	2.7	0.4	0.3	3.9	2.6
Uneducated, low intelligence	27.3	27.2	24.0	34.5	27.7	29.1	27.9
Selfish	6.7	2.7	12.0	2.6	2.6	3.6	6.8
Low self-esteem	7.8	3.3	8.9	4.8	7.2	2.9	1.1
No friends, family for support	18.3	6.3	3.2	5.7	5.9	2.1	5.4
Hysterical, impulsive	8.5	3.6	6.3	2.3	3.2	3.7	1.3
Violence part of life-style	0.0	5.7	1.4	1.9	1.2	0.5	2.5
Young, immature	27.2	29.3	11.7	23.6	22.7	13.7	21.2
Violent, quick-tempered, mean	3.2	4.8	10.2	10.4	9.8	9.4	4.8
Mentally ill and emotionally disturbed	42.9	50.1	48.1	48.1	53.8	46.8	41.1
Physically ill	1.2	7.8	5.3	2.3	5.0	0.1	1.8
Alcohol, drug addiction	26.6	18.1	24.7	27.2	17.2	26.0	40.0
Parents of problem children	5.3	4.9	2.1	7.5	5.2	0.8	2.1
All types - nothing specific	4.8	0.8	2.8	6.9	4.4	12.9	4.0
Other	10.0	13.0	14.2	9.9	10.6	13.3	14.0
Don't Know	0.0	1.6	0.8	1.6	2.5	2.6	1.1

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE III-6

Characteristics of Persons Likely to Neglect Children

Characteristics	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Unhappy Childhood	33.6	31.3	13.0	17.8	23.8	17.0	16.4
Have too many children	5.2	15.9	7.0	13.6	13.6	6.8	7.6
Marital Problems	5.5	11.7	6.2	7.2	6.7	11.8	8.5
One-parent family	11.2	12.5	14.1	12.6	7.6	12.3	24.0
Step-parents	0.3	1.7	3.0	4.9	0.8	6.1	11.6
Under emotional pressure	27.3	22.6	26.9	19.2	24.0	19.3	15.1
Low economic level	38.1	25.6	33.9	39.7	27.6	30.5	35.6
Under financial stress	15.1	12.6	22.9	13.1	14.2	15.5	10.4
Higher economic levels	4.9	11.7	15.1	10.3	16.4	12.2	10.1
Strict disciplinarians	3.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	3.0	1.3	0.6
Uninterested in their children	0.8	4.2	2.2	5.4	4.8	6.1	4.2
Uneducated, low intelligence	40.6	52.3	36.1	47.8	43.5	40.2	27.3
Selfish	13.0	12.2	21.0	9.9	8.3	12.6	13.1
Low self-esteem	2.9	2.2	3.9	2.4	3.0	2.6	1.2
No friends, family for support	7.7	4.3	0.7	4.3	3.6	2.3	0.4
Hysterical, impulsive	2.5	3.1	0.8	1.8	1.0	0.4	0.3
Violence part of life-style	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.9	1.6	0.2
Young, immature	28.2	27.5	13.5	20.3	23.9	11.1	16.1
Violent, quick-tempered, mean	1.4	3.5	2.3	2.4	3.6	2.5	2.1
Mentally ill and emotionally disturbed	42.1	29.4	32.2	32.9	35.1	35.6	25.4
Physically ill	6.0	4.8	5.1	3.2	5.6	2.9	1.6
Alcohol, drug addiction	19.5	17.6	20.7	20.1	14.1	29.3	42.4
Parents of problem children	0.3	4.0	0.4	6.1	3.0	0.8	2.8
All types - nothing specific	2.8	2.5	5.5	8.9	3.3	11.7	3.5
Other	9.6	15.9	22.3	18.0	11.8	9.0	16.5
Don't Know	2.0	1.6	2.9	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.3

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

CHAPTER IV

STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF PROGRAMS

One of the primary objectives of this work was to examine important features of the structure and performance of programs concerned with child abuse and neglect. The presentation of findings related to such an inquiry could be organized in several ways, three of which seemed most promising: (1) around each of the agencies included in the survey; (2) around categories common to much of the current literature on evaluation such as objectives, structure, input, process, and outcome; or (3) around what might be called "functional" categories -- categories that organize elements of structure and performance in terms of certain problem and program-oriented topics.

After careful consideration, the third alternative was chosen. The main advantage of functional categories is that they more fully reveal both the interaction among agencies and the dynamics of problems and programs than do the other two alternatives. Furthermore, organizing the discussion and findings around "functional" topics still makes it possible to discern a meaningful picture of the roles of the various types of agencies as reflected in the profiles of their actions and approaches to problems. The selection of topics followed the sequence of activities in programs addressed to child maltreatment: identification and reporting, response to reporting, availability and provision of services, legal intervention and the problems of custody and placement, decision-making, and the coordination of programs.

Case Identification and Reporting

The importance of accuracy and proper timing in identifying and reporting cases of child abuse and neglect cannot be overstated. Most importantly, case-finding is the first step in the initiation of protective and treatment services. Furthermore, knowledge of the social distributions of abuse and neglect, and of the factors precipitating them, is necessary for identifying populations at risk and for mounting effective efforts toward prevention. And as mentioned earlier, the quality of epidemiological knowledge concerning these problems depends largely upon the validity of available incidence data. In the following paragraphs, we will explore the sources, procedures, and limitations of identifying and reporting child maltreatment as they apply to the various agencies.

The investigative role and the authority of child protection agencies, the police, and the courts have made them the most frequent recipients of reports. Schools and hospitals also constitute important settings for the observation of children; for although they may receive reports from outside sources about suspected abuse and neglect, personnel in these two types of institutions have greater opportunity to identify cases on their own. Finally, cases may come to the attention of public health nurses from a variety of sources, as well as from their own observations in the residences they visit.

Respondents from child protective agencies, police and sheriff departments, and public health nursing divisions were asked identical questions concerning the sources from which they learned about suspected abuse and neglect during the year prior to the survey. Essentially the same information was

sought from respondents in the courts, who were asked about the origins of "affidavits" filed in connection with these problems. Data obtained from these agencies are presented in Table IV-1. Sources varied markedly from one receiving agency to another. Relatives, friends, and neighbors were responsible for large proportions of reports to the police (48.6%) and to child protective services (31.1%). These latter agencies seem to have been involved in a relatively high rate of referrals to public health nurses (21.9%), as did hospitals and clinics (18.4%). Schools, hospitals and clinics, other social welfare services, and the police and sheriff departments all contributed in similar levels to reports reaching child protective agencies. It is important to note the relatively low exchange between these agencies and the police in terms of the levels of reciprocal reporting or referral. By far, the greatest proportion of affidavits submitted to the courts emanated from protective agencies. Responses in the table confirm the disinclination on the part of persons in private practice, including physicians, to become involved in reporting child maltreatment to public agencies. Finally, it should be added that of all the cases that became known to them, public health nurses themselves "came across" 44.9% during "home visits," 17.0% in schools, and 38.1% in settings such as clinics, child health conferences, and others.

Although varying somewhat in classification, the distribution of sources of reports in the State of Florida for the year comparable to that covered in the survey shows similar trends. Family and relatives were responsible for 24.0% of the reports; and neighbors, for 24.8%. Schools were the source of reports only in 6.5% of the cases; and day care centers, in 0.4%. Neither hospitals nor private physicians were a major source of

reports in Florida; they accounted for 1.3% and 1.4% of the cases, respectively.

In interviews with medical and social services personnel in hospitals, attempts were made to distinguish between cases identified within the hospitals by their own staff and those referred to them by other agencies or individuals. The average estimates given by the medical personnel for these two sources of identification were 83.2% and 16.8%, respectively. The corresponding estimates given by social services departments in the same hospitals were 85.0% and 15.0%.

Clearly, the overwhelming majority of cases of abuse and neglect that became known to hospitals were identified by their own personnel. When asked who brought or referred children who were subsequently suspected as being the victims of maltreatment to the hospitals, the two groups of respondents gave consistent estimates. Respondents from social services placed parents first (61.4%), other relatives and neighbors second (13.8%), and private physicians third (10.9%), with other hospitals accounting for about 1.1% of the referrals.

Answers from those interviewed on behalf of the social services and medical departments concerning sources of referral for cases already suspected of abuse and neglect were also fairly consistent. According to responses from social services personnel, child protection agencies accounted for 32.2% of such referrals; the police, for 25.3%; physicians in private practices, for 17.4%; and other hospitals, for 6.7%. The apparently greater role that private physicians assume in referrals to hospitals, as opposed to other public agencies, presumably derives from their primary concern with medical and health care. Unstructured interviews with physicians also revealed that many of those in private practice refer suspected

cases of child maltreatment to hospitals as a way of transferring the responsibility of reporting to them. Once again, this illustrates the influence of role contlict, as was discussed in the previous chapter.

Because of the nature of school systems, information sought from these institutions about identifying and reporting child maltreatment varied in some ways from those appropriate for other agencies. In 33.3% of the cases identified during the year covered in the survey, school personnel were alerted by the abused or neglected children themselves. Siblings were the source of information in 2.4% of the cases; and other pupils, in 8.3%. In 56.0% of the cases, persons outside the school systems or other agencies brought incidents to the attention of the school. The most frequently mentioned were informal sources such as relatives, friends and neighbors of the families involved, parents of the victims of maltreatment, and anonymous calls. It appears that schools are not well connected with the other parts of the organizational network concerned with this problem, at least in regard to being informed about cases that become known to other agencies. We further inquired about the proportions of cases <u>first</u> reported by persons occupying different roles in the schools. The average weighted responses show that 50.8% were first reported by teachers; 9.4%, by counselors; 10.6%, by school nurses; 0.1%, by school physicians; 5.8%, by school social workers; 7.5%, by principals and other administrators; and 15.8%, by others.

Finally, it should be of interest to note variations in the relative proportions of abuse and of neglect among cases reported or referred to the agencies included in the survey. As might be

expected, the distributions in Table IV-2 show greater proportions of child abuse among cases that came to the attention of hospitals. The ratios of abuse to neglect were also greater for the schools and the police than for child protection agencies and public health nursing. The ratios for affidavits submitted to the courts were similar to those reported by protective agencies. Because of the lack of criteria for clearly differentiating the two categories (many jurisdictions make no distinction at all), these ratios should be interpreted with caution.

The processes of identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect may constitute a single step, such as a call from the observer of an incident to a given agency, or they may entail multiple steps both within and across agencies. Procedures governing these processes, if any, are particularly important in agencies where relatively sizable proportions of the cases are identified internally, through the systems and their staffs, as opposed to those reported from outside sources as already suspected cases of child maltreatment. Identification and reporting in schools, hospitals, and divisions of public health nursing entail such processes. Respondents from these three agencies were asked about the existence "of specific procedures for reporting suspected cases of abuse and neglect," followed by other questions inquiring whether or not these procedures were available in a written form, how regularly they were being followed, and the locus of decisions about reporting on behalf of the agency.

Table IV-3 presents some of this information. School systems and public health nursing departments representing about one-half of the U.S. population had written procedures

for reporting suspected cases of child maltreatment. The medical and social services staffs of hospitals, however, differed in their responses to these questions. According to the medical personnel, hospitals most accessible to only 46.0% of the population had written procedures; the corresponding figure for respondents from hospital social services departments was 60.2%. The variation might be due to the social service personnel's increased awareness of the existence of reporting procedures, as well as to the fact that in some hospitals such rules are specific to these departments. Most likely a combination of these and other factors contributed to the discrepancies. To be noted are the proportions of the population represented by agencies for which neither written nor unwritten procedures existed; this ranged from a high of 35.2% for hospital medical programs to a low of 21.9% for hospital social services.

Even when already established, reporting procedures were not always followed (Table IV-3); however, the predominent opinion was that they were used "often" or "almost always." Adherence to such procedures only "sometimes" or "less frequently" ranged from 7.3% for school systems to 4.9% for public health nursing. Medical and social services personnel in hospitals were very similar in their estimates of low adherence (7.8% and 8.0%, respectively). The most frequently mentioned reasons for failure to follow reporting procedures in the various agencies included lack of training and knowledge about these procedures, doubts about the sufficiency of evidence, and reluctance or fear of getting involved. Ignorance about procedures was most characteristic of hospital personnel. While reluctance and fear of getting involved was most common

to those from the schools. Formalized written procedures were more likely to have been followed than unwritten ones. Hospitals and schools seemed to centralize procedures for reporting to other agencies into the hands of one person or one department more frequently than did public health nursing organizations (Table IV-3). These responsibilities were most often undertaken by heads of departments, supervisors, principals, or assistant principals, although school counselors were also frequently mentioned.

Some measure of current limitations in reporting and of the magnitude of the problem might be inferred from comparisons among the three estimates given earlier and their projections to the national population. To probe further into other aspects of these limitations, questions were asked about the consistency with which the various sources reported suspected abuse and neglect cases to the respondents' agencies. When addressed to child protection agencies, police and sheriff departments, and public health nurses, inquiries covered a broad list of sources. Assessments given by interviewees from these three agencies are presented in Tables IV-4, IV-5, and IV-6, respectively. A five point scale was used to record responses ranging from "almost always" to "hardly ever." Since protection agencies and the police are the legally mandated, or most common recipients of reports, responses given by their personnel are of particular significance. If we consider the latter three responses ("sometimes," "occasionally," and "hardly ever") to represent difficiencies in reporting suspected cases, the distributions in these three tables cast serious doubt about the adequacy of current levels of identification and reporting.

The reasons given by personnel from child protective agencies for inadequate reporting by others varied according to the sources of reports included in Table IV-4. In regard to the police, public health nurses, and other divisions of welfare services, the most frequently mentioned reasons were that these agencies handled the problem themselves and that their staffs lacked sufficient knowledge about the role of protective services. The most prevalent reasons for the likelihood of non-reporting by professionals in independent practice, especially physicians, included the desire to maintain confidentiality, reluctance to become involved, fear of loss of patients and clients, and the belief that they should handle the problem themselves. The lack of awareness among these professionals about the child protective agencies and their role also contributed significantly to limiting the likelihood of their reporting. Under-reporting from such informal sources as family members, other relatives, friends, and neighbors was attributed primarily to the desire not to get involved, concern for personal ramifications, and the impulse to protect the perpetrators.

Medical and social services respondents from the hospitals were asked to assess the likelihood of physicians and nurses in hospital settings reporting cases of abuse and neglect they know about (Table IV-7). The evaluations of medical respondents were uniformly more optimistic than those of the social services personnel. According to both, however, nurses were more likely than physicians to have reported cases that came to their attention. It is important to note the much greater probability of reporting by physicians in hospitals, even when considering their lower assessment by social services personnel, compared to physicians in private practice as assessed by respondents from protective

agencies (Table IV-4), police and sheriff departments (Table IV-5), and public health nurses (Table IV-6). Nevertheless, the likelihood of reporting by physicians in hospitals was still lower than might have been expected. The reasons given for non-reporting by physicians and nurses in hospital settings centered around insufficiency of evidence, lack of knowledge and experience in handling the problem, and the desire not to get involved because of inconvenience, fear of losing time, or of other consequences. Finally, as illustrated in Table IV-8, the most likely hospital operations where suspected child maltreatment would have gone unreported were emergency rooms, followed by out-patient services. Conversely, these problems were most likely to have been reported if observed in in-patient wards. The reasons given for these operations' failure to report were similar to those mentioned above. In addition, understaffing was cited frequently as a reason for inadequacies of reporting in a number of settings.

Interviews in the school systems included similar questions aimed at evaluating the probability of different personnel having reported suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Table IV-9 presents the results of these assessments. Given the level of reporting accorded school systems by other agencies (Tables IV-4, IV-5, and IV-6), respondents' ratings of the likelihood of reporting by school personnel seem rather high. Nevertheless, the distributions in Table IV-9 are revealing in terms of the relative practices of personnel in different positions. Considering that the two responses "almost always," and "often," represent adequate levels of reporting, the assessments show school social workers to be the most inclined to have reported

suspected cases; and school physicians, the least inclined. In fact, school physicians were concentrated in the category described by respondents as "hardly ever" reporting. The reasons given for non-reporting on the part of these personnel were similar to those mentioned in connection with hospitals, physicians, and nurses, namely: inadequate evidence; the desire not to get involved; a concern for potential consequences; a lack of knowledge and experience with reporting on the part of some, especially teachers; and an inclination to handle the problem personally on the part of others, especially school social workers, nurses, and counselors.

Personnel from school systems, public health nursing, and hospital medical departments were asked whether their organizations had "standard screening procedures which may detect child abuse and neglect" among children they see in their respective settings or services. Interestingly, an affirmative response to this question was much more prevalent for school systems and public health nursing than for hospital medical departments (Table IV-10). Hospitals representing only 13.1% of the population had developed standard screening procedures. Although more common in schools and public health nursing, these two agencies had established standard screening procedures only in areas including less than one half of the U.S. population; furthermore, even when available, they were not always applied to all children. For a significant proportion of the population, screening procedures were applied only to suspected victims of abuse and neglect, to children being admitted to schools, to pupils in certain grade levels, or to children covered by certain programs, especially Medicaid.

In most cases, standard screening in schools consisted of physical examinations, followed by observations of suspected cases for such manifestations of abuse and neglect as bruises, scars, injuries, or emotional problems. It is doubtful, however, that the routine medical examinations administered for school entrants were specifically oriented toward the identification of these problems.

The great majority of respondents from all agencies and programs felt that child abuse and neglect were being under-reported in their communities (Table IV-11). When it came to assessing the degree of under-reporting, however, opinions were divided. "A great deal" of under-reporting was more characteristic of responses from child protective agencies (45.0%), the courts (40.9%), and public health departments (40.5%) than those from the other groups interviewed. "No under-reporting" was claimed most often by respondents from hospital medical personnel (41.0%); and least, by divisions of public health nursing (10.5%).

With minor exceptions, most respondents who believed abuse and neglect were under-reported also felt that selectivity played a role in under-reporting, and that it was influenced by the characteristics of both victims and perpetrators. Although both high and low socio-economic levels were mentioned as categories of parents for whom under-reporting is most likely to happen, much larger proportions of the weighted responses mentioned people in the higher socio-economic levels. To concentrate on the most common recipients of reports, child protective agencies, the proportions naming parents from high and low socio-economic levels were 70.9% and 15.5%, respectively.

Another factor in selectivity involved the ages of children. Although all ages were mentioned, the most frequently stated

views were that under-reporting of maltreatment occurred among those children below 5 years of age. The prevalence of these views decreased as ages increased. Under-reporting was also believed to have been characteristic of physically and mentally handicapped children.

Respondents from protective agencies and the police were also asked about selectivity in confirmation rates, as well as the associated characteristics of perpetrators and children. Their weighted responses affirm the existence of selectivity in relation to the characteristics of both. The proportion of protective agencies that confirmed the influence of parents' characteristics on cases of abuse was 57.5%, and on cases of neglect, 56.7%. The corresponding weighted responses concerning the influence of children's attributes were 24.2% and 20.6%, respectively. The prevalence of affirmative opinions about selectivity among respondents from the police was somewhat more limited.

"Have there been any special efforts in the last few years in this area or in the state as a whole to get cases of child abuse and neglect identified and reported?" Respondents from all agencies and programs included in the survey had the opportunity to respond to this and three follow-up questions about the nature of such efforts, their administrative boundaries (state or local), and their effects upon reporting (Table IV-12). Most of the efforts seen have been directed toward legal changes and professional and public education. It is important to note differences in the prevalence of negative opinions (those indicating that no efforts had been undertaken) which ranged from a high of 44.6% for hospital medical respondents to 0.3% for protective agencies. Respondents from child protective agencies,

public health nurses, and the police were equally distributed in their views as to the scope of efforts -- state vs. local. The courts were more likely to see the effects as statewide. This is not surprising since important changes of a legal nature usually stem from authorities at the state level. More of the weighted responses from schools and hospitals indicated that developments toward enhanced reporting were local rather than statewide. The greatest claims for the effectiveness of such efforts from child protective agencies (53.1%), followed by the police (46.5%). Considering the assessments of all respondents, the effects of these attempts to enhance reporting seem to be limited.

