

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN PERCEIVING
CHILD MALTREATMENT

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Abstract

This cross-cultural study sought to examine how parents from other parts of the world and who differ in culture, evaluate practices that are, or might be, harmful to children.

The objective was to examine respondents' judgment of acceptability of the behavior, perception of severity and their attitudes toward reporting such situations. The study focused on thirteen (13) categories of child maltreatment as evaluated by parents born and raised on the African continent and parents born and/or raised in the United States. The responses of the two groups of parents were then compared and contrasted with the responses of child welfare professionals in Minnesota.

*This study is, in part, a replication of Giovannoni and Becerra's [Giovannoni, J., & Becerra, R. 1979 research on defining child maltreatment, *Defining child abuse: New York: The Free Press*]. It expands Giovannoni & Becerra's 1979 study, which examined how health and welfare professionals defined child abuse and neglect and rated the severity of specific instances of maltreatment.*

Participants for the study were drawn from the metropolitan area of St. Paul, Minnesota. Data for the cross-cultural study were collected by means of a self-administered vignette questionnaire that was distributed to the three key groups: parents born and raised on the African continent, parents born or raised in the U.S., and child welfare professionals in Anoka and Washington Counties in Minnesota.

From the various findings of this study it is established that respondents' culture contributed significantly to the perceptions of child maltreatment situations. Respondents differed in their definitions, perception of seriousness and reporting potential abusive situations. Implications of the findings are discussed.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The American Psychological Association's 1999 Annual Convention recognized that understanding cultural difference is crucial because a large number of child abuse and neglect cases involve allegations against minorities (Murray, 1999). Ethnocentrism, prejudice, bias, stereotypes, and ignorance of cultural differences pose a negative impact on child maltreatment service provision and outcomes.

There are visible differences in cultural values toward childrearing and parenting in the United States. One factor contributing to the differences is the current population data which demonstrates that the United States (U.S.) population includes people with many origins and ancestries. More than 11% of the people living in the U.S. were not born here, an estimated 32.5 million people. More than 150 languages and dialects are spoken in the U.S. (Kimberly H. B. & William H. G 2003). Ever-changing world politics, economics and social changes trigger further immigration, creating even greater cultural and ethnic challenges. Minnesota has the ninth largest population of African immigrants nationally and is home to the largest population of Somali residents in the U.S. (Remington N. 2008). Other African countries with large populations in Minnesota include Ethiopia, Liberia, Kenya and Nigeria. Today, various estimates put the number of African immigrants (born both in the U.S. and abroad) in Minnesota between 70,000 and 80,000 (Remington N. 2008). One in five immigrants in Minnesota is African and four in ten foreign-born residents live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (Millet,

2002). This study examined how parents from other parts of the world who may differ in culture evaluate practices that are, or might be, harmful to children.

In developing this study the researcher conducted several informal talks at social gatherings with people from the African continent who were living in Minnesota. . These conversations were facilitated by the researcher himself who is from Africa as well. The purpose of the conversations was solely to better understand the perspectives of African-born friends and acquaintances prior to the formulation of the research question and conducting the study. The information presented herein is solely for the purpose of illustrating the points made and is not presented as a part of the study findings.

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature

In early history, children were viewed as the property of their parents who could do with them as they - the parents - saw fit. Children were dependent on their parents for their very existence. Parents could kill their children, sell them into slavery, maim them, or abandon them (Levine and Levine, 1992). Reports of infanticide, mutilation, abandonment and other forms of violence against children date back to ancient civilization (Ten Benschel, Rheinberger, Radbill, 1997). Today, incidents of parents or other relatives deliberately injuring children in their care are fairly common in many societies. Yet, there is considerable debate over what exactly constitutes maltreatment. Mash & Wolfe, (1991) noted that part of the difficulty in understanding child maltreatment lies in the diversity of definitions. Korbin (1980) emphasizes that the individual values and cultural differences shape how each individual defines child maltreatment. The U.S. National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect presents the definition of child abuse and neglect as follows: "An abused or neglected child is one whose physical or mental health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm by acts or omissions of his/her parents or other persons responsible for his/her welfare" (Tower, 1992, p.4). By definition, child maltreatment occurs when parents or caregivers cause, by acts or omissions, non-accidental physical and emotional injury to a person under the age of eighteen. As a consequence of social disapproval, child maltreatment is hidden from public view and its level of incidence remains largely unknown.

In addition to hiding acts of maltreatment, certain injuries are difficult to label as abuse or neglect because of individual, group or societal history, cultural norms and/or values. It is important to ask the question as to how much of what constitutes child maltreatment is attributable to behavior of the parent, harm to the child, the legal definition or the cultural interpretation. Due to variation in definitions between different cultures, Korbin (1991) notes that it is crucial to employ culturally appropriate definitions when assessing child abuse and neglect. Issues of cultural relativism cannot be divorced from the general study of child maltreatment. Maltreated children are victims of behaviors which inflict great harm and intense pain or suffering. These behaviors raise concern about basic moral values, and possibly universal, or at least widespread, standards of human conduct toward children (Ed. John W. B., Pierre R. D & T. S. Saraswathi 1997). Anne M. Ferrari (2002) sites several research findings that have indicated there may be ethnic differences in the prevalence and severity of different types of maltreatment. Other research has found that the criteria that parents and the lay adult community apply to and define as maltreatment, as compared to child discipline or other child-rearing practices, do vary with socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and occupational status (Giovannoni & Becerra, 1979; Rose & Meezan, 1995).