Response to Reports

Although police departments have personnel on duty at all hours, only 32.1% of the population live in communities where child protection agencies provide such coverage. Also, divisions of public health nurses representing only 5.3% of the population reported around-the-clock availability of personnel from their own agencies. In protective agencies serving 50.4% of the population, and public health nursing divisions serving 49.5%, a caseworker or a nurse "always made a home visit during the same day that a new case of suspected child abuse was reported.". In all of the other jurisdictions, 55.8% of the cases were visited by caseworkers from protective services in the same day; and 82.4%, during the week. The corresponding proportions visited by nurses from public health departments were 57.3% and 83.0%, respectively. In practically all of the cases considered emergencies, a police

officer or a sheriff's deputy went to the home within hours. This was also the case in regard to non-emergency situations for over 85% of the population. Most of the departments representing the other 15% conducted visits to the homes within the day. Distinctions between emergencies and non-emergencies were based largely on the information given by callers and the degree of threat or danger the incident was believed to pose to the health or life of the children involved.

When home visits were not conducted by child protection agencies and the police for all cases reported to them, respondents from the two agencies were asked about procedures used to ascertain which calls were likely to have some verifiable basis. A list of the responses is presented in Table IV-13 demonstrating that the most common procedure for both agencies was to obtain confirmation from other agencies. Protective agencies also relied on confirmation from other people and previous reports, while the police were likely to handle the problem through referral cases to other agencies.

Police officers and deputies representing 52.4% of the population never had staff members of other agencies accompany them in making the first visit to a home where a child was reported to have been abused or neglected. In the remaining 47.6%, officers and deputies were at times accompanied by personnel from other agencies. The most commonly mentioned agencies in this regard were child protection services, other divisions of welfare services, and probation and juvenile officers, respectively. After they had become acquainted with the case, officers and deputies representing 76.2% of the population might have asked staff members of other agencies to come to the homes. In

this case, child protection services, other divisions of welfare services, and public health nurses were the most commonly mentioned. Presented in terms of frequency of mention, the reasons given for asking representatives of these agencies to enter the case included conducting investigations, taking over the case, arranging for the placement of children, and counseling. It is important to point out that 14.5% of the population resided in the jurisdictions of police and sheriff departments whose officers neither called on personnel from other agencies to accompany them during the first visit nor went to the home after these officers had become acquainted with the case.

The average proportions of cases in which the respondents found it necessary to remove children from their homes were as follows:

4.6% in almost all of the cases
9.1% in more than half of the cases
12.6% in about half the cases
35.6% in less than half the cases
38.1% in almost none of the cases

Respondents from protection services, public health nursing, and hospital social services, were asked about the proportions of the abuse and neglect cases that came to the attention of their agency which they felt warranted the children's temporary separation from their families (Table IV-14). Although opinions varied, the figures reveal a strong tendency against the removal of children, especially on the part of respondents from public health departments. Descriptions of the conditions viewed as authorizing temporary removal of children were given in general terms (Table IV-15); considerations included the seriousness of

abuse, threats to the children's health and life, and their needs for protection.

The length of time required for investigations conducted by the police may vary from a few hours to over one month. For 27.7% of the population, such investigations were usually completed within one day (24 hours); the usual duration for another 29.0% did not exceed one week; and the time required for 14.3% stretched from more than one week to over one month. Finally, the respondents for 29.0% failed to specify duration because of "variations among cases." The sources most commonly pursued by police officers for evidence of abuse and neglect were witnesses (including neighbors and relatives), photographs, medical reports and physicians' statements, and observation of the children's conditions. Less frequently mentioned were such sources of evidence as the statements of children, parents, or other reporting persons.

Law enforcement officers, hospital medical personnel, and respondents from the school systems were asked about the type of evidence they look for in cases of abuse and of neglect. Their answers (Table IV-16) show a heavy reliance on such physical signs as injuries, bruises, malnutrition, and similar indications of improper treatment and care. The relatively more frequent mention of the "home environment" by police officers is not surprising, since they are the most likely to have visited the victims' homes.

As has been illustrated, the initial response to reporting entails many investigatory functions: verifying claims of abuse and neglect, assessing the severity of damage and the risks of further maltreatment, and collecting such evidence as might

become necessary for juvenile, family, or criminal court proceedings. Based upon these assessments, the initial responses to suspicions or reports of child abuse and neglect become the starting points that activate services and/or legal intervention.

Services: Provision and Availability

The first priority in intervention with situations of abuse and neglect should be attending to the medical and health care needs of the children. Hospital medical personnel were asked about what happened to children when abuse and neglect were identified in out-patient services or in emergency rooms. Responses to this question indicate that, with some qualifications, such children were admitted to in-patient services in hospitals most accessible to the majority of the population(87.1%). About 14.2% of the weighted responses reported no admissions to in-patient facilities, however, these cases were referred to other agencies, such as child protection services and the police. It is significant to note that 2.0% of the weighted answers stated that it depended on what the parents wanted to do; 4.0% admitted the children in cases of abuse and let them go home in cases of neglect, with no mention of reporting to other agencies; and 1.0% did not know what happened. The modal estimate of the prevalence of medical and health care needs among children that came to the attention of protection agencies was "more than half" of the cases. Furthermore, of all cases investigated by the police, a weighted average of 45.1% were taken to hospitals, clinics, or other health care facilities.

Five groups of respondents (those for child protection services, public health nurses, school systems, hospital medical departments, and hospital social services) were asked about

the services their respective programs were able to provide or secure for children and families involved in abuse and neglect problems. Table IV-17 presents a detailed list of these services; these distributions reflect the specialization of the various organizations. In addition to services provided by the responding agencies themselves, others were sought from a variety of organizations (Table IV-18).

A persistent source of frustration for workers in this field, and one frequently mentioned during unstructured interviews in a number of communities, was the abusive and neglectful parents and guardians resist advice to seek help from mental health clinics, psychiatrists, counseling, psychologists, marriage counselors, and similar professions and facilities. To test the prevalence of this problem, three related questions were asked of certain groups of respondents: How often did they recommend that parents seek such help? How often did they find them reluctant to seek the help? And, how helpful did respondents believe the services were to those who used them? Answers to these questions are included in Table IV-19. The majority of weighted responses recommended these types of services "almost always" or "often." Still, it was surprising to see the relatively wide prevalence of responses from hospital personnel (medical as well as social services) indicating that mental health services were "hardly ever" recommended to abusive and neglectful parents. This may be attributable, however, to the concentration of efforts among hospital personnel on intervening with the children's conditions, so that they tend to rely on other agencies more in contact with parents to deal with their problems.

Reluctance on the part of parents and guardians to avail themselves of mental health services seems to be a widespread phenomenon (Table IV-19). It was "almost always" or "often" the case in more than half of the weighted responses for all agencies where the question was raised. The modal answers for all agencies except public health nurses were that these services were "somewhat helpful." Public health nurses representing about half of the population felt that such services were of "little help." It should be noted that of all respondents, public health nurses are probably in the best position to assess the effectiveness of the mental health services received.

"One of the difficulties in dealing with child abuse is that the parents may know they are abusing the child but they are afraid to go to official government lest they be charged with a crime or their children be taken from them."[1] This, and the belief that persons who have experienced similar problems are more apt to extend greater understanding and assistance, led to the emergence of "Parents Anonymous" groups (patterned after "Alcoholics Anonymous") in different parts of the country. A series of questions were incorporated in the survey inquiring about the existence of such groups in the sampling communities, whether or not respondents' agencies refer parents and guardians to them, and an evaluation of the influence of participation in them. Considering that personnel from child protective services should be most knowledgeable about the existence of such groups, figures in Table IV-20 would indicate that they were constituted in communities including slightly more than one third of the country's population. The least awareness of parents groups was expressed by hospital medical personnel. The majority of

weighted responses indicated that when such groups were available, the agencies surveyed made referrals to them. The reasons given for non-referral were mostly because of a preference that child protective agencies undertake this task, if it is necessary, or because of "lack of knowledge" about the parents groups themselves. Although the great majority of weighted responses from all agencies felt that these groups would help those who joined them, there was a significant proportion of dissenting opinions. Most skeptical were respondents from school systems, public health nursing, and hospital medical personnel, in that order.

Respondents from the five agencies most involved in the delivery of services were asked whether there were any services that abused and neglected children or their families needed that were unavailable or difficult to obtain. Affirmative answers ranged from a high of 84.8% for protective agencies to a low of 38.5% for hospital medical personnel (Table IV-21). Public health nurses, who are also involved in mobilizing community services for their clients, were second to protective agencies in the prevalence of affirmative responses (70.5%). Variations in assessing the availability and accessibility of services partially reflect the agencies' differing orientations -- some are more child-oriented, others are parent-oriented, and still others are family-oriented. In this respect, greater confidence must be placed in the responses of protective services personnel, since it is their primary responsibility to manage cases of abuse and neglect through the maze of available and unavailable services.

This analysis was pursued further by comparing communities

where there was a consensus that services were lacking with others where the consensus was that needed services were available and accessible. The attempt was to derive some characterization of communities with inadequate services. The results show that such communities are larger and have a tendency to have more cases of abuse and neglect. Also, the curvilinear effect of agency coordination is apparent in that communities with no coordination and those with case management coordination show a far lesser degree of service unavailability than those with only administrative level coordination.

Respondents to the question about service availability were also asked to name the specific types of services unavailable or inaccessible to them. Table IV-21 presents a detailed listing of these services. Although various forms of counseling seem to be the service most often unavailable or difficult to obtain, home support, such as homemaker services or child care, is also frequently mentioned. Other types of services named by respondents from agencies representing significant proportions of the population include financial assistance and child placement facilities. In some ways, the responses reflect differences in the agencies' roles. For example, protection services more often cite the unavailability or difficulty in obtaining suitable placement than do physicians, who seldom engage in this responsibility. The same can be said for such services as financial assistance and home support. Finally, it is particularly important to note the proportions of the population residing in areas where agencies found needed medical and other health care services unavailable or difficult to obtain for abused and neglected children.

One of the most crucial decisions in intervening with problems of abuse and neglect is whether to remove children or to leave them with parents and guardians who have mistreated them. These decisions will be the subject of further analysis at later points in this report; however, it is important here to discuss the considerations entailed in such decisions and their bearing upon the provision of services. These considerations include: the effects of removal to unfamiliar environments, especially upon children in younger ages; the adequacy of placement alternatives and their potentially disruptive influence on family relations; and the attitudes and reactions of parents, particularly the damage to potential counseling or therapeutic relations that could be developed with professional workers. Any deliberation of these decisions, however, assumes that priority will be given to the protection of children from the risk of further abuse and neglect.

A criticism frequently leveled against child protection agencies is that, because of concern over maintaining rapport with parents or because of limitations in staffing and resources, children are often left with parents in spite of continued abuse and neglect.[2] In order to arrive at some estimates of the prevalence of these practices, we asked respondents from the child protective agencies about: (1) the proportions of parents and guardians who continued to abuse their children after their agencies became involved; (2) the proportions of parents and guardians who continued to neglect their children after their agencies became involved; (3) the proportions of children in families who had been part of their active case load who were taken to hospitals for treatment because of continued abuse and neglect; and (4) the proportions of

cases who had been part of their case load and who came to the attention of the police because of continued abuse and neglect.

Responses to these four questions are presented in Table IV-22, which demonstrates a number of significant trends. One-third of the population lives in areas where child abuse continues in "almost none" of the cases after protective agencies become involved. The corresponding weighted responses for neglect account for only 8.8% of the population. It is no more reassuring to note the proportions of cases in the active case loads of protective agencies that were subsequently taken to hospitals for treatment or came to the attention of the police because of continued maltreatment. In order to verify information obtained from child protective agencies on this issue, respondents from hospital medical and social service staffs were asked about the proportions of abuse and neglect cases brought to their hospitals which had been part of the active case loads of protective agencies. Respondents from police and sheriff departments were asked similar questions about the proportions of such cases among those that came to their attention. These estimates (Table IV-23) corraborate the widespread presence of continued abuse and neglect serious enough to merit medical treatment or the involvement of the police.

The estimates of continued child abuse and neglect just presented should become an important consideration in decisions concerning the removal of children, or in the development of other ways to assure their protection against such risks. They also constitute revealing indicators of the effectiveness of the services provided by the child protective agencies themselves, as well as those they were able to obtain from other sources in their respective communities.

Other indicators of the adequacy of services were sought by asking about the sufficiency of current resources, as well as priorities in the use of new funds, should any become available. A recent GAO reports that while federal authorizations for child welfare services under Title IV-B programs have increased from $55 million in 1968 to $211 million in 1974, HEW has never requested that more than $47.5 million be appropriated.[3] The same report shows that these appropriations do not represent the total expenditures on these services, which were estimated to have reached over one billion dollars, of which the federal share was about $683 million during the fiscal year 1972. Child protective agencies seem to have remained short on funds and resources. As shown in Table IV-24, 89.1% of the weighted responses from these agencies reacted affirmatively to an opinion item stating that: "Agencies are not given sufficient resources to deal effectively with child abuse and neglect." Distributions of responses from other agencies also indicate an overwhelming sense of the insufficiency of resources. Agreement with this statement ranged from 72.0% for respondents from the courts, to 91.8% for those from school systems.

Further specification of the need for resources and of their priorities was sought by asking respondents from the various agencies: "If additional funds were to become available to your agency for child abuse and neglect, what are the most important uses you would like to see these funds put to?" It was requested that priorities be ranked in order of importance. Responses to

this question (Table IV-25) were grouped under nine categories: (1) "Personnel," which refers to increasing staff in respondents' agencies or adding specialists in certain fields; (2) "Improve Staffing of Other Agencies" by increasing the numbers of people or improving the qualifications and training of staffs in other agencies; (3) "Intra-Agency Operations," which include such things as adding specialized divisions or sections, adding 24 hour coverage, improving information retrieval, etc.; (4) "Placement Facilities" such as foster homes, emergency, and temporary facilities, half-way houses, etc.; (5) "Services and Programs" such as homemaker services, nutritional services, volunteer programs, counseling, etc.; (6) "Services Available to Other Agencies" such as more legal, medical, or social services offered to other agencies (depending upon the respondents' agencies), and referral services; (7) "Interagency Functions" including multi-agency teams, coordinating committees, and other forms of liaisons; (8) "Miscellaneous" responses, which did not fall within any of the first seven categories; and (9) "None," indicating neither needs for resources nor priorities expressed.

Distributions in Table IV-25 clearly reveal that the greatest need in each of the agencies is for personnel. Additional resources would be utilized to strengthen internal programs, as well as to make services available to other agencies. As will be discussed later, child protective agencies and the courts emphasized the need for placement facilities. The low mention of interagency functions was not a reflection of strong existing liasons. The need for stronger interdependence among agencies was indicated by the more frequent mention of "services available to other agencies."

Respondents were asked to estimate the cost of priorities they indicated, should additional funds become available. Since respondents for many agencies did not provide the necessary cost estimates, the sheer aggregation of costs mentioned would be misleading. In this analysis an average cost for each of the eight categories used in grouping priorities was estimated for each agency or program. The results are shown in Table IV-26. The average cost of increasing the size or improving the quality of personnel in child protective agencies, for example, is slightly over $120,000 per agency; the corresponding figure for school systems was almost twice as much (about $200,000). The total costs of priorities are highest for child protective services, followed by schools. It is interesting to note that hospital pediatric departments were least in terms of needs for additional resources, followed by police.

It must be noted, however, that these estimates are crude and entail considerable overlap across agencies. For example, protective agencies, the courts, and the police allocated considerable amounts of funds for the development and improvement of placement facilities. Also, public health nursing departments assigned high costs to improving the staffing in other agencies. Another source of instability in these figures is the high non-response rate of cost estimates; this might be largely attributable to the fluid situation in regard to the problems of abuse and neglect. The ability to make cost projections is limited by the respondents' uncertainty about the appropriate size of their case loads. Thus, respondents who firmly perceived the need for staff expansion might have not been able to anticipate the additional manpower needed, and so could not place a monetary value on this priority.

In spite of these limitations, the cost estimates are instructive in some respects. The sizable allocations for "staffing other agencies" can be viewed as an indication that the inadequacies of current personnel in some agencies were keenly felt by those in the others. To focus briefly on the average cost estimates given by child protective agencies, a useful distinction can be made between one shot expenditures, such as those needed for placement facilities ($120,230), and the regular operating costs represented by the other items ($171,574). This means that estimates of needed resources for all of the 129 such agencies included in the survey would amount to about $15.5 million in one shot appropriations for placement facilities, and about $22 million in additional annual operating costs. Considering that the jurisdictions of these 129 agencies include about one-third of the United States population, the national projections of these agencies' needs for additional resources would be $46.5 million in cost of facilities, and $66 million in annual appropriations for program operations.

Finally, another significant indicator of the quality of services is the level of knowledge and skills characteristic of available personnel. The collection of specific data about the qualifications of these organizations' staffs was beyond the scope of this study. Nevertheless, some information about participation in workshops, conferences, and other forms of meetings addressed to the problems of child maltreatment was sought. In this respect, respondents were asked: "When was the last time any of the staff attended any program dealing with child abuse?" Answers to this question are included in Table IV-27. Child protective agencies reported the most

frequent recent attendance; and hospital medical personnel and the hospital social services, the least. A sizable proportion of the population are represented by agencies from which someone has attended such programs within the six month period preceding interviews for this study. It is still important, however, to note the high prevalence of non-attendance of such programs by most agencies, especially by members of hospital pediatric departments. It should be added also that in many of the agencies, persons who attended training programs were frequently the heads of departments or supervisors.

Legal Intervention: Custody and Placement

Katz's position on the legal rights of parent-child relations and the state's right to intervention constitutes a useful framework for the presentation of survey data on these issues. As previously described, he maintains that while "the state places a high priority on a stable and independent parent-child relationship," it imposes upon parents specific responsibilities toward the children--"financial security, health, education, morality, and respect for people and authority."[4] Clearly, each of these responsibilities represents a continuum, and the state's right to intervene is invoked in cases of failure to meet what is considered minimum necessities along these parental responsibilities.

The process of intervention begins with reports of abuse and/or neglect, followed by investigations conducted by authorized agencies. Often, children are not removed from their homes and services are provided to them and their parents. These three phases in the state's intervention process--reporting, investigation, and services--were discussed in earlier sections of this report. In many cases, however, the state's intervention takes on a

legal form, regardless of whether or not services are needed or provided. The following section presents data related to legal intervention and its consequences, as organized under five headings: process of legal intervention, change of custody, placement of children, reuniting children with their parents, and follow-up practices.

Process of Legal Intervention:

Beyond a report or an investigation by authorized agencies, Katz views legal intervention to include a challenge to parents' right to custody, a court investigation, or a court hearing.[5] Table IV-1 presents the relative frequencies with which affidavits are filed by various sources to the respective courts concerning abuse and neglect. These distributions show that the most frequent sources are child protective services, offices of prosecuting attorneys, welfare services, police and sheriff departments, and relatives, in that order.

In cases involving the emergency removal of children from their homes, the time frame given the involved agencies to obtain a court authorization varied from within 24 hours (46.3%), to within one week (31.3%), and even to more than a week (1.3%). In courts representing 18.4% of the population, court orders were always required prior to removal. The rest of the respondents did not know about time limitations for court authorization of emergency removal. Respondents from the courts were also asked about the frequency with which court orders actually were obtained prior to the temporary removal of children. Their answers were:

Always	1.9%
Almost Always	34.4%
Often	11.8%

Sometimes	16.8%
Occasionally	11.7%
Hardly Ever	20.3%
Don't Know	8.4%

In courts representing the great majority of the population (83.5%), judges made the decisions about petitions for temporary removal. For 8.2% of the population, decisions were made by court referees; and for 14.7%, by other officials.