Families from different cultures employ disciplinary tactics that are acceptable in their society, but which may appear to individuals from different culture as odd, backward, or cruel. Such differences are often due to varying cultural methods for

providing sustenance, supervision, discipline, and mental stimulation to their children. Anecdotal accounts from African graduate students at the University of Minnesota (AAAGS 2004), reveal that traditional African practices that involve marriages, education, gender roles and obedience may look harmful to westerners. Some examples include initiation rites, arranged marriages and encouraging independence at an early age. Ten Bensele, Rheinberger, Radbill, (1997) see culture as the underlying framework that helps define the generally accepted principles of childrearing and care of children. McIntyre & Silva, (1992) posit that differences in social, cultural, religious, and moral values result in variations in what is considered “proper” childrearing. The manner in which some cultural groups define and perceive maltreatment plays a key role in assessing maltreatment and providing services to families. In trying to address culturally based differences and change through time, the definition of child maltreatment has been broadened to include a range of behaviors. But scholars in various social science disciplines are still troubled by the link between cultural values and child maltreatment.

Past studies on child maltreatment have done little to distinguish parental behaviors viewed as illegitimate or unfair and parenting behaviors which are indications of parental involvement and concern. Scholars like Scola, Runyan, & Jackson (1995) point to the lack of consensus with regard to a definition of maltreatment. These authors identified six elements that the National Research Council (1993) employs in developing a definition of maltreatment. These include: (1) what constitutes the dangerous or

unacceptable care of a child; (2) whether endangerment or harm should be used in constructing a definition; (3) what to include in the classification system about the subtype, severity, frequency, and consequences; (4) whether the definition should be based on an adult behavior or child outcome; (5) whether the intent of the perpetrator should be included in the definition; and (6) which aspects of the content of abuse (e.g., age of a child, family composition) should be included in the definition. How the determinants of each element are resolved depends on the purpose of the definition, e.g., legal, intervention through social services, clinical responses, and for scientific research. Each of these purposes emphasizes different elements, which then results in different definitions. This approach illustrates how difficult it is for new immigrants to comprehend America's childcare expectations through simple observation.

According to Samovar, Porter, & Jain (1981), professionals develop images of other cultures from incomplete and biased sources. This is dangerous for professionals working in child welfare since their decisions have life-impacting results. Korbin (1981) argues that individuals from different cultures may diverge considerably in what they perceive to be abusive or neglectful behavior. Behaviors considered normal for one culture may appear abusive to individuals unfamiliar with those cultural practices.

Cultural Differences in Childrearing

Various cultures consider childrearing and the value of children differently. This is an important consideration in defining child maltreatment. Godorn (1978) defines

culture as the way of life of a society, consisting of prescribed ways of behaving or norms of conduct, beliefs, values, and skills. Green (1982) explains culture as the elements of a person's history, traditions, values, and social organization that are deemed meaningful to those who encounter them. Culture reflects the lifestyle practices of particular groups of people. Iverson & Segal (1990) see culture as a source of definitional bias. Rogers, Hevey, & Ash (1989) present a broader view of childrearing. Individuals brought up in authoritarian families will be more accepting of a restrictive parenting style than individuals brought up in unauthoritative families. Consequently, individual exposure to socio-cultural values results in biases consistent with those values. For example, violence is more pervasive in some cultural groups than others. Thus, individuals in such cultures are more accepting of severe physical discipline. John W. Berry et al (2001) lists six areas of social and cultural differences in child rearing. (1). Obedience training: The degree to which children are trained to obey adults. (2). Responsibility training: The degree to which children are trained to take responsibility for subsistence or household tasks. (3). Nurturance training: The degree to which children are trained to care for and help younger siblings and other dependent people. (4). Achievement training: The degree to which children are trained to strive towards standards of excellence in performance. (5). Self-reliance training: The degree to which children are trained to take care of themselves and to be independent of assistance from others in supplying their needs or wants. (6). General independence training: The degree to which children are trained (beyond self-reliance as defined above) toward freedom from control, domination,

supervision. In most developed countries, difficult-to-care-for children are more likely to be abused (Finklehor, 1985; Muller, Caldwell, & Hunter, 1993, quoted in John W. Berry et al 2001), but among the Masai (de Vries, 1987, quoted in John W. Berry et al (2001) and among the poor of northeastern Brazil (SchperHughes, 1987), the more demanding child is more likely to be attended to, while the less demanding child is deemed more self-sufficient and is left alone.

Kiong, Elliott & Tan, (1996) noted that the clash in cultures is evident with certain types of child maltreatment. For them, Western cultures display a lower tolerance of physical punishment (Kiong, Elliott & Tan, 1996). Lee, Martinez, and Rosenfeld, (2001), report that in cases in which the cultural values of subordinate and dominant groups come into conflict, legal agents label the behavior of members of the subordinated groups as deviant. Nevertheless, immigrants may be acting according to sub-culturally accepted norms and feel no “mental conflict” when violating the law. Immigrants may violate the law more often than natives because of conflicts at the level of cultural codes and associated problems of acculturation in a new environment. Traditionally, the use of physical punishment to ensure obedience has played an important role in the rearing of African children. An anecdotal account from an African graduate student that, “Among African families, the employment of corporal punishment is a generalized practice. To define such acts like spanking, slapping, caning, or biting would implicate the vast majority of African parents. Corporal punishment is viewed as a necessary disciplinary

method as well as a positive practice to produce a good family and community member.” Loh, (1990) writes that corporal punishment may not be associated with hostility to the child. Instead, such punishment may be regarded as a sign of parental concern. In one conversation, a graduate student from Africa said he was concerned that corporal punishment hasn’t explicitly been prohibited in all schools and family settings in Africa. (AAAGS, 2004)

In the United States, children are defined as individuals under the age of eighteen. In African societies, age is an abstract number and thus does not completely define who a child is. In African societies culture is governed by social rules which include one’s eating habits, labor, sexual relations, and other relations between men and women (cf. Llewelyn-Davis, 1981). Jacobs, (1965) examined the Masai people of East Africa. The Masai of East Africa define a child by grades. The males are divided into three age categories: “boys” (olayoni) are those from the herding age of 6-8 to circumcision (which normally occurs between 14 and 18 years of age); “warriors” (olmurran) are those from circumcision to well beyond marriageable age at 20-25; and “elders” (olpayian) are those from 30 onward. Once a boy has been circumcised, he formally enters the age-set system with ritual activities and appropriate behaviors (cf. Jacobs, 1965). A child has to show competence in performing duties, responsibilities, and obligations before a promotion is awarded to a higher-grade level.