The rates of court refusals of these petitions are summarized in Table IV-28. In addition to estimates of refusal for all of the petitions given by respondents from the courts, the table presents a comparative picture of these rates for petitions made by child protective agencies and the police. The table reveals that courts tend slightly more often to refuse petitions emanating from the police than those from protective agencies. In order of frequency, "the lack of evidence and inability to show cause," "the court feeling removal not in best interest of child," and "improper petitioning procedures" were the reasons given by respondents from the courts for refusing petitions advocating the temporary removal of children.

In relation to this, respondents from the protective agencies were asked several questions concerning the availability of legal assistance. Over 40% of the population resides within jurisdictions whose protective agencies reported receiving "all" the assistance they needed from the offices of prosecuting, city or county, or state attorneys. Furthermore, agencies representing 52.5% of the population either employed lawyers or retained them, and an additional 10.5% of the weighted responses mentioned the occasional use of consultants. This rate of coverage, and perhaps the quality, seem seriously inadequate

for meeting these agencies' needs for legal aid. When asked if they felt that their agencies' work was "hindered in regard to child abuse and neglect because of inadequate legal assistance," affirmative answers were given by respondents from agencies serving 50.9% of the population. Respondents described such impediments as: having to respond slowly to situations because of the necessity of waiting for legal advice; being unable to prepare adequately for court procedures and hearings; making mistakes because of lack of knowledge of the laws and of the alternatives available to agency personnel; perceiving a bias in the legal aid available to them, often in favor of parental rights; and receiving incompetent legal counseling.

Of all the cases of abuse and neglect brought to the attention of the courts, estimates of the proportions resolved without formal court hearings were as follows

Almost All	6.5%
More Than Half	15.0%
About Half	19.7%
Less Than Half	17.1%
Almost None	29.4%
Don't Know	12.4%

Cases more likely to have been resolved informally were described as having been "less serious," "more of neglect than abuse," and "when parents were cooperative in taking voluntary actions to alleviate the problems." The most commonly mentioned approach to informal resolution was to delegate the responsibility for working out appropriate arrangements to child protection or other social service agencies, which would then inform the court. The second most common approach was for court personnel to make investigations, arrangements with the families, and recommendations to the respective judges. In courts representing over one-fourth

of the population (29.0%), judges determined whether or not a case proceeded to formal hearings. In the rest of the courts, various personnel were empowered to make such decisions; responses included other personnel in the courts (especially intake and probation officers) and other agencies (especially child protective services). Among the characteristics used to describe those cases most likely to proceed toward formal hearings were: abuse--especially when serious, chronic cases, uncooperative parents, and cases with sufficient evidence.

Respondents from courts were asked "how often parents were represented by lawyers" in both informally resolved cases and in formal hearings. As might be expected, estimates presented in Table IV-29 indicate a much greater preponderance of legal representation in formal hearings. In fact, in courts representing 28.3% of the population, lawyers were assigned to cases when parents could not afford such representation. Courts representing 20.6% of the population never appointed a Guardian ad Litem to represent the interests of children in formal hearings. The following are the distributions of frequencies by which such appointments were reported to have been made:

Almost Always	40.5%
Often	6.9%
Sometimes	8.2%
Occasionally	12.8%
Hardly Ever	11.0%
Never	20.6%

When the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem was the practice, lawyers predominated as appointees in the ratio of nearly four to one. In a descending order of frequency, non-lawyers appointed to this role included relatives, representatives of social agencies, probation officers, and others.

Table IV-30 tallies the types of evidence acceptable to the courts in their investigations of cases of abuse and neglect; many of these actually constitute dimensions that would be very useful in attempts toward the further specification of criteria. The distributions indicate a greater tendency to rely upon medical and health-related evidence and testimonies in cases of abuse than in neglect, where expert witnesses (other than physicians) and evidence concerning child supervision assume relatively more significance. The distribution of witnesses who appeared in formal court hearings on child maltreatment (Table IV-31) indicates that reliance was most frequently placed upon personnel from child protective agencies, followed by the police, hospital physicians, and relatives, in that order.

According to respondents from the courts, the latter were mostly likely to remove children from their homes: if they felt the children would be in danger left at home; if they perceived removal to be in the children's best interest; if parents were uncooperative and refused to seek help; or if parents were unable to care for the children. It is important to note that not all formal court hearings involve petitions for change of custody. Respondents from courts representing only 30.5% of the population mentioned that such hearings always involved challenge to parental custody. In order of importance, other issues that became involved in formal hearings in the remaining courts included authorizing the supervision of child protective agencies, requiring parents to seek mental health treatment, requesting temporary custody, and requesting the return of children to their parents. Respondents from courts with jurisdictions representing 88.9% of the population reported that parents

"occasionally" or "hardly ever" appealed decisions reached in formal hearings.

The data presented so far characterize the legal processes involved in the challenge of parental custody: the court's investigation in terms of evidence and testimonies, informal resolutions, and formal hearings. One resulting conclusion is that this process tends to be less formal in smaller communities than in those with larger populations. Furthermore, in spite of the presumably non-adversary nature of the courts involved, legal representation is prevalent, especially in connection with formal hearings. From the point of view of distributive justice, it is important to consider differentials in the ability to secure legal representation, as well as the effects of such representation and the likelihood of appeals upon the disposition of cases. Valid answers to these questions would have been difficult to obtain through a survey of the practices and opinions of those in charge of these decisions. Information obtained through unstructured interviews, however, as well as studies in similar decision-making processes lead to the conclusion that differences in the availability of legal representation and the threat of appeals do introduce varying degrees of influence upon court decisions. While some may consider this an indication of unequal justice favoring parents in better socio-economic conditions, others may view the inequality from the perspective of the protection of children, in which case these same parents' children are clearly disfavored.

Change of Custody:

Estimates of the final dispositions of cases requiring formal hearings, presented in Table IV-32, designate the proportions

of abuse and neglect cases that resulted in the termination of parental rights to custody, in temporary changes in custody, and in the non-removal of children from their homes. Although legal distinctions between abuse and neglect are not necessarily maintained in all courts, this did not create any difficulties in classification for this survey. As would be expected, both permanent and temporary changes in custody were less prevalent in what were considered to have been cases of neglect than in those of abuse. The termination of parental custody frees the children for adoption. Except for the possible appeal of such a disposition and adoption services provided the children and potential adopters, the involvement of public agencies in such cases also comes to a close.

In the majority of cases, however, there was either no change or only a temporary change in custody (Table IV-32). Respondents were asked a series of questions about court requirements and actions in decisions involving custody. The most frequently mentioned requirement is counseling or therapy. Improvement in interpersonal relations, the physical conditions of the home, and home supervision were also mentioned in significant proportions of the weighted responses. Supervision was required more often when children were left at home, the responsibility most frequently being delegated to personnel from child protective agencies, followed by those from probation departments.

Respondents from courts representing 3.7% of the population reported that parents were not allowed to see their children when there was a temporary change of custody. In the remaining jurisdictions, if parents were allowed to contact

their children after removal, child protection agencies were most likely to determine or participate in specifying the nature of contacts (84.2%), followed in frequency of mention by the probation departments and others connected with the courts (46.1%).

Temporary Placement:

Of all the respondents in this survey, the personnel of child protection agencies were expected to be most knowledgeable about the temporary placement of abused and neglected children for whom a change of custody had been authorized. Several questions were asked of these respondents about the types of facilities used, their quality, and other problems encountered in placement. Data on the types of facilities and their usage (Table IV-34) indicate that the majority of children were placed in foster homes, although placement with relatives was the second most frequently employed resource, agencies representing slightly less than one-quarter of the population also mentioned the use of detention homes. These facilities were utilized mostly for teenage children and those with "behavioral problems," "delinquents or pre-delinquents," or those "neglected." Decisions on such placement were made by judges, caseworkers, probation officers, and the police with fairly similar rates of prevalence.

The existence of facilities other than foster homes, relatives, and detention homes was reported for communities including about one-half of the population sample (50.3%). These included children's shelter homes (25.3%), group homes (16.5%), treatment facilities (12.4%), orphanages (7.3%), runaway homes (6.6%), and similar types.* In most cases where such facilities existed,

*The cumulative per cents appearing for the facilities exceed 50.3% because some communities had more than one type of facility.

their use was not limited to the placement of abused and neglected children. As implied by their names, their residents included delinquents, children with physical and mental impairments, runaways, and others who, for a variety of reasons, became dependents or needed custodial care. Finally, it should be noted that the results of the survey indicate that hospitals were at times "used as a place to keep children who were temporarily removed from their homes when it is not medically necessary." This practice, however, seems to be fairly limited.

In general, the importance of the quality of any care that substitutes for that of parents and families cannot be over-emphasized, especially for children in younger ages. This assumes even greater significance for children removed from their homes under conditions of abuse and neglect. And yet, evidence gathered in this study indicates that temporary placement is one of the weakest aspects of services and intervention programs. Conflicts in the professional roles of caseworkers in protective services have been outlined earlier. These conflicts are based on the differing needs and interests of multiple clientele: the abused and neglected children, the abusive and neglectful parents and guardians, and foster parents, especially aspirants for adoption. It should be added that our data revealed the potential for such conflicts to be quite widespread, since child protective agencies representing 80.1% of the population also handled foster home placement themselves.

It is unrealistic to expect foster parents to develop the emotional committment necessary for the desired quality of care when agencies emphasize the temporary nature of their

relations to the children involved. Katz illustrates other aspects of the problem:

> From a theoretical perspective, foster care is designed to be a non-permanent arrangement, and as a consequence, standards for choosing temporary custodians differ from those for permanent custodians. Experience has shown that to assume non-permanence in foster care is unrealistic. Children placed in foster care remain in that status longer than is generally admitted by many placement agencies. Yet some agencies... continue to hold foster parents and children in a state of limbo while jealously guarding biological ties. Their protection of the natural parent's rights often represents a misplaced loyalty and is sometimes simply a rationalization for the agency's own decisions.[6]

Evidence also indicates that children were frequently moved from one foster home to another, and that two or more moves per year were not uncommon.[7] This was not only the case for teenage children, where interpersonal incompatibilities may lead to the need for change, but was also prevalent among infants less than two years of age. No explanations are available for this pattern, which deserves careful study. Still, regardless of the underlying reasons, the important question concerns the effects of such instability upon the children. Finally, it must be noted that considering the numbers of children in foster homes, the rates of abuse and neglect attributed to foster parents looms significant (Table III-3).

Responses in the present survey demonstrate that, for 75.9% of the population, child protection agencies encountered difficulties and delays in placing children in foster homes. For 65.3% of the population, the difficulty was primarily one of shortage. The rest attributed the trouble, at least in part, to certain characteristics of the children needing temporary placement, particularly those with behavioral problems and the physically or mentally

impaired. Finally, when respondents from the courts were asked to assess the quality of available facilities for temporary placement in their jurisdictions, their appraisals were: good (44.3%), adequate (38.2%), poor (15.2%), and (0.1%) did not know. Those who rated these facilities as less than "good" were also asked about the problems and limitations characteristic of their communities. The most widely mentioned problem was the lack of sufficient foster homes and other facilities, followed by limitations in the quality of those available. An important item frequently mentioned was the shortage of facilities appropriate for handling short-term crisis situations. In summary, both the survey results and the unstructured interviews conducted in a number of communities highlighted the difficulties in temporary placement, a major issue in serving abuse and neglected children.

Reuniting Families and Follow-Up:

For the majority of the population (76.3%), the duration of temporary change in custody was determined by the courts in consultation with other agencies, primarily the child protection and social services. For 14.5% of the population, these decisions were made by the courts independently. For the remaining 9.2% of the population, decisions involving temporary custody did not involve the courts. It is important to note variations in estimates of the average duration of temporary custody:

Up to One Month	5.3%
Two to Three Months	18.1%
Four to Six Months	22.1%
Seven to Twelve Months	19.3%
Over One Year	6.2%
Don't Know	29.0%

Some cases were reported to last several years. Of significance also is high prevalence of "don't know" responses to this question (29.0%). Although respondents for court jurisdictions, including sizable proportions of the sample, felt that the duration of temporary custody was associated with certain characteristics of the children involved (48.9%) as well as with given attributes of parents and guardians (48.7%), the only clear agreement concerning these characteristics is that children under five years old experience longer durations.

The conditions most likely to have persuaded child protective agencies and the courts to return abused and neglected children to the custody of their parents included: indications of improvement in the home situation, progress in counseling and/or a change in the attitudes of parents, and the availability of services and follow-up plans. Within child protection agencies, decisions concerning the return of children were made most often by the caseworkers themselves (44.5%), and slightly less often by heads of agencies and supervisors (43.9%). Respondents from child protection agencies, public health nursing, and hospital social services reported that their agencies and programs provided follow-up services when abused and neglected children were not removed from their homes, and often also when families were reunited. The average duration of these services was 7.7 months, 10.3 months, and 4.5 months for the three agencies, respectively. As would be expected, the most prevalent consideration for terminating follow-up by any of these three agencies was "the improvement and stabilization of the family condition." Case load pressures were also among the factors affecting the duration of follow-up by protective services.

Finally, it is of interest to note that protective agencies serving 11.3% of the population, and courts representing 20.6%, had no involvement in returning any abused or neglected children to their families during the year prior to interviews.

Decision-Making

The identification and management of child abuse and neglect cases requires that human service and law enforcement personnel make many decisions, which harbor serious risks for affected children and parents. Such decisions include whether to report suspected cases, to investigate reports, to leave the children in the custody of potentially or actually abusing and neglectful parents and guardians, to remove the children and change custody, to select appropriate placement for children removed from their homes, to provide or arrange for needed services for children and parents, to reunite families, to extend or to terminate follow-up services, and to terminate parental custody and free the children for adoption. The process of decision-making is built around the development of criteria, the collection of evidence, and the exercise of judgment in applying criteria to evidence and reaching a decision. The decision-making structures concerning child abuse and neglect vary not only among communities, but also from one agency to another within the same community. Such variations have considerable bearing upon the quality of the decisions made. Justice and effectiveness require that decisions be fair and equitable, and that they serve the best interests of abused and neglected children. Often, however, these decisions are influenced by factors extraneous to the problem. Some of the potential sources of bias will

become evident as we first examine the important issues involved in the elements of decision-making.

On Criteria:

A criterion is a standard, a characteristic, or a qualification upon which judgments are based. The determination of whether a child has been abused or neglected; or, a parent, abusive or neglectful; immediately raises the question of criteria, that is, the indications upon which one bases such distinctions. In complex phenomena such as abuse and neglect, distinctions and determinations are often based upon multiple criteria, which must balance diverse and conflicting interests. The development of conceptually and methodologically defensible indices, which combine the relative weights of the various dimensions of abuse and neglect, remains one of the pressing areas of needed research.

Attempts have been made, and progress has been achieved, in the development of criteria and other operational indicators for physical abuse and neglect based primarily upon medical and other health conditions. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for other types of abuse and neglect, or for such related questions as: What determines fitness for parenting? What are the minimum standards? How can healthy growth development be ascertained? What constitutes appropriate child care? As mentioned earlier, the status of the development of criteria reflects current substantive and technological limitations in the field. Fifty-six per cent of the weighted responses from child protective agencies, and 64% from police departments agreed with the statement that "it is difficult to say what is and what is not child maltreatment,"

as did even higher proportions of the weighted responses of judges and physicians. There were even greater rates of agreement with the statement "it is difficult to determine when parents should have their children returned." Proportions of the population served by agencies responding affirmatively to this statement ranged from 68% for the courts to 86% for hospital medical personnel.

In varying degrees, all concepts exhibit openness of meaning; that is, there is a potential variation in the correspondence between the meaning a term, such as abuse and neglect, acquires and its actual case by case observations and decisions. Concepts are vague, then, in the sense that it often is difficult to decide "whether or not something belongs to the designated class," so that "belongingness in any case is a matter of degree."[8] The problem of "where to draw the line" arises not only in identifying the categories of children to whom the terms abuse and neglect apply, for example, but also in distinguishing subclasses of children on the basis of the types and degrees of abuse and neglect inflicted. There is always the possibility of borderline cases at whatever points the lines might be drawn. To assert the existence of openness of meaning in the concepts and terms crucial to decisions regarding the identification and control of abuse and neglect, and of vagueness around the lines of differentiation is not, however, to sanction self-defeating apathy and careless decisions. Rather, the purpose is to emphasize one of the major problems underlying difficulties in the delivery of services and the administration of justice in this field. Hopefully, identifying a problem is a step toward addressing it.

On Evidence:

Evidence consists of items or assertions of fact offered as proof for the existence of a phenomenon, state of being, or past happening. What constitutes evidence may vary with the context or purpose for which it is used. While in common, everyday situations evidence may be anything that persuades the mind that a given factual proposition is true, in law evidence designates facts that meet the requirements set by certain legal rules. These rules govern the nature of admissible facts and specify the methods by which facts are to be established.

Subjectivity enters into evidence in at least two major ways. The first involves the process of selecting facts. Contrary to the popular saying, evidence or "facts" do not speak for themselves; they must be conscientiously sought out and assembled. They are selected from a wide range of "facts" and rarely, if ever, can be said to be complete. The process of evidence selection is a human enterprise that requires a number of subjective decisions. To note that evidence can be selected is one issue, but the basis for selecting among various possibilities is another. Some caseworkers, police officers, and personnel from other agencies interviewed in depth mentioned early "impressionistic decisions" as what guides their selection of evidence. In other words, decisions seem to be made on the basis of impressions and observations. Once such decisions are reached, the evaluation or investigation searches for evidence to document them. Needless to say, this is the reverse of the optimal process of decision-making, in which the collection of evidence is guided by the criteria identifying

the problem, with judgments and decisions deferred until evidence has been gathered and examined.

Subjectivity also enters evidence through opinions and interpretations. The rules of evidence in the Anglo-American system of legal and administrative proceedings have generally excluded "hearsay" and "opinion," confining a witness to describe what he or she perceives, and thus reserving the function of inference to the jury, judge, or evaluator. "Only an expert qualified to the satisfaction of the court may testify to the inferences he drew from his perceptions."[9] The problem of distinguishing between perceptions and conclusions, however, is not always easily resolved. Even the "non-adversary" procedures of courts handling abuse and neglect are open to the subjective opinions and interpretations of police officers, caseworkers, physicians, and other sources of information. Furthermore, subjectivity may enter into not ~~only~~ verbal testimonies, but reports as well, especially those of a narrative form:

Important as they are, issues involved in evidence have generally received little research attention. The objectives of research and development efforts in this area should be to facilitate the collection of evidence and to develop its utility. Within this context, the utility of evidence is a function of (a) its relevance, that is, the degree to which it is related to both the phenomenon being evaluated and the criteria of evaluation; (b) its accuracy in representing the facts, that is, its freedom from the errors of identification and measurement; (c) its timeliness, or its correspondence to current and up-to-date conditions; and (d) its adequacy, that is, completeness.

On Judgment:

The role of judgment in decisions concerning abuse and neglect, or any other phenomenon for that matter, varies according to the specificity-diffuseness of criteria and the nature of evidence. Two types of decision processes can be identified. First, is a process based upon objectively defined criteria for which there are concrete indicators, as in determinations concerning the eligibility of widows for certain benefits upon the death of their husbands. Such decisions are of a routine nature, and only entail the mechanical matching of simple evidence with clear-cut criteria.[10] Sometimes, when the items of evidence called for are not available, designating an acceptable substitute may create difficulties, but the disposition of these problems has also become fairly routinized. Decisions of this type require not only that specific criteria be established, but also that relative weights be accorded to each. To make such decisions, only evidence related to established criteria need be collected.