A study by Hong & Hong, (1991) suggested that cultural differences in childrearing beliefs and values have greater influence in definitions of child maltreatment. Korbin (1994) had similar views when she noted the importance of considering cultural meanings and definitions in child maltreatment. Korbin, (1981) compared forms of punishment in non-Western cultures to those in Western cultures. Forms in non-Western cultures include isolation for several days, food deprivation, and cutting the flesh of a child with a sharp object. These behaviors are judged as harsh and cruel by Western standards. However, some Western practices, such as corrective teeth braces for children and the isolation of children every night in their “own rooms” are seen as harsh and cruel by non-Western observers (Leo, 2003). In the United States it would be unusual for a social worker to urge a mother to share her bed with her three young daughters. For the majority of parents in the United States, the normative sleeping arrangement is for children to have their own beds and probably even their own bedrooms. Yet, in many other cultures, it would be considered abusive if a parent put an infant into a bed and then let the child sleep in a dark, in a separate room. In places where space has been a limited resource, children are expected to share beds with family members. Sharing of beds demonstrates family closeness.

In Africa, LeVine and LeVine (1981) found the forced feeding of infants to be a common practice in parts of Kenya and Nigeria. In this process, the baby's nostrils are blocked in order to induce the intake of gruel, which often causes coughing and poses a

risk to the child's health and survival. This may appear to be cruel and harmful to a person of another culture, but African parents believe that they should be at liberty to handle their offspring as they deem fit. These parents assume that their behavior is in accordance with the socialization goals of their culture and, therefore, appropriate for their children and society. Dixon et al. (1976) writes that children born out of wedlock, those with diverse parents, or those who have lost one parent to death receive inferior care because they are considered dispensable.

According to Cynthia Crosson-Tower, (1998) children have always been expected to work along with their parents. In most parts of the third world, parents are dependent upon the labor of their children for survival. The use of child labor might seem harsh or neglectful by Western standards, but in Africa, it is considered normal and economically necessary. Within these cultures, child labor is seen as an obligation of the young to those who initially nurtured them. Such labor is also a preparation for future societal roles. Langness (1974) discussed the initiation rituals of New Guinea male and females as exceedingly painful. Male and female children are subjected to a variety of extremely abusive treatments by Western standards. Yet in New Guinea, these practices are not regarded as abusive. Rather, the rituals are believed to be absolutely necessary if children are to become healthy, normal adults. Parents believe that ritualized forms of inflicting physical pain will prepare the child to function more fully in a group-oriented society.

Langness (1981) observation that, such practices are considered to be in the best interest of the child.

Anecdotal accounts from African graduate students affirm that childrearing in Africa generally is a societal responsibility rather than solely a single family matter (AAAGS, 2004). In many instances young girls and boys are sent from one family to another within the extended family to serve as house-maids and house boys. A 1975 study (Izuora and Ebigbo 1975) in Nigeria found that children who work as house-help may also be required either by their parents or by the families they serve to sell items of food, clothing and general merchandise on the streets. In northern Nigeria where the Moslem religion is predominantly practiced, begging is allowed. Young boys and girls lead handicapped adults about the streets to beg. Anecdotal accounts from African graduate students, ascertain that African parents maintain an obvious emotional distance from their children to avoid being too emotional and too close to a child. The distance is maintained because parents believe too much emotional support will spoil the child and they will then lose control of him/her. Similar observations were noted by Tang (1992) in his study of Chinese families, and also by Wolf (1978) in his study of Taiwanese parents. Parents feared that if they let their children know they loved them, then they risked losing control of them. It will also make it impossible to maintain obedience and respect. This practice is likely to be viewed by Westerners as a form of child maltreatment. Poffenberger (1981) reports similar values among parents in the Northern

Indian Village of Rajpur, who believe “praise would produce a child who was proud and difficult to control. Vignette studies have also suggested that cultural differences in childrearing beliefs and values may impact definitions of child maltreatment (e.g., Hong & Hong, 1991).

Although differences in parenting style exist, it should be noted that there are areas of agreement, especially about the nature of maltreatment and the seriousness of the consequences for maltreatment. Injuries that generate family concern and/or require medical attention are not acceptable in many societies. Unacceptable behaviors include severe physical abuse, any form of sexual abuse and/or excessive neglect. For example, in Africa, malnutrition manifested as kwashiorkor, Marasmus or anemia (which may arise as a result of neglect) is socially and culturally unacceptable (AAAGS, 2004).

Cultural Differences in Defining Child Maltreatment

While everyone agrees that child maltreatment is unfortunate, viewpoints differ considerably in regard to how the problem can be best understood and most effectively addressed. Part of the difficulty lies in the diversity of definitions (Mash & Wolfe, 1991). There exists considerable disagreement over what exactly constitutes abuse. Giovannoni & Becerra (1979) note that child abuse and neglect are matters of social definition. Thus, the establishment of such definitions is a function of social-cultural values. What constitutes abuse varies not only among cultural groups but also between various states

and nations. The context in which we define and perceive child maltreatment plays a major role in assessment and decisions about removing a child from the home.