The second type of decision process, which may be termed non-routine, entails judgment on the meaning of criteria, the relative weights they are to be assigned, the nature and relevance of evidence, and the application of criteria to evidence. Typical non-routine decisions are based upon an inductive process in which broadly categorized data may be relevant and need to be collected. In this process, one looks for signs, trends, syndromes, and clues, which would then require further review of the data to determine their significance. The extent to which "meaning" is derived from the data may depend as much on the artfulness of the decision makers and

the constraints placed upon them, as on the nature or extent of the data.

These two decision models represent a continuum. As the phenomena about which decisions are made become better understood and their indicators more clearly delineated, the greater routinization of decisions becomes more feasible. At present, most, if not all, major decisions concerning abuse and neglect are much closer to the non-routine end of the continuum. The susceptibility of these decisions to the subjective influence of human judgment raises a number of questions about the disposition of doubtful cases. It is a truism to assert that decisions in doubtful cases are more likely to be subject to errors in judgment than cases representing obvious extremes. To illustrate, a doubtful case may be determined to involve abuse when "in fact" it does not, or not to involve abuse when "in fact" it does. Similarly, a case may be determined to require certain action (e.g. change of custody) when "in fact" it does not, or not to require such action while "in fact" it does. These two errors are usually referred to as false-positives and false-negatives, respectively. Without further specification of the meaning, the identifying criteria, and the nature of evidence, attempts to limit the false negatives would almost automatically result in an increase in the false-positives, and vice versa.

This dilemma raises important issues in decisions concerning the identification and control of abuse and neglect. To begin with, there is the question of the consequences of each of the two types of decision errors for children and for parents. While one type of error constitutes a risk for the children's safety and well-being, the other entails undue harassment of parents.

Since the absence of clear-cut criteria and evidence in non-routine decisions leads to an increase in the ranks of doubtful cases, another important issue concerns the rules or norms that guide judgment in such cases. For example, the general norms in medicine are to minimize the false-negatives, even if it means an increase in the false-positives. This is consistent with the provision of medical care, and therefore, "most physicians learn early in their training that it is far more culpable to dismiss a sick person than to retain a well one."[11] On the other hand, the norm in law is that "a man is innocent until proven guilty." Here the emphasis is upon minimizing false-positives and acquitting defendants unless the judge or jury "find the evidence of guilt compelling beyond a reasonable doubt," the rationale being that "the individual is... weak and defenseless, relative to society, and therefore in no position to sustain the consequences of an erroneous decision."[12]

Inferences that can be made from the findings of this study would lead to the conclusion that there are no consistent decision rules in regard to these problems. They vary according to agencies, to professional backgrounds, and quite frequently to individuals. Wide differences in informal decision rules were reflected in responses to a question about the degree to which personnel in the respective agencies varied in "decisions and approaches to problems of abuse and neglect." The answers are presented in Table IV-35. Responses citing "no" variations ranged from 13.9% for personnel in child protection agencies to 77.4% for those in hospital social services. On the other hand, "great" variations were highest among medical personnel (37.3%) and lowest among hospital social services (2.2%). As might be

expected, "some" variations were reported by agencies representing large proportions of the population.

As mentioned earlier, equity, fairness, and effectiveness in programs are predicated on decisions free of errors, especially those errors of a systematic nature that tend to prejudice the delivery of service or law enforcement efforts. One way to limit the susceptibility of decisions to both variations in judgment and other related subjective influences is to move the decision process toward the routine end of the continuum. Such change can only be accomplished through further specification of criteria and evidence, however, and at present there is much room for improvement along these lines. Furthermore, as has already been mentioned, opinions will always exert some degree of influence over decisions concerning complex issues emanating from abuse and neglect. Because of this, it is necessary to examine those approaches to the problem involving the structure of decision-making.

Structure of Decision-Making:

Generally, three structural approaches have been used in attempts to reduce the openness of decisions. The first is "due process," which is oriented to achieving the norms of justice in judicial decisions. Its basic element is the right to be heard before a decision is taken that affects one's life, liberty, or property.[13] Schwartz explains that the right to be heard should include the right to: (1) be heard orally, (2) present evidence and argument, (3) rebut adverse evidence through cross-examination and other appropriate means, (4) have the decision based only upon known evidence, and (5) appear with counsel.[14] Furthermore, the right to a jury is granted to

criminal defendants, declared the Supreme Court in 1968, "in order to prevent oppression by the government... to provide... an estimable safeguard against the corrupt or overzealous prosecutor and against the compliant, biased or eccentric judge."[15] Neither court hearings concerned with abuse and neglect nor other related procedures adhere to either of these structural approaches -- due process or jury trial. The arguments against introducing them assert that they would interfere "with the informal 'helping' nature of the courts and violate the principle of parens patriae."[16] And, thus,

> Hearing procedures vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Generally, however, the hearings are informal and private. Unlike criminal proceedings which are governed by strict rules of evidence, neglect hearings tend to allow for wide-ranging inquiries beyond the specific allegations of neglect... Many jurisdictions give wide discretion to the judge, allowing him to make whatever disposition he deems will advance the child's best interests. Others limit the judge's discretion to actions short of legally terminating the parent-child relationship.[17]

Further increasing the openness of court decisions in regard to abuse and neglect is the lack of specificity of statutes governing parent-child relations. One judge observed:

> The neglect statutes are concerned with parental behavior, not as behavior per se, but only and solely as it adversely affects the child in those areas of the child's life about which the statutes have expressed concern. Each child embodies his own unique combination of physical, psychological, and social components, no child has quite the same strengths or weaknesses as another or exactly the same relationship with his family. The parental failure which markedly damages one child might leave another quite untouched. This interaction

between the child and his family is the essence of a neglect situation, the imponderable which defies statutory constraints.[18]

Katz maintains that "it is the nonspecific statute which provides the judge with a vehicle for imposing on others his own preferences for certain child-rearing practices and his own ideas of adult behavior and parental morality."[19] Equally important are the false-negatives and false-positives inevitable in court decisions when open to individual judgment. As mentioned earlier, such "errors" entail substantial risks for children and parents, especially when they concern custody, and even more so when permanent separation is at stake. In conclusion, we believe that due process remains a viable and important option.

The second approach public agencies follow in addressing openness in decisions is to place such decisions in the hands of "professionals," who presumably possess specialized knowledge and skills relevant to the problems at hand. There is a paradox involved here, however, since the fact that decisions are open to the exercise of judgment indicates that knowledge concerning the problems is both incomplete and nonspecific. The following excerpts about police decison-making in regard to the "unprotected child" illustrate the paradox:

> Juvenile personnel are selected for specialization partly on the basis of demonstrated decision-making in other areas of police work, along with other considerations regarding qualifications... Of all police branches, juvenile enforcement can least afford an officer who is incapable of making solid decisions that can stand the test of time.
>
> Many departments have no established policy guidelines for the officers to follow in the application of police discretionary power. The officer is sent forth to analyze the situation, and only after he has taken action will the "second guessing" begin... If, as most professionals argue, such

> policies cannot be set down in writing because of the individuality of each case; then it must be conversely stated that the officer, when making a bad decision on an individual case cannot be expected to learn from his own experience, as the case is individual and unique... The truth is, no policy is written because there is not enough knowledge and understanding of the basis of police decision-making at this time to form a foundation for the establishment of adequate policy.[20]

Arguments have been advanced that caseworkers in child protective agencies are better prepared professionally to handle initial investigations.[21] The distinct impression gathered in field interviews, however, was that the rate of turnover in these positions is high, resulting in less cumulative experience. Furthermore, it was often mentioned that the current training of social workers does not equip them to handle decisions of this type appropriately. It is thus no accident that "personnel" was one of the highest ranking areas of need in child protective agencies, and that upgrading personnel quality was a prevalent concern -- nor were these responses (Table IV-25) unique to protective services. The central issue, however, continues to be the status of the available knowledge and technology, and whether or not they are sufficiently developed to provide the basis for decisions free from personal biases and other extraneous influences. And, it need hardly be added, the literature abounds with indications of such influences in "professional" decisions.[22]

A third approach to guard against the consequences of openness in decisions is to limit individual decisions in favor of "group decisions" made by two or more persons. These persons could be from the same agency or from different agencies; similarly, they could have the same professional background or

could represent different professions. While some view interdisciplinary "team" approaches as a panacea for solving all problems, others see them as nothing more than compounding the ignorance of individual participants. Neither extreme presents a constructive position.

If properly managed, collective views, especially if they represent diverse professional perspectives, are less likely to be influenced by subjective and other extraneous factors. The findings of this survey, however, indicate that individual decisions prevail in current practices. For example, in protective agencies representing about 60% of the population, caseworkers themselves make decisions to seek temporary custody; in agencies responsible for 42% of the population, they also make decisions to seek permanent separation or return of children to their families. Furthermore, reports from police departments serving 61% of the population indicate that the officer on the scene makes decisions on the removal of children from their homes. Changes in the decision-making structure toward "collective" and "interdisciplinary" forms would not only require change in the internal procedures within given agencies, but much closer coordination of programs as well.

Program Coordination

In this analysis the term "program" is used to designate those service and law enforcement activities directed to the control of child maltreatment or to the alleviation of its consequences. In this sense, a program is not to be equated with any given agency or organization. Ideally, integrated program planning involves identifying objectives, then selecting means

and technologies appropriate to the objectives, and finally organizing programs to implement these means. The actual development of child maltreatment programs is far from approximating this ideal pattern.

As have programs addressed to other multi-problem categories of the population, those concerned with child maltreatment have experienced fragmentation--a predictable consequence of the specialization of agencies. Obviously, having one agency handle all the activities related to child abuse and neglect is neither possible nor necessarily desirable. Nevertheless, the involvement of such functionally specialized agencies as the police, the courts, the hospitals, and the schools inevitably raises the question of coordination. Presumably, child welfare and protective agencies were conceived with the function of coordination in mind. Indeed, it is largely because of this intended coordinative role that Kadushin found it "difficult to neatly classify protective services" in his scheme of services as "supportive, supplementary, or substitutive" in relation to the families.[23] But although the function of protective agencies is to cut across all three types, their lack of authority (vis-a-vis other agencies), limitations in resources, and the training and experience of their staffs have severely reduced their effectiveness in performing this role.

Emphasis in the literature on coordination has been focused primarily on forms of cooperation among agencies; an exchange framework has provided the most useful perspectives for such analysis. Levine and White define organizational exchange as "any voluntary activity between organizations which has consequences, actual or anticipated, for the realization of

their respective objectives."[24] It should be noted that exchange refers not only to reciprocal activities, but also to organizational activities in general. Thus, an exchange can be unidirectional, such as when one organization refers a client to another. This broad definition permits one to consider various dimensions of organizational interaction that might otherwise be overlooked.

Theoretically, if all organizations were endowed with infinite resources, there would be no need for organizational exchange. Given the actual conditions of scarcity, however, interorganizational exchanges are necessary for goal attainment. The complex network of agencies concerned with child abuse, for example, can be viewed as an exchange system, the agencies' interrelationships being determined according to their needs or commitment to the control of this problem. The elements which are exchanged fall into three basic categories: clients; manpower representing different skills; and such non-labor resources as funds, information, and equipment.[25] Agencies dealing with child abuse differ in their needs for these elements according to the functions they perform in a program of child abuse and to the resources available to them.

Reid suggests that the exchange perspective has two advantages in an analysis of interagency coordination.[26] First, it draws attention to the importance of organizational goals. Any organizational activity, including coordination, may be viewed as directed toward goal achievement, no matter how the organization defines its own goals.

> Viewing coordination as an exchange through which agencies attempt to achieve their goals, forces consideration of what these goals actually are. In this type of analysis, one need not

> assume that the most important agency goals be in furthering the welfare of the community, or that agencies in a community are bound together in a closely knit system in which each seeks similar goals through different means. Much of the prescriptive writing on coordination assumes that agencies have or should have common goals. It is another matter, however, to examine agency goals for what they are without prior assumptions or illusions. Only in this way can the subject of interagency coordination be dealt with analytically.[27]

Second, the exchange perspective sensitizes one to the fact that any coordinative activity involves organizational resources, which may be broadly defined as any elements an organization needs to achieve its goals. An exchange among organizations can be described in terms of the types of resources included in the transaction.

Using a typology based on the extensiveness of the exchange, Reid delineates three levels of coordination that hold a great deal of promise for analyzing the relationships among agencies involved in child abuse programs. The first, Ad Hoc Case Coordination, is least costly and does not require extensive organizational commitment. The following are instances of this level of coordination: a physician in a hospital who attempts to get social services for a family in which he suspects an incidence of child abuse; a school teacher who tries to get a public health nurse to pay a visit to the home of a child she suspects as being maltreated; or a caseworker in a child welfare agency who introduces a parent involved in child abuse to a local unit of "Parents Anonymous." These examples illustrate an unstructured or emergent exchange process, as opposed to Service Integration, which occurs when organizations

have a general policy of working together for certain types of cases, and have established rules for handling them. This second level of exchange represents more formalization of the interorganizational relationships, and is less dependent upon the idiosyncrasies of the functionaries involved. The third level, Program Integration, takes place when two or more organizations establish special programs, jointly coordinated and managed, to accomplish goals which the participating agencies have in common. The institutionalization of such programs represents greater commitment to goals and assurance of continuity.

Mechanisms for controlling the exchange relationships are also significant. Reid maintains that shared goals and complementarity of resources are often sufficient conditions for lower levels of coordination, such as the ad hoc type, if agencies have mutually respected domains. For more systematic forms of coordination, however, formal means of control must be developed.

> Such control mechanisms may take the form of interagency agreements, of regularly scheduled case conferences between staff members of different agencies, or interagency committees. Program coordination may require such mechanisms as formal agreements, accountability procedures, interagency conferences, and allocations of coordinating responsibilities to specific staff members.[28]

One of the mechanisms for controlling exchange among agencies concerned with child abuse has been the interagency committee, which serves as a central clearinghouse or coordinator of related agencies, and occasionally as a catalyst in the development of new services.[29] At times, the work of such committees may extend beyond program coordination to the actual handling of cases of abuse. The impetus for the development of interagency

committees may come not only from the personnel of certain public or private agencies, but also from concerned citizens, who may take part in the committees once they are formed.

Another approach to the control of organizational exchange is through "coordinating agencies," which have as their objective the ordering of "behavior between two or more other formal organizations by communicating pertinent information, by adjudicating areas of dispute, by providing standards of behavior, by promoting areas of common interest, and so forth."[30] This type of agency attempts to coordinate independent organizations either because they have conflicting goals or because, although they share common goals, the demands of efficiency dictate specialization. Examples of coordinating agencies would involve only higher levels of administration. It should be noted that, at the level of the delivery of services, their control of exchange in the daily operations of agencies has not been effective. Furthermore, this mechanism for controlling exchange is rendered less viable in regard to the problem of child abuse because of the involvement of varying jurisdictional levels--federal, state, local, and voluntary.

The control of complex interagency coordination is both costly and difficult. Thus, agencies "are often reluctant to devote expensive staff time and other resources to less than adequate regulation of complex exchanges. Unless commitment to shared goals and need of complementary resources provide sufficient force, agencies may decide that coordination is not worth the price."[31]

Finally, the distinction should be made between interdisciplinary and interagency coordination. Interdisciplinary

coordination consists of a team of members from different professions and occupations, who nevertheless function as a unit within one organization. This pattern can be found more frequently in hospitals and mental health clinics than in any of the other agencies concerned with child maltreatment. Typically, such teams include physicians, nurses, caseworkers, and others who are employed by the hospital or clinic or who volunteer their services. Interagency coordination, on the other hand, links independent organizations. As observed earlier, the linkage varies in terms of the degree of formalization and the level of operation at which relations are articulated -- e.g. at the policy and general level or in day-to-day case management. Needless to say, the number and types of agencies which enter into coordinative agreements vary from one community to another as well.

Guided by the previous conceptual distinctions, several questions were included in this survey to gather information about the status of formally organized interagency coordination in the sample areas. Table IV-36 presents the types and prevalence of coordinative arrangements as reported by respondents from the various agencies. Although differences in responses largely reflect the pattern of participation in, and knowledge about the existence of, such arrangements, they may also, to a lesser degree, reflect differences in terminology. Since protective services are the most central for programs addressed to child maltreatment, and therefore the most likely to know about coordinative activities and to take part in them, more reliance can be placed upon their information.

Depending upon the reporting agency, 55.6% to 76.8% of

the population lived in areas where there were no centers on child abuse and neglect, no interagency teams, and no liaison committees or other mechanisms for interagency coordination. Nonparticipation in interagency linkages, where existent, was highest for the courts (7.7%) and lowest for public health nurses (1.4%). Protective services representing 2.5% of the population reported the existence of liaison activities in which they took no part.

The coordinating bodies varied in composition, function, and administrative location. In the majority of cases, when these bodies had been established they included four or more participant agencies. The fact that department heads and supervisors most commonly took part in coordinating efforts may indicate that the major function of most coordinating mechanisms involves interorganizational relations rather than actual case management, since emphasis on the latter would require the participation of police officers, caseworkers, nurses, and others directly engaged in the delivery of services. That teams and liaison groups usually met about once a month also indicates more concern with general matters than with the day-to-day case management.

A close examination of responses concerning the nature of interorganizational liaisons revealed that about 15.6% of the population resided in jurisdictions reporting a case management level of coordination; and an additional 28.8%, in jurisdictions characterized by liasons concerned with other forms of "administrative" coordination not involving case management. The remaining 55.6% of the population were in areas where the working relations among agencies reached neither level of coordination. In

order to test the relationship between these three forms of relations (case management coordination, administrative coordination, and no coordination) and the prevalence of interagency difficulties, a question was formulated asking the respondents if the ways other agencies handle cases of abuse and neglect caused delays or other problems for the respondents' respective agencies.

Table 37 presents the weighted proportions of agencies in the survey, according to the three levels of coordination, that experienced such problems in their relations to three or more other agencies. The important trend revealed is that of a consistent curvilinear relationship between levels of coordination and the prevalence of problems for every agency. This indicates that the development of coordination in child maltreatment programs follows three broad transitional phases. The first phase is characteristic of communities where there are no pressures for coordination. Because agencies operate in an independent manner, no problems exist concerning roles, boundaries, control over resources, or control over clientele. Thus, these agencies tend to perceive fewer problems in relating to each other than do those in communities where pressures toward coordination exist.

The second phase involves agencies in the early stages of developing coordinative mechanisms. Since the perception of needs for coordination generally stems from heightened awareness about the problem, it is not surprising that programs in this phase have exhibited the greatest prevalence of interagency difficulties. Even if no coordination exists, awareness of the problem and of the need for interagency relationships can be

in itself a source of considerable dissatisfaction. The problem is further compounded by apprehensions about the roles, responsibilities, and boundaries as well as the distribution of resources. No doubt, the exposure of personnel with varying disciplinary and professional backgrounds to each other as potential collaborators on serious decisions adds to their anxiety and sensitivity concerning interagency difficulties.

The third phase, that of close coordination and actual case management, occurs when most of the difficulties involving boundaries and responsibilities have been resolved. Generally, personnel from the various agencies have become acquainted with one another's orientations and approaches. Because this phase is characterized by the more precise articulation of roles, it is also marked by a reduction in the prevalence of problems and difficulties in interagency relations.

The three phases actually represent abstractions of a continuum. At least from a "therapeutic" viewpoint, this information should prove useful to communities working toward program coordination, especially those in the second phase. The implications of these relations reach beyond programs for child maltreatment, however, extending to other efforts toward coordination around other community problems.