Research indicates that different definitions of child maltreatment and distinct research methods lead to different findings. Methodological differences (e.g., definitions of abuse and sampling procedures) explain part of the conflicting findings of various studies (Mash & Wolfe, 1991; Straus & Gelles, 1986). Researchers, Mash & Wolfe, (1991), Straus & Gelles, (1986) noted some differences in the parenting practices of ethnic minority groups in comparison to the dominant culture or other minority groups. Some of these differences may be due to differences in values and styles. Other differences may be due to socioeconomic status. In addition, parenting practices within immigrant ethnic groups may vary depending on a parent's level of acculturation. Research on parental beliefs in different cultures has found that prominent cultural ideologies appear to guide the way parents think about their child's development. Individualistic cultures value assertive and independent behaviors. In contrast, collectivistic cultures value socially unobtrusive and compliant behaviors that maintain social harmony.

The legal definition of child maltreatment directly or indirectly provides the standard guideline for most individuals within American society. However, it must be recognized that definitions of child maltreatment should be addressed at two levels, general and operational (Iverson & Segal 1990). At the general level are those

definitions that describe the phenomenon of maltreatment. At the operational level are definitions that contain a specific set of guidelines for day-to-day behavior. When operational definitions deviate from accepted general definitions, there is an increase in definitional bias. According to Hutchison (1990), bias may result from individual differences in upbringing, socio-cultural factors, or theoretically based differences in perceiving maltreatment. Individual differences in upbringing affect operational definitions by leading to different levels of tolerance towards adverse parent-child relations. As individual upbringing leads to different levels of tolerance towards maltreatment, the socio-cultural values to which the individual is exposed leads to biases consistent with those values. Cultural traditions consistent with these values may be accepted within the culture. Yet, they may appear abusive to individuals unfamiliar with these traditions. Winton & Mara (2001) believe that differences in defining and perceiving maltreatment may be a consequence of professional training. Different professionals utilize different definitions of child maltreatment. They say that part of the problem is how one defines harming or threatening a child's health. Also, what are acts of omission?

According to Hutchinson (1990), "definitions have been developed to meet four interrelated purposes: social policy and planning, legal regulations, research, and case management (p.61). Hutchinson further noted that, definitions differ depending on the maltreatment theory. The problem is more complex when trying to determine who is

supposed to define child maltreatment. Should professionals or the public determine its definition? And who, from either group, would do this? Hutchinson (1990) concludes this way; “the definition of child maltreatment should include only seriously harmful behaviors and outcomes (p.75)

A January 2003 article (*Child Protection-Action for Child Protection*) defines child maltreatment as “parenting behavior that is harmful and destructive to a child’s cognitive, social, emotional, physical development.” When asked about a definition of maltreatment, people can agree on its extreme forms. A child with severe bruises or broken bones resulting from “parental discipline” or a child who is denied food is a clear example of maltreatment in the eyes of most individuals. Similarly, parents who keep an unkempt house or occasionally yell at their children for not listening to them are not engaging in child maltreatment. Situations between these two extremes are where definitional and seriousness issues become more complicated.

Cultural Differences in Attitudes Toward Reporting Child Maltreatment

How one defines and perceives child maltreatment influences whether he/she reports or intervenes in an abusive situation. According to anecdotal accounts from African graduate students, African taboos prevent open discussion of child maltreatment. In such circumstances, individuals are influenced by their cultural values, norms and beliefs. Obviously, a parent breaking a child’s bones or burning his/her body elicits powerful feelings and anger from others. In many cultures, individuals find themselves

socially and culturally obliged to intervene in an abusive situation, yet there is no standard point of intervention. In an African country, severe child maltreatment may be reported out of fear of the government and negative legal repercussions, rather than a desire to seek help or services (AAAGS, 2004). Many graduate students interviewed during exploratory conversations in the development of this research remain concerned that traditional societal attitudes appear to limit the ability of children to freely express their views within the family, school, community, court and other institutional settings. The majority of African countries achieved their political independence in the 1960s and 1970s. The colonial experience may have contributed to public distrust of government institutions. African immigrants in the U.S. continue to display this distrust towards these institutions. The police and courts are viewed as coercive instruments of the government aimed at controlling and punishing poor and innocent people (AAAGS, 2004). Consequently, African parents threaten to call the police as a way to deter a child's behavior or instill fear in a child or another person. Kiong, Elliott, and Tan (1996) observed similar practices in Singapore. Parents sometimes tell their disobedient children that the policeman will take them away. A study in Nigeria by Ebigbo (2003) found the following as some of the reasons given by 67 girls who were sexually abused and not willing to report the crime. First, fear of stigma and ridicule, and a fear of reducing their chances of getting married if the abuse was made public. Second, abusers are sometimes relatives and family friends or familiar people who may be powerful and

with widespread connections. Third, rejecting enticements and inaccurate reporting of enticement could be termed disobedience and disrespect.

The seriousness of maltreatment is determined by the degree of bodily damage. In Nigeria Ebigbo (2003) found that the tradition of early marriage is very difficult to change and has led to abusive practices which are condoned by parents. Many parents send their children out to the streets to trade in order to make enough money. Oloko (1989) stated that mothers lubricate their daughter's vaginas before sending them onto the streets so as to prevent serious injury if they happen to be sexually assaulted. Such beliefs make it harder for African parents to report sexual abuse; the victim must have noticeable harm done including bleeding or an inability to walk before the abuse is considered reportable. It is shameful and embarrassing for a family to expose any type of sexual abuse in public. Sex must be discussed and practiced in secret and according to societal rules and norms (AAAGS, 2004).

Studies Defining Child Maltreatment

Several studies have attempted to address the problem of defining and perceiving the seriousness of abuse and neglect (Giovannoni & Becerra, 1979; Roscoe 1990; Segal 1992; O'Toole, Webster & Lucal, 1994; Kiong, et. al., 1996). In an attempt to explain the complexity of maltreatment, Giovannoni and Becerra developed a two-phase study. The first phase surveyed opinions of professionals (lawyers, social workers, police, and pediatricians) and lay people in Los Angeles. Giovannoni and Becerra hoped to discover

the degree of agreement among various subgroups in the general population, as well as whether agreement existed between professionals and lay people.

Giovannoni & Becerra (1979) developed 78 pairs of vignettes grouped into 13 categories. Respondents were asked to rate each vignette according to how serious they thought each incident was from the standpoint of the welfare of the child. Overall, they found a high level of agreement among certain lay sub-populations, and between professionals and the general population on what is considered most and least serious. Respondents perceived as most serious acts of sexual abuse, any contribution to the delinquency of a minor and physical injury. Yet, professionals and the lay population differed on how each perceived physical injury. Lay persons perceived physical injury to be less serious than the professional group believed it to be (Giovannoni and Becerra, 1979). The second phase of the study consisted of a survey of actual cases of child abuse and neglect.

Segal (1992), in a replication of Giovannoni and Becerra's study, sought to examine the perceptions of child abuse by Indian nationals. Both Segal (1992) and Finkelhor & Korbin (1988) conclude that child abuse, as defined and identified in the West, is not necessarily applicable across cultures. Segal compared social workers, other professional workers in the humanities, and those not involved in human services, in India. He found negligible variation in the perceptions of abuse among the groups. The Indian and Americans agreed that sexual abuse was the most serious and housing the

least serious form of abuse. However, the two groups differed in their ranking of the other ten categories of behaviors noted in the study. For example, the Indian nationals rated physical abuse and emotional maltreatment, less seriously than the Americans.

Kiong, et. Al., (1996) examined public perceptions of child abuse and neglect in Singapore. Researchers found some similarities with other studies and also some interesting differences. One similarity between this study and others like it was that respondents regarded sexual abuse as very serious and emotional abuse as less serious. This similar conclusion was made regardless of whether the respondents were professionals in India, (Segal, 1992), professionals or lay people in Los Angeles (Giovannoni & Becerra, 1979), middle-class American college students (Roscoe, 1990), or nurses in Ohio (O' Toole, et, al., 1994). There existed a variability of responses to physical abuse in the Kiong, et, al study (1996). Some forms of abuse such as burning or tying a child up with rope or twine were considered very serious. On the other hand, other forms were not considered serious, such as caning. Physical abuse was generally considered by the American students to be quite serious, though not as much as sexual abuse (O' Tool, et al. 1994; Roscoe, 1990; Giovannoni and Becerra, 1979). However, in the Indian study, which was a replication of the Giovannoni and Becerra study (1979), researchers learned that Indian professionals did not rate physical abuse as seriously as did the Americans. Medical neglect was highlighted in the Indian study (Segal, 1992) and Singapore study (Kiong, et al. 1996) as something considered serious. The study by

Roscoe, (1990) and the study in Singapore by Kiong, et. al., (1996) both concluded that respondents' viewed inadequate supervision as less serious. Inadequate supervision was considered quite serious to the respondents in Giovannoni and Becerra (1979) and Segal (1992).

The Research Questions

Literature in cross-cultural definitions of maltreatment suggests that groups of people, professional and nonprofessional, as well as persons of different cultures, vary in their perceptions of the severity of different forms of child maltreatment (Giovannoni & Becerra, 1979). Further, although national origin, class, education, and professional identity were also shown to influence definitions of child maltreatment, anecdotal reports from African immigrants suggested even greater divides between parents who were born and raised in Africa and parents born and raised in the U.S., (even though all parents are currently living in the United States). In addition to varying cultural norms, values and social realities, it is likely that perceptions regarding the parental behaviors toward children in the three groups: African born parents, U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals, differ markedly. This research sought to address the question: How do parents from the African continent who are living in the U.S. evaluate practices that are, or might be, harmful to children, particularly when compared to U.S. norms? The following research questions were formulated and informed the structure the questionnaire.

1. How do parents who differ in culture, differ in evaluating the behavior as maltreatment or non-maltreatment?
2. How do parents who differ in culture, differ in their attitudes toward reporting practices that are considered child maltreatment?
3. How do parents who differ in culture, differ in the perception of the severity of child maltreatment?

Chapter 3: Methodology

Definitions of Terms Used in the Study

For the purpose of this study African parents are defined as: Any person born and raised on the African continent, of sub-Saharan Africa (excluding Arab's from Arabic countries on African continent) up to when he or she was 18 years or more, has children and is currently living in St. Paul Minnesota. African Americans are defined as descendants of Africans who arrived in the U.S. prior to 1900. By establishing a clear differentiation between parents raised in Africa and African Americans, the study is able to focus on how African parents will define and perceive child maltreatment.

Potential child maltreatment: An act or omission by a parent/caregiver resulting in harm to a child.

African parents: any person born and raised in the Sub-Saharan Region of the African continent, up to when he or she was 18 years or more, who have children and are currently living in St. Paul Minnesota,. Parents from Arabic-speaking countries were not included.

African American: Persons of African heritage who were born and raised in the United States.

U.S. parents: Any person born or raised in the U.S., until they were 18 years old or more, who have children and are currently living in St. Paul Minnesota. U.S. Parents could include African Americans.

Child welfare professionals: The employees of the county responsible for providing child welfare services and charged with responding to reports of child abuse and neglect. Child welfare professionals could include African Americans.

Authorities: State and county officials and members of various local law enforcement agencies charged with responding to reports of child abuse and neglect.

Instruments

Giovannoni and Becerra (1979) developed 78 vignette pairs depicting different categories of child maltreatment. Each vignette described an abusive parental action and a consequence to the child. Based on theoretical and empirical research, 13 categories of vignettes were developed and are as follows: Physical abuse, sexual abuse, fostering delinquency, sexual mores, emotional neglect, supervision, housing, cleanliness, clothing, drugs/alcohol, educational neglect, medical neglect and nutrition. An arbitrary nine-point scale was selected to allow respondents to assess, for themselves, the severity of a particular situation, and each vignette was to be rated independently of every other.