The prevalence of difficulties in interagency relations was also pursued independently of its relations to levels of coordination. Table 38 presents a cross tabulation of agencies that reported experiencing problems and those named as the sources of the problems. Perhaps, because of their central role, child protective services experienced more difficulties than any other agency in the survey. Child protective services and hospital medical

personnel showed a high level of mutual dissatisfaction, as did the police and child protective services. The schools ranked high on the problem lists of child protective services and the police, while the courts were ranked fairly high as sources of problems by most respondents' agencies. Finally, it should be noted also that child protective services were frequently, and in a fairly consistent manner, viewed as sources of problems.

To conclude this section, in Table 39 we present data on the nature of the problems and difficulties encountered by the respondents' agencies. This information was obtained in response to the question: "Considering the various facets of the problem, and the many agencies involved, what difficulties do you see in the way child abuse and neglect is handled in this area?" The distributions of responses demonstrate the prevalence of problems and difficulties indicative of inadequacies in inter-agency coordination (non-centralized handling and lack of interagency cooperation). Insufficiency or inadequacy in staffing, in case identification and reporting, and in placement facilities were also among the most prevalent sources of problems for the various agencies.

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TABLE IV-1

Sources of Reports, Referrals, and Affidavits on Child Abuse and Neglect to Agencies in the Survey Sample

Sources	Receiving Agencies			
	CPS	PHN	CRT	POL
Public Health Departments	3.6	-	1.3	1.8
Prosecuting Attorney Offices	2.5	1.4	14.8	2.2
Courts	7.0	0.8	-	1.7
Hospitals and Clinics	11.9	18.4	1.4	9.3
Child Protective Agencies	-	21.9	43.0	8.7
Other Welfare Services	12.2	5.4	13.6	3.5
Schools	12.1	13.5	1.8	10.5
Police and Sheriff Departments	11.0	0.9	8.7	-
Private and Voluntary Agencies	2.3	1.5	0.9	0.9
Other Agencies	1.2	11.9	3.9	6.0
Clergymen	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5
Private Physicians	2.4	5.1	0.5	3.1
Private Psychologists	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other Professionals	0.3	1.3	0.2	0.4
Relatives	15.1	8.2	7.8	21.5
Friends and Neighbors	16.0	9.2	1.6	27.1
Other Laymen	1.7	0.2	0.5	2.6

TABLE IV-2

Distributions of Abuse and Neglect
Among Children Known to Agencies in the Survey

Agencies and Programs	Cases Known to Agencies	
	Abuse %	Neglect %
Child Protective Services	27.0	73.0
Public Health Nurses	30.8	69.2
School	50.4	49.6
Hospital Medical Departments	63.4	36.6
Hospital Social Services	60.2	39.8
Courts	25.4	74.6
Police and Sheriff Departments	46.6	53.4

TABLE IV-3

Procedures for Reporting Suspected Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in School Systems, Hospitals, and Divisions of Public Health Nursing

Procedures and Their Use	Organizations and Respondents			
	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS
Existence and Forms of Procedures				
Written Procedures	48.6	50.3	46.0	60.2
Unwritten Procedures	21.4	18.1	16.5	16.5
Unsure of Form	0.0	2.6	2.3	1.4
No Procedures Exist	30.0	28.8	35.2	21.9
Where Procedure Exists, How Regularly Followed?				
Almost Always	87.8	78.8	83.4	84.9
Often	7.3	14.0	8.8	7.1
Sometimes	4.7	4.4	5.7	7.6
Occasionally	0.2	1.6	2.1	0.2
Hardly Ever	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.2
Is Reporting to Other Agencies Assigned to Specific Department or Person?				
Yes	23.2	54.9	47.1	65.8
No	46.5	16.0	17.0	11.2
No Procedures Exist	30.3	29.1	35.9	22.9

TABLE IV-4

Estimates of the Likelihood of Reporting
Suspected Abuse and Neglect to Child Protection Services

Source of Identification	Likelihood of Reporting to CPS				
	Almost Always	Often	Some-times	Occas-ionally	Hardly Ever
Public Health Nurses	40.4	26.6	17.6	8.1	7.2
Hospitals	29.4	33.6	19.6	10.1	7.3
Welfare and Social Services	53.6	26.3	14.3	3.3	2.4
Schools	26.1	39.8	21.4	11.2	1.6
Police and Sheriff Departments	47.0	27.4	18.2	4.2	3.2
Private and Voluntary Agencies	24.1	16.1	28.4	11.3	20.0
Other Agencies	28.5	11.0	19.4	14.0	27.0
Clergymen	9.5	11.9	13.2	22.2	43.2
Physicians	14.5	13.2	20.3	18.7	33.2
Psychologists and Counselors	13.3	9.2	9.9	9.7	57.9
Other Professionals	14.9	7.1	15.9	16.4	45.7
Relatives and Family	9.7	35.5	37.5	15.1	2.2
Friends and Neighbors	6.2	40.6	36.7	11.4	5.0
Other Laymen	11.6	13.6	32.6	21.4	20.8

TABLE IV-5

Estimates of the Likelihood of Reporting Suspected Abuse and Neglect to Police and Sheriff Departments

Sources of Identification	Likelihood of Reporting to POL				
	Almost Always	Often	Some-times	Occas-ionally	Hardly Ever
Public Health Nurses	38.4	9.1	8.8	7.4	36.3
Hospitals	47.0	13.3	11.4	7.6	20.8
Child Protective Services	45.4	9.9	11.4	4.7	28.6
Welfare and Social Services	30.1	14.2	10.4	6.4	38.8
Schools	39.5	12.7	16.1	14.1	17.6
Private and Voluntary Agencies	19.1	10.0	9.9	7.6	53.4
Other Agencies	24.6	9.2	9.0	3.9	53.4
Clergymen	22.6	6.5	7.8	11.3	51.7
Physicians	30.8	9.6	11.4	12.4	35.8
Psychologists and Counselors	10.6	3.9	9.8	5.6	70.1
Other Professionals	23.9	3.8	4.8	8.0	59.5
Relatives and Family	19.3	22.6	31.5	12.7	13.9
Friends and Neighbors	16.5	32.1	24.9	14.1	12.4
Other Laymen	21.4	15.2	16.6	9.3	37.5

TABLE IV-6

Likelihood of Reporting Suspected
Abuse and Neglect to Public Health Nurses

Sources of Identification	Likelihood of Reporting to PHN				
	Almost Always	Often	Some-times	Occas-ionally	Hardly Ever
Hospitals	20.1	11.5	16.0	17.6	34.8
Child Protective Services	30.4	14.9	13.0	10.6	31.2
Welfare and Social Services	20.3	10.6	18.1	18.3	37.7
Schools	20.0	21.3	12.6	12.2	34.0
Police and Sheriff Departments	11.8	3.6	8.6	12.7	63.2
Private and Voluntary Agencies	9.8	4.0	9.9	16.0	60.3
Other Agencies	22.8	12.2	10.5	4.1	50.5
Clergymen	9.3	7.8	9.3	9.6	63.9
Physicians	11.0	5.1	15.3	18.4	50.2
Psychologists and Counselors	7.4	1.6	7.9	4.3	78.8
Other Professionals	4.4	3.7	14.3	9.1	68.5
Relatives and Family	7.9	17.1	24.7	23.5	26.7
Friends and Neighbors	12.4	18.2	21.2	24.0	24.2
Other Laymen	8.9	4.8	9.7	13.3	63.3

TABLE IV-7

Likelihood of Reporting Abuse and Neglect by Hospital Physicians and Nurses as Assessed by Medical and Social Services Respondents

Likelihood of Reporting	Assessment by Medical Personnel		Assessment by Social Services Personnel	
	For Physicians	For Nurses	For Physicians	For Nurses
Almost Always	65.8	82.4	56.1	70.2
Often	17.3	9.9	16.0	15.6
Sometimes	12.9	3.4	18.9	9.3
Occasionally	3.0	1.8	6.7	1.6
Hardly Ever	1.0	2.6	3.3	3.3

TABLE IV-8

Likelihood of Under-Reporting in Different Parts of Hospital Operations as Assessed by Medical and Social Services Personnel

Hospital Operations	Assessments	
	By Hospital Medical Staff	By Staff of Social Services
Where Under-Reporting Most Likely to Occur:		
Emergency Rooms	40.6	23.4
Out-Patient Services	16.8	24.3
In-Patient Wards	8.9	12.6
No Differences	31.8	35.4
Don't Know	3.2	6.1

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-9

Likelihood of Reporting Suspected Abuse and Neglect by School Personnel

Personnel Category	Likelihood of Reporting				
	Almost Always	Often	Some-times	Occas-ionally	Hardly Ever
Teachers	64.8	19.3	9.9	3.9	2.1
Counselors	78.4	12.0	4.4	2.7	2.4
School Nurses	90.4	3.4	4.5	0.2	1.6
Principals	78.6	10.1	9.0	1.7	0.7
School Physicians	76.6	4.0	5.3	3.3	10.8
School Social Workers	91.2	4.8	2.4	0.2	1.4
Others	78.0	9.0	8.6	2.2	2.2

TABLE IV-10

Standard Screening Procedures in School Systems, Public Health Nursing Divisions, and Hospital Medical Departments

Standard Screening	Organizations and Respondents		
	PHN	SCH	HMD
None Employed	53.5	56.1	86.5
Screening Applied to All Children	31.2	31.4	8.3
Screening Applied Selectively	14.3	11.8	4.8
Don't Know	1.0	0.6	0.4

TABLE IV-11

Estimates of Under-Reporting of
Abuse and Neglect in the Community

Degree of Under-Reporting	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	PCL
Child Abuse							
A Great Deal	45.0	40.5	29.8	24.3	34.7	40.9	30.6
Some	40.6	49.0	46.4	34.7	39.1	42.1	49.5
No Under-Reporting	14.4	10.5	23.8	41.0	26.1	17.0	19.9
Child Neglect							
A Great Deal	33.4	50.0	37.7	40.5	50.4	45.1	47.2
Some	35.3	41.2	40.2	33.9	31.4	32.5	36.8
No Under-Reporting	31.3	8.8	22.1	25.6	18.3	22.4	15.9

TABLE IV-12

Special Efforts Toward Identifying And Reporting Abuse and Neglect

Special Efforts	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Nature of Efforts							
None undertaken	0.3	8.0	33.7	44.6	23.4	17.5	25.9
24-hour telephone	3.0	3.7	0.8	0.0	2.6	1.2	2.6
Broad based team	13.9	13.9	9.3	6.7	12.0	6.4	7.6
Changed laws	38.5	31.0	17.7	11.2	14.3	42.7	24.1
New reporting system	25.8	22.1	8.4	5.3	10.0	12.2	6.9
Improved CRS service	0.0	2.5	0.0	1.6	0.0	6.5	0.0
Public education	43.3	16.9	4.9	11.9	22.7	22.7	21.9
Professional education	17.7	23.1	29.2	20.2	27.6	11.9	16.7
Interagency cooperation	10.7	11.1	7.1	3.1	9.1	5.0	7.5
Other	1.5	5.4	8.6	4.1	5.1	2.0	11.7
Don't Know	1.3	0.6	0.4	3.4	3.6	6.3	3.1
Level of Efforts							
State	48.4	47.9	29.1	30.3	28.0	62.7	50.1
Regional	0.7	1.2	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.3
Local	50.9	50.9	70.9	69.5	71.0	37.3	49.6
Effects of Efforts on Reporting							
Increased greatly	53.1	38.0	29.1	30.0	32.5	32.6	46.5
Increased somewhat	39.4	44.5	53.6	58.5	48.8	53.8	32.2
Not increased at all	7.5	17.5	17.2	11.5	18.7	13.6	21.3

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-13

Procedures Used to Ascertain the Validity of Abuse and Neglect Reports, Other Than Home Visits

Procedures	Organizations and Respondents	
	CPS	POL
Eliminate anonymous telephone calls	4.6	3.7
Ask caller for details	10.8	3.6
Determine urgency from caller	8.4	9.1
Eliminate previously unsubstantiated calls	12.3	9.4
Have caller report in person	0.0	3.6
Get confirmation from other agency	38.1	39.3
Get confirmation from other people	14.6	3.2
Check on previous reports	15.4	4.8
Use best judgment	14.9	7.9
Refer caller to probate court	1.0	0.0
Refer to other agency	3.3	27.3
Other	6.8	9.9
Screen neglect calls and visit all abuse calls	6.2	1.3

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-14

Proportions of Cases in Which Children's Temporary Separation from Their Families Was Found Advisable

Proportions	Organizations and Respondents		
	CPS	PHN	HSS
Less than 25%	54.0	70.6	47.4
25 - 49%	19.4	9.6	21.2
50 - 74%	20.4	11.4	15.4
75 - 99%	2.6	3.7	8.8
100%	3.7	4.7	7.2

TABLE IV-15

Conditions Warranting Temporary
Removal of Children from Their Home

Conditions	Organizations and Respondents		
	CPS	PHN	HSS
No one to care for child	2.4	1.8	4.3
Parent incapable of care	17.1	8.5	16.4
Parent uncooperative, unresponsive	16.1	7.6	17.7
While parents get treatment	5.2	1.8	5.5
Seriousness of abuse	24.2	21.0	18.9
Severe threat to child still present	40.0	13.7	10.5
Fighting in home	7.5	7.9	9.5
To protect and help the child	34.4	33.5	26.1
If no food, heat, water, etc.	5.1	2.7	2.1
Parents request child be taken	-	-	2.6
Emergency situation	0.1	-	0.3
All cases	1.2	-	2.2
Never	1.3	18.9	20.0
Other	8.6	16.0	6.6

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-16

Types of Evidence of Abuse and Neglect
Pursued by Respondents from the Police,
Hospital Medical Departments, and School Systems

Types of Evidence	Abuse			Neglect		
	SCH	HMD	POL	SCH	HMD	POL
Signs of Physical Abuse	88.9	56.4	89.9	79.8	80.0	69.0
Emotional Injuries	17.5	11.5	12.0	18.5	30.9	10.1
General Condition of Child	5.4	3.0	7.2	8.4	6.5	9.1
Home Environment	-	-	18.7	1.7	0.1	66.3
Evidence of Alcoholism or Drug Abuse	-	0.2	1.4	0.7	0.9	1.7
Child's Own Report of Incident	37.1	0.8	6.3	17.1	1.0	1.4
Child Left Alone	-	-	-	2.4	3.4	17.2
Parent's Reaction to Child	0.5	11.1	7.6	1.0	8.7	4.4
Absenteeism from School	5.6	-	-	17.3	-	-
Witnesses	4.6	0.5	2.0	6.5	2.4	2.4
Physical Evidence Used to Abuse - Weapons	-	0.7	4.9	-	-	-
Repetition of Incidents, Reports, Injuries	2.7	20.0	-	1.3	5.2	-
Injuries, Conditions with Implausible Explanations	3.5	47.8	-	-	3.8	-
Delay in Getting Medical Attention	0.1	1.8	-	0.9	4.7	-
Evidence of Previous Injuries	1.0	12.0	-	-	-	-
Poor Health with No Apparent Cause	1.2	1.7	-	-	7.9	-
Reports, Information from Other Agencies	-	0.3	-	-	0.2	-
Family History or Background	0.2	4.9	-	0.3	6.5	-
No Money for Lunch	0.4	-	-	2.9	-	-
School Performance	2.0	-	-	4.7	-	-
Other	1.0	1.0	4.5	3.0	1.1	2.4

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-17

Services Provided, by Five Programs Included in the Survey, to Children and Families Involved in Abuse and Neglect*

Source	%	Source	%
Marital and family counseling	22.3	Child day care services	8.2
Alcoholic counseling	1.3	Education Services	5.2
Counseling services to child	15.4	Special education placements	1.9
Counseling of parents	15.2	Legal services	5.4
Counseling for unmarried parents	0.5	Transportation services	3.7
General psychological counseling	74.2	Provide volunteers	0.9
Counseling for foster parents	1.4	Parent's group services	2.2
testing and diagnostic services	12.3	Care of children	0.6
Medical exam or check up	5.2	School liaison	3.8
Nutrition and diet services	9.2	Recreation services	2.4
Birth control information	2.3	Services for handicapped	0.7
Nursing service	24.0	Placement services	11.7
Home visits with public nurses	5.0	Foster homes	12.4
Alcohol treatment	1.6	Group homes	1.1
Medical aid	43.4	Treatment facilities	0.4
Other medical services	0.6	Adoption service	0.3
Help with child care	8.5	Other placement facilities	2.0
Homemaker service	18.7	Supervision in home	23.5
Other home support functions	0.5	Investigation	10.1
Vocational counseling	0.7	Follow up services	4.9
Job training programs	2.2	Referrals to other agencies and services	46.1
Job placement services	1.7	References to courts	1.1
Other job related services	0.6	Protective services	8.5
Financial Assistance	27.9	Other miscellaneous	34.6
Housing	5.7	Don't know	4.5
Clothing	15.4		
Food provided	16.2		
Budgeting help	1.6		
Medicaid	2.2		
Other financial services	0.8		

*The five programs included CPS, PHN, SCH, HMD, and HSS.

TABLE IV-18

Agencies from Which Services Are Sought for Parents and Children by Programs Included in This Survey

Source	%	Source	%
Social services	10.3	Housing authority	1.4
Child protective agency	23.4	Outreach programs	0.2
Welfare department	16.7	Other public agencies	3.5
Police department	2.2	Unspecified private agencies	1.2
Probation office	1.4	Churches or ministers	6.9
Courts	2.7	Catholic family services	3.4
Prosecuting attorney's office	0.8	Family service agency	1.4
Hospitals or clinics	8.2	Volunteers	3.2
Hospital social service unit	0.2	Home extension service	2.5
Mental health care facilities	25.0	United Fund or Salvation Army	3.0
Psychological counseling	5.5	Legal aid	1.2
Drug or alcoholic treatment	0.4	Private counseling	1.4
Other medical facilities	4.2	Private drug or alcohol treatment	1.1
Public health department	12.8	Day care	1.1
Schools	4.5	Society for prevention of cruelty to children	0.1
School nurses	0.3		
Special schools - blind, deaf, etc.	0.6	Parents anonymous	1.4
School counselors	0.4	Foster homes or other placement facilities	1.8
Parent Teacher Associations	0.2	Other private agencies	1.7
Colleges, universities	0.7	Social workers	0.4
Child abuse team or SCAN team	0.9	Doctors	5.2
Vocational rehabilitation office	1.1	Psychiatrist or psychologist	1.8
Mental retardation agency	0.9	Lawyers	0.2
Community action office	0.9	Other miscellaneous	5.2
Veteran's administration	0.1	None	0.9

TABLE IV-19

Recommendations to Parents and Guardians
for Seeking Help in Regard to Their Mental Health

Questions and Responses	Organizations and Respondents			
	CPS	PHN	HMD	HSS
How Often Seeking Help is Recommended?				
Almost Always	27.0	36.7	44.3	33.8
Often	44.2	24.4	16.5	18.3
Sometimes	19.8	12.6	6.0	15.6
Occasionally	7.7	9.7	8.3	8.5
Hardly Ever	1.3	9.1	23.2	23.3
Not Applicable* or Don't Know	0.0	7.6	1.8	0.5
How Reluctant Are Parents or Guardians?				
Almost Always	8.5	12.4	16.4	13.1
Often	42.1	37.0	24.7	25.5
Sometimes	34.2	16.6	11.8	17.8
Occasionally	9.9	11.5	9.4	6.0
Hardly Ever	2.8	1.8	6.3	7.6
Not Applicable* or Don't Know	2.5	20.7	31.4	30.1
How Helpful Are The Services?				
Very Helpful	28.2	33.4	22.6	33.3
Somewhat Helpful	68.7	0.0	43.6	35.6
Little Help	0.0	40.9	0.0	0.0
No Help	0.0	4.9	0.0	0.0
Not Applicable* or Don't Know	3.1	20.8	33.8	31.0

*Not applicable refers to weighted responses indicating that no services were recommended.