The instrument used to study African born parents, U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals in St. Paul, Minnesota, was a child maltreatment questionnaire modeled after, and including some of the questions used by the Giovannoni and Becerra (1979) study. All 13 categories were represented in this study. All incidents were thoroughly examined and some of the incidents were represented in this study. The main difference in this study is the addition of two items which were not in Giovannoni and Becerra's 1979 research study: (1) Respondents were asked if they felt the behavior was maltreatment or not. (2) Respondents were asked if they felt they should report the behavior or not. Furthermore Giovannoni and Becerra used a 1-9 point scale while this study used 1-4 point scale. Table 1, was used to construct a set of vignettes depicting specific behaviors or incidents considered child maltreatment from Giovannoni and

Becerra's study (1979), from Sedlak, A. J., & Broadhurst, D. D. (1996). *Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect*, Washington; anecdotal accounts from graduate students from Africa (2004); and a cross-cultural literature review.

STEP 1: The author selected types of child abuse and neglect that are in columns 1 and 2 (Table 1).

STEP: 2: When column 3 had a description of child abuse and neglect that was not in column 2, a vignette was constructed for that description. In addition, column 3 contains descriptions of events that persons from other cultures might consider maltreatment. The author examined what is abuse and neglect in column 1 and 2 and determined if they are listed in column 3. For those not listed in column 3, the author relied on the vignettes from column 1 of Giovannoni & Becerra (1979). If a vignette did not exist, the author constructed it. The goal was to develop broad representation of items from those previously studied and to add items that may not have been represented. Some vignettes were developed to reflect social and cultural variations between African parents and U.S. born parents.