TABLE IV-20

Availability of "Parents Anonymous" and Other "Self Help" Groups, Referral to These Groups, and Assessment of Their Influence

Questions and Responses	Organizations and Respondents					
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT
Do "Parents Anonymous" or Similar Groups Exist in Community?						
Yes	35.1	33.0	26.1	15.4	30.3	27.7
No	62.1	50.5	68.3	74.9	64.1	53.4
Don't Know	2.8	16.5	5.6	9.7	5.7	18.9
Does Agency Refer Parents to These Groups?						
Yes	31.2	23.2	18.6	11.3	19.3	14.0
No	4.0	9.0	7.4	3.8	10.2	12.7
Don't Know or None Exist	64.9	67.8	74.0	84.9	70.5	73.3
Do You Feel These Groups Would be Helpful?						
Yes	95.6	82.2	71.0	79.8	86.2	76.3
No	0.9	14.6	22.5	11.7	8.7	9.1
Don't Know	3.6	3.2	6.5	8.5	5.1	14.5

TABLE IV-21

Services Unavailable or Difficult
to Obtain for Children and Families

Type of Service and Availability	Organizations and Respondents				
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS
Are Any Services Unavailable or Difficult to Obtain?					
Yes	84.8	70.5	60.6	38.5	53.9
No	14.1	29.5	38.4	54.8	42.8
Don't Know	1.1	-	1.0	6.6	3.3
Type of Service Unavailable or Difficult to Obtain?					
Marital and family counseling	8.1	1.5	7.2	5.8	4.1
Alcohol counseling	0.6	-	-	-	-
Counseling services to child	3.5	3.2	2.3	3.6	4.0
Counseling of parents	4.2	1.1	1.6	9.5	4.2
General psychological counseling	33.9	33.3	39.1	37.8	26.7
Testing and diagnostic services	3.1	0.8	0.9	7.9	4.0
Medical exam or check up	1.3	-	-	-	-
Nutrition and diet services	-	1.9	0.2	0.6	3.4
Nursing service	3.2	8.8	6.8	0.4	2.1
Birth control information	-	0.3	0.6	-	-
Home visits with public nurses	-	-	0.4	-	3.1
Alcohol treatment	0.2	-	0.6	-	0.5
Medical aid	8.1	8.7	15.7	2.5	3.5
Other medical services	-	0.6	-	1.1	0.4
Instruction & help w/children	4.1	4.0	1.1	7.3	3.2
Homemaker service	22.8	14.0	5.7	3.3	15.7
Other home support functions	5.2	0.1	-	2.5	-
Vocational counseling	-	-	-	0.1	-
Job training programs	-	-	-	0.7	3.4
Job placement services	4.8	-	1.8	0.1	0.4

(continued)

TABLE IV-21

Services Unavailable or Difficult to Obtain for Children and Families

Type of Service and Availability	Organizations and Respondents				
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS
Type of Service Unavailable or Difficult to Obtain?					
Other job related services	0.6	1.4	-	-	3.1
Financial assistance	10.7	10.2	5.1	8.7	16.0
Housing	12.3	6.5	3.7	2.6	8.1
Clothing	0.3	-	2.8	-	0.3
Food provided	-	-	1.8	-	0.3
Budgeting help	1.8	0.5	0.6	1.2	3.8
Other financial services	0.6	1.6	-	-	-
Child day care services	13.3	8.3	0.4	8.2	18.6
Education services	0.5	0.7	3.9	2.9	4.2
Special education placement	6.7	1.0	3.5	-	1.2
Legal services	3.4	0.4	2.3	0.5	1.7
Transpertation services	5.6	7.9	3.9	3.6	11.2
Provide volunteers	6.2	-	1.4	0.4	3.1
Parent's group services	3.7	5.9	4.7	6.4	14.3
School liaison	1.6	-	0.7	-	-
Recreation services	4.3	-	-	1.1	0.5
Services for handicapped	2.1	1.5	1.0	-	0.2
Placement services	5.1	-	2.0	0.9	0.5
Foster homes	3.1	9.1	7.7	3.0	3.9
Group homes	3.8	-	0.1	0.2	0.4
"Treatment facilities"	5.4	0.6	0.1	-	2.1
Other placement services	10.5	6.0	6.2	1.8	1.9
Supervision in home	-	0.3	1.0	1.5	2.4
"Investigation"	0.7	-	0.1	-	-
Follow up services	-	0.8	1.7	8.8	2.7
Referrals to other agencies and services	1.4	-	4.7	0.2	1.3
References to courts	-	1.9	2.9	4.1	-
Protective services	-	1.7	2.0	4.9	1.3
Other miscellaneous	4.8	17.2	21.1	16.5	19.8

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-22

Proportions of Cases in the Active Caseloads of Child Protective Services in Which Victims Were Taken to Hospitals or Came to the Attention of the Police Because of Continued Maltreatment, as Estimated by Respondents from Protective Agencies

Proportions of Cases	Continued Abuse	Continued Neglect	Were Taken to Hospital	Became Known to Police
Almost All	2.3	3.2	2.1	7.8
More Than Half	3.0	8.9	4.3	10.7
About Half	8.9	29.9	12.2	10.9
Less Than Half	45.0	40.0	38.7	39.6
Almost None	33.3	8.8	40.0	26.1
Don't Know	7.5	9.2	2.6	5.0

TABLE IV-23

Proportions of Cases in the Active Caseloads of Child Protective Services in Which Victims Were Taken to Hospitals or Came to the Attention of the Police Because of Continued Maltreatment, as Estimated by Personnel from Hospitals and Police

Proportions of Cases	Taken to Hospitals for Treatment		Became Known to Police
	HMD Estimates	HSS Estimates	
Almost All	6.2	6.7	14.6
More than Half	10.5	12.6	23.0
About Half	14.7	18.6	17.6
Less than Half	9.6	18.5	15.1
Almost None	41.6	27.8	21.4
Don't Know	17.4	15.7	8.2

TABLE IV-24

Reactions to Opinion Item: "Agencies Are Not Given Sufficient Resources to Deal Effectively With Child Abuse and Neglect"

Reactions	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Strongly Agree	56.1	39.1	43.2	31.4	45.1	29.8	45.9
Tend to Agree	33.0	42.3	48.6	41.1	38.1	42.2	29.8
Tend to Disagree	7.0	13.5	6.2	15.4	12.8	22.2	15.7
Strongly Disagree	3.3	3.3	0.7	3.5	2.3	1.9	4.7
Don't Know	0.6	1.8	1.2	8.5	1.7	3.9	3.9

TABLE IV-25

Priorities in Use of Additional Resources for Agencies in Child Abuse and Neglect Programs and Services

Priorities	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Personnel	72.4	58.5	64.7	46.7	55.0	46.5	57.7
Improve staffing of other agencies	8.6	23.4	13.8	19.4	15.4	17.5	17.1
Intra-Agency operations	42.8	38.3	37.6	25.1	34.4	22.8	41.1
Placement facilities	49.1	21.1	20.5	15.8	27.4	46.7	25.7
Services/programs in community	75.1	56.1	50.6	48.3	56.2	41.9	26.8
Services to other agencies	45.4	42.1	22.6	32.7	42.0	23.7	38.0
Inter-Agency functions	12.3	13.3	9.9	7.4	13.3	2.0	12.5
Miscellaneous	16.9	35.8	21.6	25.0	21.3	16.6	37.7
None	1.9	9.0	5.8	18.5	10.8	18.2	10.3

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-26

Average Costs for Given Priorities in Dollars

Priorities	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Personnel	123,403	22,638	196,841	9,269	18,686	49,798	17,830
Improve staffing of other agencies	620	12,454	73	-	-	2,077	97
Intra-agency operations	5,989	18,145	6,364	740	2,687	251	16,568
Placement facilities	120,230	1,786	1,188	1,093	1,189	18,589	9,182
Service and programs in community	32,402	43,166	39,840	26,845	35,028	12,057	22,679
Services to other agencies	6,181	2,558	3,360	1,141	2,183	5,404	7,794
Inter-agency functions	590	4,856	1,103	253	313	134	2,723
Miscellaneous	2,389	28,958	3,865	321	3,525	23,412	10,008

TABLE IV-27

Staff Attendance at Conferences and Workshops

	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
None attended	2.3	23.5	29.7	39.4	24.6	20.6	32.5
Within last year	88.3	67.7	57.9	38.9	62.0	63.2	56.7
1 - 5 years ago	7.4	7.9	9.8	16.8	12.8	7.5	10.7
Don't know, other	2.0	0.9	2.6	4.9	0.7	8.7	0.2

TABLE IV-28

Rates of Court Refusals of Petitions for Temporary Removal

Rates of Refusal	As Reported By The Courts For All Petitions	As Reported By The CPS For Their Petitions	As Reported By The Police For Their Petitions
Almost Always	-	-	1.4
Often	-	-	-
Sometimes	13.4	6.7	16.3
Occasionally	20.2	38.8	29.2
Hardly Ever	64.6	54.5	49.7
Don't Know	1.9	-	3.4

TABLE IV-29

Legal Representation of Parents in Informal Resolutions and Formal Hearings

How Often Parents Were Represented By Lawyers	In Informal Resolutions	In Formal Hearings
Almost Always	21.1	63.0
Often	7.2	11.9
Sometimes	18.9	15.0
Occasionally	19.1	6.6
Hardly Ever	29.7	3.4
Don't Know	3.7	-

TABLE IV-30

Types of Evidence Acceptable to the Courts in Cases of Abuse and Neglect

Types of Evidence	Cases of Abuse	Cases of Neglect
Testimony of lay witnesses	36.9	33.9
Testimony of expert witness	14.6	37.3
Testimony of physician	29.1	10.4
Testimony of child	9.2	9.3
Condition of child	22.2	18.4
Delinquency of child	1.2	1.3
Truancy of child	0.0	5.2
Health records	41.6	23.7
Other tangible evidence	25.3	31.1
Evidence that child is unsupervised	1.6	18.3
Evidence that child does not get medical attention	0.8	7.2
Evidence concerning child's lack of food, clothing, etc.	0.0	4.8
Testimony or evidence concerning parents behavior	8.4	2.2
Evidence of physical or emotional damage to child	7.9	3.2
Circumstantial evidence	5.2	5.7
Hearsay evidence	3.1	1.6
Same types of evidence acceptable in any court	2.7	1.2
Anything relevant	2.4	3.4
Anything relevant-except hearsay	2.3	2.3
Other	4.1	6.6

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-31

Distributions of Witnesses in Formal Court Hearings about Abuse and Neglect

Types of Witnesses	How Often Do They Appear?					
	Almost Always	Often	Some-times	Occas-ionally	Hardly Ever	Don't Know
Protective Service Personnel	78.8	9.6	2.4	5.4	3.2	0.6
Hospital Physicians	11.9	14.8	24.1	22.0	25.8	1.4
Hospital Social Workers	7.9	11.3	22.8	15.1	42.1	0.7
Physicians in Private Practice	4.6	12.2	17.5	20.0	45.0	0.6
The Police	19.7	27.9	38.3	10.9	7.5	0.6
School Officials	5.9	14.0	39.8	29.2	10.6	0.6
Public Health Nurses	4.7	14.1	22.9	22.2	35.5	0.6
Relatives	9.6	36.0	27.7	19.1	7.0	0.7
Friends and Neighbors	3.7	17.5	39.8	24.6	13.8	0.7
Others	27.7	29.5	18.2	19.0	5.6	

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-32

Decisions Related to Custody in Final Disposition of Cases in Court Hearings

	Abuse	Neglect
	%	%
Respondent knew disposition	83.8	88.3
Termination of parental custody	23.3	17.9
Temporary change of custody	53.0	47.8
Children not removed from home	23.8	34.3
Respondents did not know	16.2	11.7

TABLE IV-33

Court Requirements of Parents When
Children Are Left at Home or Temporarily Removed

Court Requirements	Status of Children	
	Temporarily Removed	Left at Home
Proportion of Cases Where Probation or Supervision Was Stipulated		
Almost all	36.0	53.7
More than half	14.2	12.1
About half	7.2	8.2
Less than half	5.1	4.6
None or Almost None	36.5	19.2
Don't Know	.9	2.3
Supervisors of Parents Compliance		
CPA or Other Social Service Personnel	74.7	67.8
Probation Department	44.0	27.8
Other	14.7	4.9
Don't know	-	-
Typical Requirements for Compliance		
Counseling or Therapy for Parents	67.8	33.6
Improvement in Inter-Personal Relations in the Home	16.3	14.8
Improvement in Physical Aspects of Home	19.0	18.9
Cease Abuse or Neglect of Home	5.0	6.1
Other Improvements in Home	2.7	1.9
Home Supervision	11.6	15.9
Medical Follow-up	5.8	7.0
Attend Meetings	7.6	7.4
Curfew	2.6	1.9
Restrictions on Drug or Alcohol Use	7.1	9.0
Change in Attitude	0.8	3.0
Cooperate with Court	9.2	17.9
Supervision by a Social Agency	4.7	9.1
Other	8.9	12.4
Don't Know	0.3	4.9

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-34

Estimates of Proportions of Children in Different Types of Placement

Proportions of Children	Types of Placement			
	Foster Homes	Relatives	Detention Homes	Other Facilities
None	2.3	1.0	75.8	55.2
1 - 25%	12.1	66.4	15.7	31.5
26 - 50%	18.1	25.9	5.3	5.8
51 - 75%	26.1	0.9	1.0	1.6
76 - 100%	35.5	1.6	0.6	0.1
Don't Know	5.9	4.3	1.5	5.8
Average Proportion	65.0	21.1	4.4	6.8

TABLE IV-35

Degree of Variation Among Case Workers in Decisions and Handling of Cases

Degree of Variation	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Great	20.6	12.2	21.2	37.3	2.2	14.4	4.3
Somewhat	65.5	61.2	53.2	43.4	20.4	60.7	39.8
None	13.9	26.6	25.6	19.3	77.4	24.9	55.9

TABLE IV-36

Patterns of Interagency Coordination

Patterns of Coordination	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Forms of Coordination							
Teams	24.0	14.4	15.6	12.3	14.7	15.4	19.7
Centers	0.9	2.5	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.6	2.3
Liaison committees	19.3	18.5	7.6	5.6	7.6	13.5	5.0
Other mechanisms	0.2	0.1	1.5	-	1.6	2.1	0.4
None	55.6	64.2	72.5	76.8	71.1	66.4	71.6
Don't know	-	0.2	2.0	4.2	4.0	2.0	0.9
Does Agency Participate?							
Yes	41.8	34.2	22.3	14.3	20.3	24.5	23.9
No	2.5	1.4	3.7	4.5	5.6	7.7	2.7
No coordination in community	55.6	64.4	73.9	80.1	74.0	67.8	72.4
Don't know	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	1.0
Who Participates?							
Administrators	19.9	3.3	13.3	6.3	13.5	12.9	12.0
Personnel at operating level	22.6	30.5	9.8	7.0	11.0	13.7	12.5
No distinction could be made	-	-	-	2.1	0.3	-	-
No coordination in community	57.4	66.2	77.0	83.9	75.2	73.4	75.5
Don't know	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-
How Many Agencies Participate?							
Only one	1.1	0.4	2.3	6.0	4.6	1.0	1.1
Only two	2.2	1.0	1.8	2.4	2.7	3.0	2.0
Three	8.1	4.1	3.0	2.9	2.0	3.7	2.5
Four	2.9	6.0	2.6	2.6	4.2	6.5	4.0
Five or more	30.0	23.6	14.6	5.9	13.4	15.1	15.6
No coordination in community	55.6	64.2	73.1	77.1	70.4	67.1	72.4
Don't know	-	0.7	2.6	4.1	2.6	3.6	2.4
Are Records Kept in Common Pool?							
Yes	2.7	7.6	1.9	4.8	2.5	2.5	3.4
No	41.0	26.5	19.9	10.4	21.3	21.6	21.7
No coordination in community	56.2	65.5	77.8	83.9	75.0	74.8	74.4
Don't know	-	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.3	1.1	0.4

Percentages across questions differ due to varying rates of missing data which are not included in tables.

TABLE IV-37

Prevalence of Problems Within
Communities with Different Levels of Coordination

Levels of Coordination	Organizations and Respondents				
	CPS	PHN	HMD	HSS	POL
Communities with no coordination	57.2	22.3	3.0	23.7	23.5
Communities with administrative coordination	77.5	29.3	9.4	36.0	27.8
Communities with case management coordination	65.9	29.2	5.5	17.8	18.7

TABLE IV-38

Prevalence of Problems Encountered by Agencies
Because of the Way Others Handle Abuse and Neglect

Agencies Causing the Problems	Agencies Experiencing the Problems					Weighted Average
	CPS	PHN	HMD	HSS	POL	
Police and Sheriff Department	44.9	12.2	7.2	21.0	-	23.6
Hospital Social Services	40.2	10.3	4.0	-	15.5	19.1
Hospital Medical Personnel	56.7	17.8	-	43.0	22.1	34.3
Child Protective Services	-	27.7	18.3	36.2	22.2	25.8
Other Welfare Services	32.0	18.7	8.3	25.5	13.2	20.2
Schools	37.0	16.4	5.8	10.6	20.0	25.3
Courts	45.8	23.0	16.1	28.5	15.9	26.8
Mental Health Clinics	51.8	16.0	5.5	12.6	12.1	22.0
Private Organizations	33.2	6.8	1.6	4.8	11.4	13.4
Prosecuting Attorneys	29.5	14.6	7.2	14.8	9.0	15.9

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

TABLE IV-39

Problems and Difficulties in Handling Child Abuse and Neglect in the Area

Problems and Difficulties	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Insufficient or inadequate staff	33.1	17.6	20.4	8.4	12.9	23.4	16.6
Insufficient or inadequate placement facilities	12.5	3.9	2.0	3.1	3.1	18.0	11.5
Insufficient or inadequate reporting, identification	17.3	28.1	19.1	20.8	21.5	18.0	15.2
Problems in investigating and evidence	0.0	2.9	4.1	1.5	4.4	7.9	1.7
Delays in Handling	0.0	8.0	7.4	3.0	1.4	0.9	0.0
Insufficient funds	6.6	10.8	5.5	3.7	1.8	5.2	0.3
Lack of staff training	15.4	7.8	8.9	13.2	9.8	3.9	10.2
Poor public education	16.5	12.9	10.9	12.1	12.9	7.8	10.3
Non-centralized handling	28.7	29.3	10.2	13.9	17.4	7.6	12.0
Lack of interagency cooperation	16.1	25.8	14.2	11.2	16.8	6.1	12.9
Lack of referral agencies or some services	3.0	4.0	1.8	5.9	4.8	2.7	2.5
Legal limitations	2.3	1.9	2.7	1.1	2.3	4.3	1.0
Courts too slow/lenient	3.0	5.8	5.7	9.0	7.9	2.8	10.9
Reluctance to take child from parents	0.0	4.3	1.3	3.1	2.1	1.2	2.1
Lack of counseling	0.3	2.0	5.4	8.2	2.3	3.3	5.9
Lack of follow up	0.0	10.3	5.5	10.9	3.4	4.7	0.0
Need community resources	4.7	2.1	2.6	1.8	3.4	6.2	0.0
Need prevention program	0.0	2.0	4.9	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.0
Complaints about courts	2.4	1.3	4.6	2.6	2.5	4.9	7.2
Complaints about police	0.0	3.0	2.3	0.9	1.9	1.1	0.0
Complaints about hospitals	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.5
Complaints about social service agencies	0.5	3.2	13.0	2.5	3.3	12.7	6.7
Complaints about schools	0.1	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.6	1.2	0.0
Complaints about medical personnel	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.8	3.3	0.0	0.3
Other	25.4	17.2	16.4	7.8	9.0	10.9	8.9
Don't know	2.0	1.5	2.3	5.6	7.3	4.9	2.0
None	5.0	4.2	6.2	13.2	8.2	20.5	21.0

Column totals may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

CHAPTER V

TOWARDS ENHANCED COPING

One of the primary objectives in this work was to prepare a set of recommendations and to develop a model for the organization of programs addressed to child abuse and neglect. As mentioned earlier, in this report "program" refers to the sum of services, law enforcement, and other activities brought to bear upon the prevention, identification, treatment, and control of these problems. The literature abounds with prescriptions, ranging from specific instructions for professionals and others on "how to do it," to general societal admonitions to renounce violence and distribute wealth more equitably. Between these two extremes of specificity and breadth, there exists a host of other opinions and conclusions concerning needed program components, required educational and support activities, and improved organizational patterns. A few of these recommendations are well reasoned and grounded in the realities of the problem; some constitute important sources of information and suggestions for this work.