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>From Giovannoni & Becerra's Vignette study 1979</p>	<p>From Sedlak A., J & Broadhurst, 1996 National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect</p>	<p>Cross- Cultural Literature and anecdotal accounts from graduate students from Africa at the University of Minnesota, 2004</p>
<p>Physical Abuse The parents burned the child on the buttocks and chest with a cigarette.</p> <p>The parents immersed the child in a tub of hot water. The parents hit the child on the face.</p> <p>The parents banged the child against a wall while shaking him by the shoulder.</p> <p>The parents struck the child with a wooden stick.</p> <p>The parents usually punished their child by spanking him with a leather strap.</p>	<p>Physical Abuse Physical injury as a result of: Punching the child.</p> <p>Beating the child.</p> <p>Kicking the child.</p> <p>Biting the child.</p> <p>Burning the child.</p> <p>Shaking the child.</p> <p>Throwing the child.</p> <p>Stabbing the child.</p> <p>Choking the child.</p> <p>Hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other objects).</p>	<p>Physical Abuse Any physical force or action that results in or may potentially result in non-accidental injury to a child which exceeds that which could be considered reasonable discipline.</p> <p>Slapping or biting the child.</p> <p>Throwing, restraining the child.</p> <p>Hitting, punching, or shaking.</p> <p>Spanking the child.</p> <p>Pinching or squeezing the child.</p> <p>Pushing the child.</p>
<p>Sexual Abuse On one occasion, the parent and child engaged in sexual intercourse.</p>	<p>Sexual Abuse Involvement of the child in sexual activity.</p>	<p>Sexual Abuse Includes activities by a parent or caretaker such as: Involuntary sexual intercourse with a child.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>On one occasion parent and child engaged in mutual masturbation.</p> <p>The parent repeatedly suggested to the child that they have sexual relations.</p> <p>The parent repeatedly showed the child pornographic pictures.</p> <p>On one occasion, the parent fondled the child's genital area.</p> <p>The parents have intercourse where the child can see them.</p>	<p>Molestation with genital contact.</p> <p>Contacts for sexual purposes.</p> <p>Molestation.</p> <p>Penetration.</p> <p>Statutory rape.</p> <p>Exploiting the child by prostitution.</p> <p>Production of pornography materials.</p> <p>Exposure incest.</p> <p>Other sexual exploitations.</p>	<p>Fondling a child's genitals.</p> <p>Having sex where a child can see.</p> <p>Body parts exposure.</p> <p>Exploitation through prostitution.</p> <p>Exploitation through sexual publicity.</p> <p>Forced/arranged marriages of the child.</p> <p>Traditional sexual initiation processes.</p> <p>Child trafficking.</p>
<p>Fostering Delinquency The parents make their child steal small articles from the supermarket.</p> <p>The parents make their child take stolen merchandise to a store that sells it illegally.</p>	<p>Fostering Delinquency Encouragement of illegal behaviors.</p> <p>Use the child to steal.</p> <p>Use the child to sell illegal items.</p> <p>Make the child miss school.</p>	<p>Fostering Delinquency Use the child to sell illegal items.</p> <p>Use the child as source of family income.</p> <p>Make a child undertake duties inappropriate to his/her physical ability.</p> <p>Depriving a child of education.</p> <p>Encourage the child to be money minded.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>Supervision The parents regularly leave their child alone outside the house after dark, often as late as midnight.</p> <p>The parents regularly leave their child alone inside the house after dark, often they did not return until midnight.</p> <p>The parents regularly leave their child alone outside the house during the day until almost dark.</p> <p>The parents regularly left their children with neighbors, without knowing who would assume responsibility and be in charge.</p>	<p>Supervision Failure to provide age-appropriate care although financially able or offered financial or other means to do so.</p> <p>Left the child alone.</p> <p>Failure to provide care.</p> <p>Failure to provide supervision.</p> <p>Abandonment.</p>	<p>Supervision Failure to provide necessary supervision.</p> <p>Failure to provide necessary food.</p> <p>Failure to provide necessary shelter.</p> <p>Failure to protect from harm.</p> <p>Child left to sleep in a separate dark room.</p>
<p>Housing The parents live with their child in an old house. Two windows in the living room where the child plays have been broken for some time and the glass has very jagged edges.</p>	<p>Housing Failure to provide appropriate shelter.</p> <p>Safety hazards pose danger.</p> <p>Lack of stable home.</p> <p>Neglect of household sanitation.</p> <p>Crowded housing.</p>	<p>Housing Without shelter or relatives to stay with.</p> <p>Living on the street (physical abandonment).</p> <p>Not welcome to stay with parents.</p> <p>Inadequate housing.</p> <p>Costly housing.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>Emotional Mistreatment The parents dress their son in girl's clothing.</p> <p>Sometimes put makeup on him.</p> <p>They keep long curls on him.</p> <p>A severely and emotionally disturbed child.</p> <p>The parents refuse to accept treatment for themselves or for their child.</p> <p>The parents are constantly screaming at their child, calling him foul names.</p> <p>The parents ignore their child.</p>	<p>Emotional Mistreatment Isolating the child.</p> <p>Terrorizing the child.</p> <p>Ignoring the child.</p> <p>Corrupting the child.</p> <p>Restricting the child.</p> <p>No guidance to the child.</p> <p>Threatening the child.</p> <p>Scaring the child.</p> <p>Discriminating against the child.</p> <p>Ridiculing the child.</p> <p>Refusal of psychological care.</p> <p>Delay in psychological care.</p> <p>Threats to the harm of the child.</p> <p>Controlling the child.</p>	<p>Emotional Mistreatment A pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth.</p> <p>Rejecting the child.</p> <p>Withholding love to the child.</p> <p>Withholding support to the child.</p> <p>Criticizing the child.</p> <p>Unconcerned about the child.</p> <p>Isolating.</p> <p>Discriminating.</p> <p>Over loving the child.</p> <p>Granting too much freedom to the child.</p> <p>Security not provided.</p>
<p>Drug/Alcohol The parents always allow their child to stay around when they have friends over to experiment with cocaine.</p>	<p>Drug/Alcohol Parents abusing chemicals.</p> <p>Drug affected new born.</p> <p>Positive toxicology on child.</p>	<p>Drug/Alcohol Encouragement or permitting the child to use alcohol or other drugs.</p> <p>Substance abuse by the parent.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>The parent experimented with cocaine while alone taking care of the child.</p> <p>The parents use marijuana occasionally, but the father's brother, who is an addict, visits their home often and has used cocaine in front of their child.</p> <p>A parent became very drunk while alone taking care of the child.</p> <p>A parent got very high smoking marijuana while alone taking care of the child.</p> <p>The parents always allow their child to stay around when they have friends over to smoke marijuana.</p> <p>The parents always allow their child to stay around when they have drinking parties.</p> <p>The parents leave bottles of whiskey around the house in a place where the child can get to them. The parents let their child sip out of their glasses when they are drinking whiskey.</p>	<p>Developmental delay as a result of parents' use of drugs.</p>	<p>Drug use during pregnancy.</p> <p>Drug dependent parent.</p> <p>Positive toxicology of parent at delivery.</p> <p>Withdrawal symptom of the child.</p> <p>Positive toxicology on the child at birth.</p> <p>Medical effects or developmental delays during child's first year as a result of parent's use of drugs.</p>
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Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>Parents are moderate drinkers, but the father's brother, who is an alcoholic, visits their home often, drinking constantly in front of their child.</p>		
<p>Medical Neglect The parents ignore the fact that their child was obviously ill, crying constantly and not eating.</p> <p>The parents ignore their child's complaint of an earache and chronic ear drainage.</p> <p>The parents have repeatedly failed to keep medical appointments for their child.</p> <p>The parents do not provide any health care for their child.</p> <p>The parents have not given their child medication prescribed by a physician.</p> <p>The parents have not taken their child to a dentist.</p> <p>The parents have failed to obtain an eye examination for their child.</p>	<p>Medical Neglect Failure to obtain medical treatment</p> <p>Denial or deprivation of medical or surgical treatment</p> <p>Failure to follow medical advice or instruction</p> <p>Failure of the professional.</p>	<p>Medical Neglect Parents unwilling to try alternative treatment (traditional).</p> <p>Negligence in providing adequate care</p> <p>Parents unable to make decisions.</p> <p>Parents unwilling to accept referrals to tangible services.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>Cleanliness The parents usually leave their child on a filthy, sodden mattress.</p> <p>The parents do not wash their child at all.</p> <p>The parents do not wash their child's hair or bathe him for weeks at a time.</p> <p>The parents make no effort to keep their child clean.</p> <p>The parents do not see to it that their child brushes his teeth.</p>	<p>Cleanliness No one attends to the child's cleanliness.</p> <p>Hygiene neglect.</p>	<p>Cleanliness Parents do not clean their child until he has caught diseases.</p> <p>Hygiene neglect.</p>
<p>Parental Sexual Mores The parents permit a relative, who is a prostitute, to bring customers to their house.</p> <p>A divorced mother, who has custody of her child, is a prostitute.</p> <p>A divorced mother, who has custody of a child, often brings home different men.</p> <p>A divorced mother, who has custody of her child, is a lesbian.</p>	<p>Parental Sexual Mores</p>	<p>Parental Sexual Mores Sex in the presence of a child.</p> <p>Talking about sex in the presence of a child.</p> <p>Kissing, touching in the presence of a child.</p> <p>Brings home different men.</p> <p>Brings home different women.</p> <p>Dress shows parts of the body.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

<p>A divorced father who has custody of his child is a homosexual.</p> <p>A divorced mother, who has custody of her child, has a steady boyfriend with whom she has intercourse often.</p>		
<p>Clothing Parents do not see to it that their child has clean clothing.</p> <p>Parents always let their child run around the house and yard without any clothes on.</p>	<p>Clothing</p>	<p>Clothing</p>
<p>Educational Neglect The parents frequently keep their child out of school.</p> <p>The parents know their child is often truant, but they don't do anything about it.</p> <p>The parents frequently let their school-age child stay home from school for no reason.</p> <p>The parents never see to it that their children do any homework.</p> <p>They let them watch TV all evening.</p>	<p>Educational Neglect Parents don't provide the necessary care and supervision to promote education.</p>	<p>Educational Neglect Parents fail to encourage and promote education.</p>