Appraisals of the practices and performance of various agencies and programs pervade the whole report. While risking repetition, we believe a concluding assessment would be useful, not only to consolidate a profile of strengths and limitations of current programs, but also to explicate the basis for the recommendations that follow. We also believe that such a summary can best be presented in relation to an optimal set of objectives for programs on child maltreatment.

Summary Assessment

Evaluative statements generally begin by clarifying the program goals and objectives from which their criteria are derived. The ultimate goals of programs addressed to child maltreatment are either to prevent its occurrence or to alleviate its consequences once it occurs. Therefore, indications of reduction of the rates and/or severities of the problem, and of effectiveness in interventive approaches constitute the ultimate criteria for assessing these programs. In view of the current status of definitions and criteria for identification, as well as the levels of knowledge about incidence and prevalence, attempts toward assessing reductions in the magnitude of the problem would be futile. A direct evaluation of the effectivenss of interventive programs would require specific information about children and parents. Even then, it might be difficult to place a value on programs that help the children at the cost of depriving the parents versus those assisting the parents at the risk of endangering the welfare of children.

These limitations do not mean that appraisals of programs on child maltreatment are hopeless, for important inferences can be made in relation to more specific intermediate goals. When cast at concrete and specific levels, goals often resemble means or program functions; they also become more applicable to the development of manageable evaluation criteria. The following are statements of the goals for child maltreatment programs considered in planning this study:

1. Primary preventive services through both public education and the identification of risk populations, so that potential victims can be reached before maltreatment occurs.

2. Identification of children who become victims of maltreatment, and their referral to appropriate agencies.

3. Intervention in diffuse crisis situations before they become seriously damaging to the children and their families.

4. Achievement of a balance in the use of deterrent and therapeutic services, remembering that the primary objective of programs is protection rather than prosecution.

5. Separation of children, when necessary for their protection, and their placement in homes or facilities that will enhance their recovery from maltreatment.

6. Provision of needed services to children and/or parents and families, whether the children remain at home or are separated.

7. Provision of information and training to related professionals, program administrators, and government policy makers concerning the problem and requirements for prevention and control.

8. Decision making structures commensurate with the seriousness and multidimensionality of the problem; structures that produce reasoned and equitable decisions.

9. Provision for effective systems to coordinate related agencies' activities, so that their practices are consistent with the delivery and continuity of services and the legal handling of cases, with minimum conflict among objectives.

The application of these program objectives or functions to the findings of this study, and to those of others, leads to the following summary assessments:

First, most efforts toward public education thus far have been primarily to increase awareness of the occurrence of maltreatment, especially abuse, and to encourage the reporting of such cases when they occur. Undoubtedly, through coverage in the mass

media and the press, and through public programs, the visibility of the problem has increased greatly over the last ten years. An increase in the visibility of a problem is not always accompanied, however, by an increase in the dissemination of preventive information to the public. Nor does the present state of epidemiological knowledge allow for the identification of risk populations for whom preventive efforts might be concentrated. In fact, knowledge about what would constitute primary prevention is yet to be developed.

Second, if our estimates of the "true" rates of prevalence of abuse are within an acceptable margin of error, then it can be said that in 1972 the nation was slightly over halfway in identifying confirmable abuse cases, and less than one-third of the way in identifying confirmable neglect. Frequent failure to report suspected cases was cited by child protective services and the police for most of the potential sources of reporting. Especially problematic, however, were schools, which are in a good position for case identification, and professionals in private practices, especially physicians. On the other hand, only 16.2% of the population resided in areas where the reporting of suspected maltreatment reached or exceeded 17.0 per 1000; according to our estimates, this would be necessary to identify 75% of confirmable abuse under current laws and practices. And 4.9% resided in areas where reporting reached or exceeded 25.0 per 1000, sufficient to identify 90% of such cases. In summary, the picture of identification and reporting is highly varied in different areas of the nation, with jurisdictions comprising a clear majority of the population (72.4%) reporting at levels below 10.5 per 1000, the level of reporting is sufficient for identifying 50% of the abuse cases confirmable under existing laws and practices.

Third, the pattern of responses to reports of abuse and neglect indicates that intervention with crisis situations is largely left to the police, who more often reach the homes sooner than the personnel of child protective services and public health nurses. Much has been written about differences in approaches between the law enforcement oriented police and the therapeutically oriented members of the other two agencies. Personnel shortages account in part for the inability of protective services personnel and public health nurses to respond to the crises with greater promptness. Furthermore, when reports made to police and sheriff departments are investigated, for the majority of the population, personnel of other agencies are never called upon during the first home visit. Thus, therapeutic intervention with crisis situations is fairly limited. Finally, facilities for short-term placement for children during the crises are sorely lacking. In a picturesque statement before the Senate's Subcommittee on Children and Youth, Kempe vividly described the problem:

> There isn't in this country a place to put a child at no notice at once with no red tape. It is easier to park a car in Denver at any time than to park a baby at 2 o'clock in the morning Saturday night. In the Middle Ages every convent had a place where somebody could place a baby, pull the bell and run like the devil and somebody would take care of that child. This is not true in our society. Today these people are very isolated. There are no neighbors to take the child if you have a big family battle going on. The child must be out of the home during a crisis. We, therefore, feel that every community should think about a safe place for a baby at moments of crisis.[1]

Fourth, since it is an important objective or function, balance in the use of deterrent and therapeutic approaches was mentioned above. Although an assessment of the status of current practices

in this respect would require a special study, some inferences can be pieced together from the survey findings, information obtained through the unstructured in-depth studies of selected programs, and the literature. Therapy oriented professionals often mentioned that the deterrence and coercion of the law is necessary, but preferred that law enforcement should be kept as a threat to motivate perpetrators of maltreatment to conform to the therapeutic courses prescribed. From the viewpoint of many law enforcement officers and judges, however, a report made to the police sets into motion steps prescribed by laws and regulations they are bound to uphold -- investigation, evidence gathering, removal of children when necessary, and court petitions (including criminal prosecution) if warranted. The position of some judges is that, if they allowed law enforcement processes to become a motivating tool in the arsenal of therapists, they would violate their own "oath." Others have found enough flexibility in the discretionary authority they have to work, together with caseworkers and other therapists, toward shared and joint decisions or close coordination in the management of cases. The latter patterns are definitely in the minority. These statements are not intended to imply that punitive approaches are necessarily characteristic of all cases reported to and investigated by the police. Specific information comparing the fate of children and parents who enter child maltreatment programs through law enforcement channels with those who enter them through therapeutically oriented services would be valuable. The dichotomy was frequently mentioned in interviews, and is prevalent in the literature. In conclusion, conflicts between therapeutic and punitive approaches remain problematic; and their effects, pervasive.

Fifth, indications are that, in a sizable proportion of the cases, children are left in homes where they continue to be subjected to maltreatment while child protection workers attempt to counsel the parents. Many of the children who had to be taken to hospitals or were reported to the police had already been known to protective services. Furthermore, respondents from child protection services serving two-thirds of the population acknowledged that abuse and neglect continued in varying proportions of the cases after they had become part of the active case loads of these agencies. Four factors emerge from this and other studies as contributing to this situation: (1) inadequacies in the staffing of protective services, which limit necessary surveillance; (2) emphasis on the part of caseworkers upon rehabilitating parents, and on the need to gain their confidence and cooperation, -- at times jeopardizing the children's immediate safety; (3) inadequacies in the preparation of caseworkers in legal matters, which limit their effectiveness in court proceedings; and (4) limitation in accessibility to trained legal counsel, which works to the same end.

Whether in availability or in quality, few problems were as consistently stressed by respondents from the various agencies as that of placement facilities. By 1972, 4.4% of the maltreated children were still being placed in detention homes; such placement was reported in jurisdictions comprising 22.6% of the population. Although no data were collected in this survey about the "stability" of placement, evidence from other sources cited earlier indicate frequent changes over short periods of time, even for children in the young ages of one, two, and three years.

Sixth, assessments of the appropriateness and effectiveness of services provided to victims of maltreatment would require specific

evaluations of the children beyond the scope of this work. Still, responses in the survey indicate that medical care, placement, and counseling, constitute the most prevalent services extended to children. Because of the lack of systematic review, children are often left for long periods in foster homes and other placement facilities, with little or no further service attention. Furthermore, an overwhelming proportion of the population (84.8%) resided in areas where, according to respondents from child protective services, necessary services were unavailable or difficult to obtain. In this respect, responses from other agencies were not much more reassuring.

The situation concerning services to parents and families parallels that of services to children. Counseling, financial assistance, and homemaker services are the most common. Ironically, these three types of services were also among those most frequently mentioned as unavailable or difficult to obtain. This means that they are well utilized where available, and acutely missed in areas where they are lacking. Vocational types of services are less utilized than might be expected in view of the literature linking abuse and neglect to crises emanating from economic and employment problems. Finally, although most agencies frequently refer parents and guardians to mental health services, respondents' evaluations of the effectiveness of these services were less than enthusiastic. In fact, 45.8% of the weighted responses of public health departments were that these services were of little or no help. The reluctance of parents and guardians to seek mental health services was also widely reported in this survey. The articulation of the relations among constituent parts in complex programs as those addressed to child maltreatment is as important as the

effective management of each part. Such articulation becomes more difficult when different agencies are involved in different parts of the programs. A case in point is the dislocation between efforts toward enhanced identification and reporting, and the capability of services to cope with the surging rates of reporting. Appropriate planning would have anticipated increases in the volume of reports and the consequent need to expand investigative and service capacities. The findings of this survey show that this was not the pattern followed. For example, the rates of reporting were positively associated with the case loads of personnel in child protective agencies ($r = .48$), indicating that the rise in case identification was not matched by an equal expansion in the staffing of these services. Residual or unmet demand for services has been one of the strong arguments for persuading political decision makers to increase resources for the agencies involved, and it has served as a successful tactic for some agencies. The problem here arose, however, from myopic approaches that placed disproportionate emphasis upon reporting, without giving equal weight to the emergent needs for services. Whether from the perspective of children and parents, or from that of the providers of services, the human cost of such imbalance is high.[2]

Seventh, attendance of conferences and workshops on problems of abuse and neglect was fairly prevalent. Attendance within the year prior to interviews was highest for personnel from protective agencies, and lowest for hospital medical personnel. In many of the agencies, persons who attended training programs were frequently the heads of departments or supervisors. The effectiveness

of training activities cannot be evaluated solely on the basis of attendance in meetings and workshops, however; it is also necessary to consider the quality of information available for dissemination, which in this field remains at a low level of development.

Eighth, the open and diffuse definitions and criteria of child abuse and neglect invite the unsystematic collection of evidence needed for decisions on service and legal aspects of programs. These factors also introduce subjectivity in the selection and evaluation of evidence, as well as in the exercise of judgment in reaching these decisions. Individual caseworkers and law enforcement officers often make decisions that may entail serious consequences for children and parents: to investigate reports, to leave the children in the custody of potentially or actually abusing and neglectful parents and guardians, to remove the children and change custody, to select appropriate placement for children removed from their homes, to provide or arrange for needed services for children and parents, to reunite families, to extend or to terminate follow-up services, and to terminate parental custody and free the children for adoption. Information obtained through this study indicates that there are no consistent decision making rules concerning these problems. Instead, they vary according to agencies, to professional backgrounds, and quite frequently to individuals. Variation in decisions inevitably raises questions about their validity and equity.

Ninth, data on program coordination show that only 15.6% of the population resided in areas where interagency collaboration had been worked out at the case management level. An additional 28.8% were in areas where interagency liaisons were still at the "administrative" level, which involves meetings

among heads of agencies or their representatives. In contrast to actual case management, the purpose of administrative relations is to clear the roles and responsibilities of the respective agencies. Finally, 55.6% of the population lived in communities where neither level of coordination among agencies existed. Among the problems most frequently mentioned by respondents in the survey was the lack of interagency cooperation and non-centralized handling of reports and investigations of abuse and neglect.

It is interesting to note that the prevalence of perceived interagency problems in case management were related to the level of coordination in a curvilinear manner. Respondents from communities where no liaisons existed, and from those where close case management coordination was reported, were less likely to report interagency problems than respondents from agencies characterized by administrative forms of coordination. The three levels of coordination seem to represent evolutionary phases in the process of building interagency linkages. In the first phase, with no coordination, the level of awareness of the problem is likely to be low; consequently, agencies see no challenge to their roles and routines. Attempts toward administrative coordination in the second phase imply a growing awareness of the problem. This change signals a challenge to the established reciprocal roles and responsibilities of the agencies, heightening the perception of problems in interagency relations. The third phase, in which new routines have developed around closer case management coordination, tends to resolve some of the problems characteristic of the second phase.

Finally, it would be only appropriate in this summary assessment to indicate the respondents' overall appraisals of the effectiveness of the various agencies in their area, as well as of their

respective agencies, in dealing with child abuse and neglect. Table V-1 presents the results of these appraisals, which exhibit a lack of conviction about overall program effectiveness. In varying measures, respondents tended to attribute greater effectiveness to their own agencies than to others in their communities. Since responses designating the agencies as "very effective" represent the clearest positive evaluations, the proportions of respondents who gave these answers were tabulated in relation to the levels of coordination in their areas. The distributions (Table V-2) corroborate the conclusions reached earlier concerning the three phases in the development of interagency working relations. With minor exceptions, agencies in communities with coordination at the case management level and those with no coordination at all were more likely to view the performance of agencies in dealing with abuse and neglect as being very effective.

To Enhance Performance

As in the case of complex and multidimensional programs, recommendations toward enhanced coping with child maltreatment may be viewed at two levels -- the specific components of programs and the larger picture of relations among the components. While the first eight of the nine goals outlined earlier can be generally considered to address specific components and aspects, the ninth concerns the broader question of coordination. No attempt will be made to present the following comments in a point by point correspondence to the goals, for individual recommendations are not necessarily coterminous with individual goals. Finally, it should be mentioned that the points to be made are neither new nor unfamiliar to readers knowledgeable in the field. Nevertheless, because child maltreatment is a problem of such scope and

seriousness, their continued articulation -- even at the risk of repetition -- is necessary.

Specific Program Components

The contrast of summary assessments of the current status of programs to their goals and functions makes readily apparent a number of directions for program development. To begin with, primary prevention of child maltreatment will require public education, not only about identification and reporting, but also about the substantive aspects of parenting, child care, and the rights of children and parents. School curricula, civic organizations, and the mass media constitute important channels for such programs. Admittedly, education is a slow process, but it results are relatively more enduring. Primary prevention will also require sustained efforts to find ways to identify risk populations for whom special educational and service programs can be specifically tailored. It should be noted that program components addressed to primary prevention will remain weak as long as epidemiological knowledge remains underdeveloped.

Well reasoned options and guidelines for legislation on the reporting of child abuse and neglect have been prepared.[3] Also, many communities have experimented with means to improve identification and reporting, and pockets of reluctance or indifference have become better recognized. In addition to statutory change to remove legal liability for unconfirmable reports and to mandate reporting on the part of certain professions and agencies, mass media compaigns, special telephone lines, and continuous coverage at all hours have proven to be an effective combination in substantially increasing the rates of reporting. The fact that the rates of confirmation decrease as the rates of reporting rise calls for directing special attention to initial investigations and to the management of registeries.

No information is available concerning the impact of an investigation upon families that were falsely reported. Such investigations could be harassing, however, and cause "labeling" among friends and neighbors, as well as in records -- ultimately having unhealthy consequences to both parent-child relations and the family as a whole. On the other hand, complacent reactions to reports because of an increased probability of non-confirmation would render efforts toward identification and reporting useless. Therefore, attempts to increase reports of suspected abuse and neglect should be coupled with means to increase accuracy in reporting. Stationing protective service personnel in schools and orienting school health examinations toward screening for abuse and neglect are examples of means toward these dual objectives.

Increased reporting should never be seen as an end in itself, but only as a step toward the delivery of appropriate services. Shortages in resources, staffing and services are acute, especially in communities where reporting has been rising at accelerated rates. Evidence so far seems to demonstrate that it is far easier to increase identification and reporting than to enhance the picture of services to accommodate the children and parents identified. It should be possible to make fairly reliable estimates of the necessary expansion of new and existing services on the basis of experiences in communities with high rates of reporting. Such estimates could be used to anticipate such needs in communities about to embark on efforts toward enhancing identification and reporting. Sussman and Cohen underscore the danger of a disjunction between high levels of reporting and a shortage of services:

> While this Act does not prescribe the nature of the services which must be provided, the purpose clause takes into account the fact that mere reporting, without concern for the treatment of the child or the problems which caused the harm, may

be meaningless if not harmful. For this reason, the purpose of this Act is described as the promotion of reporting in a manner which will foster the provision of necessary protective services.[4]

Lists of the types of services lacking in the various communities have been presented and discussed at other points in this report. Emphasis should be placed, however, on placement facilities and services. The utility and feasibility of "crises intervention facilities" oriented to short-term placement and crises resolution have been already demonstrated.[5] Early response to diffuse crises situations is second in importance only to effective primary prevention. Longer term placement also requires special attention, not only in regard to availability, but also to quality. To avoid leaving children in "limbo" for long periods of time in foster homes, protective agencies should institute periodic reviews of cases at regular intervals, in which members of the staff other than the caseworker in charge would take part.

The heavy reliance upon foster homes also calls for giving serious consideration to the development of standards, investigations, and licensure in this area. In addition to services required for separated children, protective service workers will need to develop options to regulate parents' rights to visit in such a way that they do not become stressful to foster parents and to the children. They also need to develop criteria for determining when permanent separation should be sought to free children from the transient status of foster parentage to adoption. A periodic review of cases should help time such decisions more appropriately for the children's best interest. In order to address these matters more effectively, most protective services need to become better acquainted with the laws and to have greater accessibility to specialized legal assistance.

Because of the present openness of criteria defining the basis for decisions vital to children and parents, and the likelihood that this openness will continue in the foreseeable future, it would be advisable to consider developing patterns in the decision making structures to avoid the possible subjective influences of individual decisions. As mentioned earlier, one approach to this problem is to limit individual decisions in favor of "group decisions" made by two or more persons. These persons could be from the same agency or better yet from different agencies; similarly, they could either have the same professional background or could represent different professions. Although such group decision making is characteristic of therapeutic teams within given settings, it is much less prevalent in interagency decisions. Special training is needed to establish a structure and tradition of joint decisions involving personnel from different agencies and professional backgrounds. It is through such decision making structures and traditions that many of the dilemmas and value conflicts discussed in the second chapter of this report can be resolved. This would require forms of coordination among agencies at the level of case management.

It was not our intention in the foregoing discussion to become involved either in the details of the specific components of programs on child maltreatment, or in the particulars of approaches to investigations or service modalities. Rather, the purpose was to emphasize a few salient points that have pervasive effects upon the performance of total programs. We turn now to the larger picture of program coordination.

Coordination at the Community Level

Specialization in services and other forms of intervention is an inevitable outcome of differences in the nature of problems to which

they are addressed, the growth of knowledge about these problems, and the corresponding technological developments. Although in many respects functional specialization has resulted in considerable proliferation and fragmentation in the structure and actual delivery of services. This situation is further complicated by the involvement of various jurisdictional levels in public programs (federal, state, and local). Adding to this complexity is the influence of incrementalism in program development.

One factor contributing to piecemeal additions and reforms in human services involves ambiguities and shifts in emphasis between two types of programs that, for the lack of better terms, will be referred to as "functional" and "categorical." Functional programs are problem oriented, regardless of the populations that encounter the problem. Thus, health care is oriented to pathology and injuries regardless of other characteristics of those experiencing them--whether they are abused children, other children, or adults whose health conditions warrant care. In contrast, categorical programs are organized around the needs of certain categories of the population, such as the aged, children, veterans, etc. One underlying factor in the many generations of reorganization of human services at the various levels of government, especially at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has been vacillation between functional and categorical arrangements of programs. Similar problems characterize attempts to organize programs on child abuse and neglect in many communities, where functionally oriented agencies are attempting to take on the categorical responsibilities of coordination. Thus, in addition to providing the functional services in which they specialize, hospitals and mental health clinics are becoming involved in the role of

coordinating the activities of other agencies. In fact, some arrangements seem to duplicate already existing programs on child maltreatment in the community.

It is important to recognize that both components need to be considered in the proposed model for the structure and delivery of services concerning child maltreatment. Involved children and parents share with other sectors of society many common problems that fall within the domains of the same functional agencies. The similarity of these needs makes it equally important that program development be done with one eye on the nature of the problem and related service requirements, and the other on the broader context of human services. To avoid duplication and unnecessary overlap, programs organized around problems of abuse and neglect should build upon existing functional services, where they can serve common needs. For example, designating and advertising a special telephone number to call for reports or help on problems of abuse and neglect serves an important function. However, confusion must arise when the public is bombarded by special numbers for each type of crises, such as suicide prevention, drug addiction, veneral diseases, unwed mothers, poison control, squad ambulances, just to name a few. A contextual view would lead to the consolidation of emergency situations into one easy number that people can memorize. It then becomes the responsibility of recipients of the calls, who are in better states of mind to distinguish among the types of emergencies, to make the appropriate arrangements. Finally, certain problems, and therefore specialized needs, may be associated with child maltreatment, as is the case with crises intervention or foster home placement.

An incomplete list of relevant services and other intervention activities around which functional programs are organized would

include: medical screening; treatment; restorative care; mental health services; counseling to children, parents, and foster parents; nutritional services; emergency placement; temporary placement; adoption services; day-care facilities; education; legal representation; vocational services (training, rehabilitation, and placement); income maintenance and support; family housing; and homemaker services. Many of these headings include a variety of types administered by different agencies. For example, there are many forms of income maintenance programs such as those associated with unemployment insurance, veterans' benefits, social security, disability and other benefits, aid to dependent children, etc. Some of these services are more applicable to the children, others to the parents, and still others to the families as a whole. With the exception of the type of crisis intervention needed in the case of child maltreatment, and possibly placement services, the rest of these services are oriented to problems common to other children and adults. There should be no need to duplicate any of these services within the boundaries of a hospital, a protective agency, a center, or other newly created entities. Rather, efforts toward building a community program for child maltreatment should be directed to improving and expanding existent services, if needed, and to developing non-existent ones.

The coordination of these services and activities calls for the other component of the programs -- the categorically oriented agencies. The relations between the two types (functional and categorical) are represented graphically in Figure V-I. Categorical-coordinative agencies are needed for those sectors of the population with multiple problems whose needs fall within the domains of large numbers of agencies. Multiproblem families, including those involved in abuse and neglect, the disabled, and the aged constitute examples of such sectors. Focusing now on child maltreatment, responsibilities of the categorical-coordinative agencies would include:

1. Activities related to case identification, such as maintaining telephones designated for that purpose; continuous coverage of these phones and other means of reporting; mounting campaigns for early identification and reporting; and building liaisons with schools, day care centers, and other institutions where case identification could be improved.

2. Carrying out or participating with law enforcement officers in the investigation of reports.

3. Keeping centralized records on reports and active cases; such records should become oriented to case management in the sense of reflecting an up-to-date picture of the pathways of children and parents through the system, services received, decisions made in regard to their cases, and the current status.

4. Case management through functional agencies providing services and benefits, as well as through the legal aspects of the situation.

5. Arranging for periodical review of cases and for joint assessments and decisions at important points in the process.

6. Assessment and development of the community resources and services needed by children and families involved in the problem.

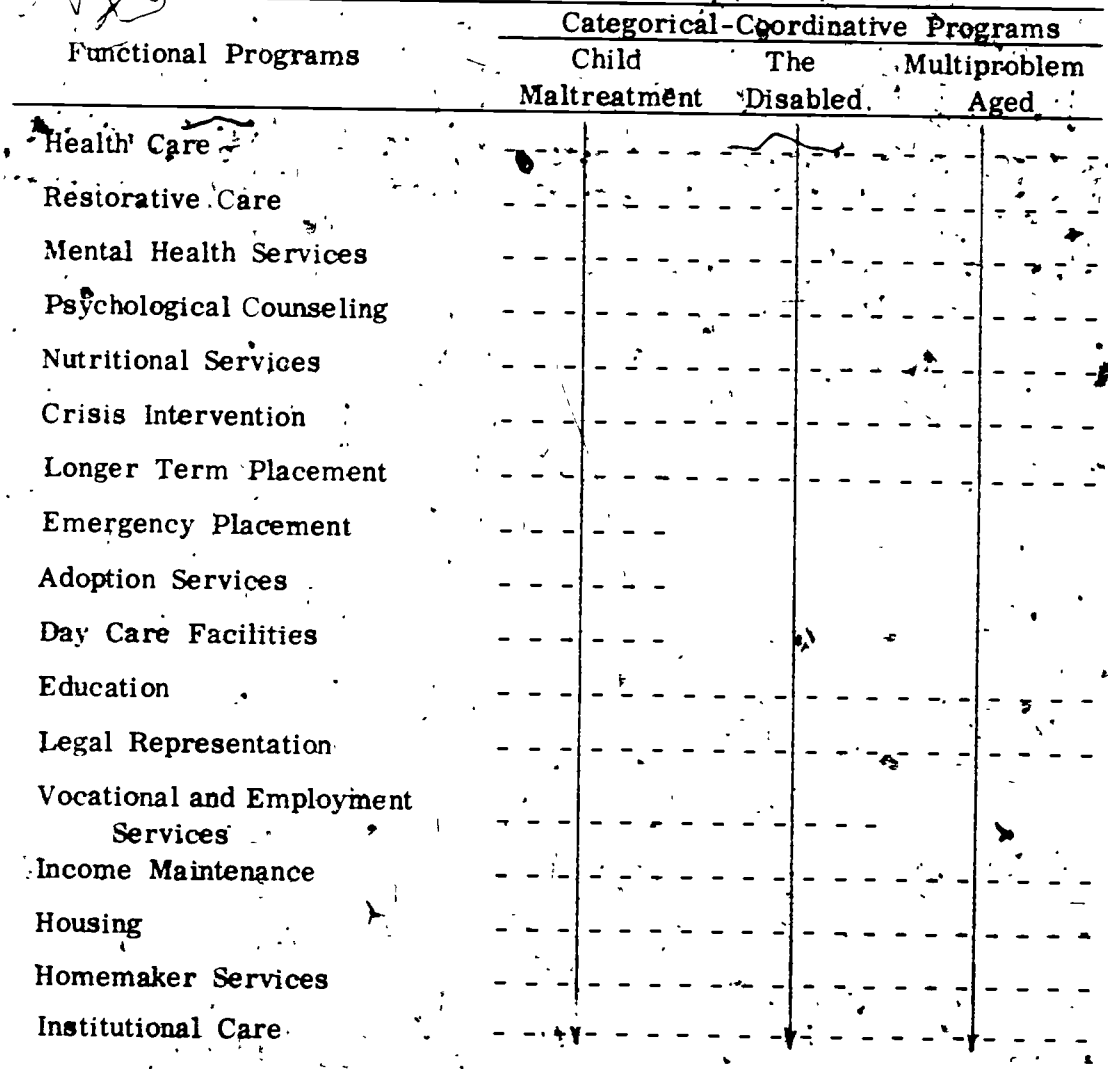
7. Arranging for programs on public and professional education concerning child maltreatment prevention and treatment.

If the categorical-coordinative agencies are to perform these functions effectively, they must be equipped by legal mandates that would render the practices of other public agencies consistent with these definitions of responsibilities. Thus, the coordinative agency should be notified upon the receipt of reports of suspected child maltreatment by other agencies. The participation of coordinative agency personnel in initial investigations should also be mandated.

In addition to structuring legally the interrelations between

FIGURE V-I

A Diagrammatic Scheme For The Structure Of Programs On Child Maltreatment



the functionally oriented and the categorical-coordinative agencies, the latter should be given the necessary resources to enter into contractual arrangements for obtaining the services needed for their clients. This could be done through the direct purchase of services, such as from hospitals, clinics, and private vendors. Another possibility would be to extend resources to another public agency so that it could enhance

its own staffing, and thus accommodate the needs of abused and neglected children and their families. An example of the latter arrangement would be providing funds so that local health departments could establish positions for public health nurses whose time would be devoted to these problems.

It should be noted that the role of categorical-coordinative agencies as defined here does not include involvement in therapeutic, placement, or other services around which functional programs are organized. Focusing the categorical-coordinative agencies' role on the case management aspects should help resolve a number of the dilemmas and conflicts mentioned at the onset of this report. No longer should personnel in the coordinative role feel they need to gain the confidence of parents for therapeutic purposes, at times risking the safety of the children. Counseling and therapeutic intervention become the responsibility of others. By the same token, separating responsibilities for placement would also limit the potential for conflicts in roles. Finally, these agencies' non-involvement in the direct provision of services falling within the domains of functional programs should both reduce the potential for interorganizational conflicts and eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts.

The most likely candidates for the categorical-coordinative role are the child protective services. However, their responsibilities and more importantly, their present practices would need to undergo major change if they were to carry out this role as defined above. While specializing in the seven functions comprising this role, they would no longer be directly responsible for the placement of children, nor would they engage in psychological and other intensive counseling of children, parents, or foster

parents. Instead, the counseling role of personnel in these agencies would be limited to providing information necessary for referrals and other aspects of case management. It should be noted, however, that the division of labor described in this model does not negate the utility of multiprofessional teams within given therapeutic settings, such as in hospitals, or multi-agency committees operating on a community-wide basis to assess progress and render decisions on cases. The latter could be organized either on a regular basis to deal with all cases, or in an ad hoc fashion for cases with particular characteristics and needs.

The Role of the Federal Government

The fragmentation, duplication, gaps, overlaps, and general lack of coordination characteristic of the program elements related to child maltreatment at the community level are matched by those at the federal level. Although the newly established Center on Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment, which administers the 1974 Act and related demonstrations, is part of the Children's Bureau and the Office of Child Development, for example, federal responsibilities for protective services are located in the Social and Rehabilitation Services Administration. On the other hand, while the operational aspects of protective services are at the SRS, related research and technical personnel are in the Children's Bureau. In addition, two national centers with overlapping domains (National Center for Child Advocacy and National Center on Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment) coexist within the Children's Bureau. The problem is compounded by unresolved ambiguities and conflicts about the roles of federal, regional, and state levels of government. However, responsibilities may eventually be distributed among these levels; that is,

no matter where the authority to make change may ultimately lie, several issues warrant serious consideration.

The first involves the consolidation of program elements at higher levels of government and the clear articulation of the relations among these elements. There are no defensible reasons why child maltreatment demonstrations, research, and technical capabilities should be located in one agency, and the operational arm of protective services in another. A consolidation of these segments into one agency would be advantageous from both administrative and program viewpoints. The following also need further clarification and coordination of their roles and functions at higher levels of government: child abuse and neglect, child advocacy, such other welfare services as adoption and foster home placement, and day care and other family services.

The second issue concerns resources. The picture revealed in this survey raises a general question about the extent of public commitment to the treatment and control of child maltreatment. As has been pointed out earlier, support to child protective services has remained relatively low, and the fast rise in case identification and reporting in many communities has created serious problems in the delivery of services, since capacities have not kept pace with the increasing demands. Because needed resources cannot be expected to be forthcoming at the local levels, some articulation of this problem needs to be carried out at the higher levels of government.

The third recommendation is that a long-range perspective on the problem of child maltreatment, as well as related programs and resources, be developed. Most of the funds made available through the 1974 Act, and from pooling resources from several agencies in HEW prior to the Act, were invested in different

types of demonstrations located at various parts of the country. In the preoccupation with the enactment and implementation of laws, some fundamental questions are left begging for answers. Important among these is the question of the purpose of it all, which can be answered only by looking beyond the duration of the current generation of demonstrations. Are the long-range objectives: (1) to demonstrate that effective programs can be mounted, with the idea that appropriations might be increased to generalize them to other parts of the country? (2) to demonstrate the methods and results of mounting effective programs in certain communities, with the hopes that other communities would emulate the efforts using resources of their own? or, (3) do the approved demonstrations represent ends in themselves? In order to maximize the yield from demonstrations of this type, long-range perspectives must be developed at an early point in the process of planning and implementation.

Traditionally, the role of higher levels of government has included developing and maintaining standards, evolving technical capabilities to guide programs at the local level, conducting research and demonstrations to expand the horizons of knowledge and technology related to the problems of concern, and disseminating the results. Although the current national mood has been to make reduction in the size of government a popular cause, it would be mistaken to place constraints on staffing in the various agencies in an indiscriminate manner. The waste that results from a shortage in qualified technical capabilities can far exceed the savings realized. Furthermore, the various communities look to state, regional, and federal agencies for guidance on problems related to the various aspects and standards for services and program organization.

Important also is the function of the diffusion of new ideas and approaches to services--diffusion here referring to both the dissemination of innovations and their implementation or adoption. Diffusion thus includes a systematic and purposeful approach to motivating the adoption of the new ideas, techniques, or organizational patterns. In most instances, however, this process has been limited to circulating the results of research and demonstrations in printed forms (papers, pamphlets, or books). Efforts may go one step further to include presentations in conferences, workshops, or other gatherings. At best, these approaches can make participants aware of new findings. Nevertheless, knowledge by itself is not sufficient for the adoption of change. Motivation to adopt innovations requires that agency personnel have knowledge not only about the innovation, but also about the ways the innovation relates to their own programs, what the change would mean in terms of established routines, the structure of roles and responsibilities, and the demand for and availability of resources.

These issues require careful and intensive analyses of the situations of agencies in question by experts in the related fields. Unless such a serious effort toward the diffusion of innovations is undertaken, the results of research and demonstrations, conducted at high cost, will remain largely of academic use. We recommend that a pilot study be organized around this approach to diffusion, dealing with a limited number of innovations and a small number of communities. If effective, the pattern should be expanded, especially if one of the primary objectives of demonstrations is to encourage communities throughout the country to emulate the successful models that emerge.

Finally, a note on evaluation seems appropriate. Deviations from

ideals in the structure and performance of human services are common; they vary in frequency and intensity from one program to another, and from one sector of the population to another. The ideals, however, serve the important functions of setting goals and providing standards against which deviations can be identified and assessed. These deviations give rise to the search for remedies and to the identification of alternative policies and plans. Given the complexity of economic, social, and psychological factors and outcomes involved in social policies and programs, it can be assumed that most planning has a balance of positive and negative effects. The point is to maintain a course of action that maximizes the positive consequences and minimizes the negative. Policy and program decisions are often made, however, without the full realization of their secondary effects. As inadequacies and negative effects of earlier actions become apparent, remedial attempts are made through new decisions and actions. Harold Lasswell sees an essential role for systematic data in this continual process of policy and program planning:

> These include the intelligence function, i.e., the gathering of information which may include either information which suggests a problem for policymakers' attention or information for the formulation of alternatives. A second function is the recommendation of one or more possible policy alternatives. A third is the prescription or enactment of one among several proposed alternative solutions. A fourth is the invocation of the adopted alternative, and a fifth is its application in specific situations by executive or enforcement offices. A sixth stage of the decision process is the appraisal of the effectiveness of the prescribed alternative, and the seventh is the termination of the original policy.[6]

Concern with policy and program analysis has given rise to

evaluative research. Much has been written on methodological approaches to evaluation, the roles of evaluators, and the contexts of evaluation.[7] Nevertheless, pressures of time, inappropriate patterns of funding, and defensive attitudes on the part of those in charge of the affairs of agencies have combined to produce evaluations that are conceptually limited in scope and methodologically faulty. Well designed and meaningful evaluations are costly and threatening.

Emphasis in reported studies has been placed primarily on validity in measures of outcome, that is, change in clients and their conditions consistent with program objectives. Equal attention needs to be given to developing ways to assess equity and organizational responsiveness in regard to both processes and outcomes. This calls for the inclusion of information about the opinions of applicants, clients, and other segments of the public in data systems being used in policy and program planning. The opinions of personnel engaged in the provision of services and benefits also constitute an important input into evaluative studies. These opinions will need to be elicited in independent surveys, rather than through the official channels of agencies. Furthermore, because public policies and programs are often of a national scope, cross-national comparisons become an important source of alternatives. Thus, four types of data are necessary for sound policy and program analysis: (a) information directly from applicants, clients, and related segments of the public; (b) information (based on their individual opinion), from providers of services, adjudicators of claims for benefits, and administrators in these programs; (c) official reports of agencies; and (d) comparative information on similar agencies and programs in other societies, especially those with comparable socio-economic conditions.

Furthermore, it should be noted that one shot evaluations are not as useful as long-term continued programs of information and monitoring. Physicians and weather forecasters have learned that a change in readings is more significant in diagnosis and predictions than an initial set of measures. It is also important that longitudinal monitoring systems not be focused exclusively on outcome, but include explanatory information as well. Emphasis in the selection of explanatory factors should be on manipulable variables, so that they would not only suggest directions for change, but also make such change possible.

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TABLE V-1

General Assessment of the Effectiveness of Agencies in Handling Abuse and Neglect

Agencies and Assessment	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHS	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
All Agencies in the Area							
Very effective	25.6	15.1	23.2	28.1	23.8	35.0	44.3
Somewhat effective	62.5	72.4	56.6	42.1	49.8	57.8	44.6
Not very effective	9.1	10.9	13.0	15.0	16.6	0.8	9.3
Not effective at all	1.7	0.1	3.7	2.4	1.7	2.7	1.0
Don't know	1.1	1.5	3.6	12.4	8.1	3.7	0.7
Respondents' Own Agency							
Very effective	39.1	18.7	23.9	41.9	40.1	44.8	62.0
Somewhat effective	58.3	66.5	57.0	37.9	45.9	50.4	28.9
Not very effective	2.5	9.7	14.3	12.4	9.9	1.7	5.4
Not effective at all	-	3.9	1.8	2.2	1.1	1.2	1.7
Don't know	-	1.3	3.0	5.7	3.0	1.9	1.9

TABLE V-2

Proportions of Respondents Assessing the Overall Performance of Agencies as "Very Effective," and Relations to Forms of Coordination

Forms of Coordination	Organizations and Respondents						
	CPS	PHN	SCH	HMD	HSS	CRT	POL
Case Management Level	23.2	22.2	28.0	19.5	27.4	34.6	48.6
Administrative Coordination	24.7	9.7	24.5	12.1	16.4	19.3	25.6
No Coordination	26.8	15.8	21.0	38.0	27.7	42.2	52.8