Table 1
Situation Considered Maltreatment

Nutritional Neglect	Nutritional Neglect	Nutritional Neglect
<p>The parents fail to prepare regular meals for their child.</p> <p>The child has often had to fix his own supper.</p> <p>The parents always insist that their child clean his plate, which they heap full of food</p>	<p>Failure to provide a nutritious & quality diet.</p>	<p>Failure to provide nutritious food.</p>

Note: Sources utilized in Table 1 include anecdotal accounts from graduate students from Africa (2004): Giovannoni & Becerra (1979): Hong, G. & Hong, L. (1991): Kiong, Elliot & Tan, (1996): Langness, L. L. (1981): Ramsey County Human Services Initial Screening Criteria. (Rev.6/98). St. Paul, Minnesota. Sedlak & Broadhurst, (1996): Winton & Mara, (2001).

An 80-item questionnaire was designed to study definitions, perceptions of seriousness and likelihood of reporting such behaviors or incidents. The author pre-tested the vignettes on ten individuals of a sample similar to the population to be studied. This helped the author understand whether questions were clear, the ease of completing and whether an important question was missed. The pre-test provided input for the final revision of the survey questionnaire. The process involved follow-up questions to gain a better understanding of how respondents interpret questions asked of them. The results of pre-testing showed which questions were unnecessary and did not need to be included in the

final questionnaire. Additional questions were included to better operationalize the concept of child maltreatment.

Pre-testing helped to clear up confusion or misunderstanding regarding unintended meanings in the questionnaire. Complex and poorly defined topics, and questions with terms respondent may not understand were eliminated. Pre-testing helped the author determine what is important in African culture and American culture. It also helped the author discover how respondents think about the topic and if there was evidence the instrument works in the target population. In the final questionnaire changes were incorporated to reduce measurement error. Pre-testing was also used to obtain information on the respondent's perception of task difficulty or question sensitivity. Items determined to be difficult or sensitive were modified or eliminated to reduce difficulty and sensitivity. The intended objective of pre-testing was to examine the validity and reliability of the instrument. The final questionnaire contained 60 vignettes (see Table 1 for vignette categories).

Physical abuse: Eight vignettes dealt with physical punishment. The method of punishment involved the use of an object, stick, belt, leather strap and the outcome to the child being physical or emotional injury. One vignette described burning the child with a cigarette with the consequences of scars. One vignette was constructed on undergoing a culturally accepted but painful procedure.

Sexual abuse: Eight vignettes referred to sexual activity between parent and child. The vignette ranged from fondling, intercourse, masturbation, suggesting a sexual relationship, and raising female and male children differently. Two vignettes were on a culturally accepted behavior of touching an older female child on her genitals. The other vignette involved a traditional ritual of a 14-year exposing her breasts in public.

Parental sexual mores: Six vignettes depicted sexual activities on the part of parent, including a cultural value of staying a virgin until marriage; parents not taking action when their son behaves inappropriately; a mother appearing naked in front of her son; a mother bringing home different men; a divorced father who is homosexual and a lesbian mother.

Fostering delinquency: Four vignettes depicted fostering delinquency: a child's absence from school with more toys than necessary; a child involved in illegal activity with the parent's knowledge and assistance; parents knowingly making their child skip school for their own benefit; and parents use of money as an incentive for a child to perform chores.

Supervision: Five vignettes dealt with leaving the child alone. The vignette varied on the length of time and day or night the child was left. The parent's behavior included locking up the child.

Housing: Two vignettes described an unsafe environment of overcrowding and sleeping on the streets with a young child.

Emotional mistreatment: Ten vignettes portrayed emotional mistreatment, such as: a child made to study long hours, ignoring the child, dressing older son in girls' clothing, constantly screaming to the child, putting the child up for adoption, a child's biological father from a different ethnic group, naming the child inappropriately, and a stepson not considered part of the family.

Drug & Alcohol: Six vignettes describing use of alcohol and drugs by the parent while taking care of the child including the parent giving alcohol to a baby as a culturally accepted sleep aid.

Medical neglect: Four vignettes depicting parental failure to obtain medical care for a sick child. These included believing the illness is god's will; parents have no health insurance; believing that god will take care of their sick child; and refusing to try evidence-based traditional treatment.

Cleanliness: One vignette dealing with the cleanliness of the child's body.

Clothing: Two vignettes dealing with the adequacy of clothing in regard to weather and the child's discomfort.

Educational neglect: One vignette dealing with a child's absence from school when one parent is ill and another parent is at work.

Nutritional neglect: Three vignettes intended to capture parental failure in feeding children – the consequences referred to as malnutrition, a child learns how to fix simple

meals and a child being deprived of food for three days as part of his “rite of passage” to manhood.

Respondents were expected to indicate how they felt on three items. First, if they felt a behavior was maltreatment or not. Secondly, how they perceived the seriousness of the behavior on a four point scale, allowing respondent to use (1) low to almost nothing, (2) moderate, within acceptable range, (3) high, not acceptable and (4) extremely serious. Third, respondents were asked if they felt they should report the behavior or not.

Subjects and Setting

The target population consisted of persons aged 18-years or over, who were born and raised on the African continent or the U.S. and who have children of any age. These individuals are currently living in student family housing at the University of Minnesota and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. The target population also included child welfare professionals from Washington and Anoka Counties in Minnesota.

Convenience sample (also referred as accidental sampling). The final sample, described in Table 2, consists of 213 responses collected from respondents from CTC and Luther Seminary family housing communities, in St. Paul, Minnesota and from Washington and Anoka counties welfare professionals. This study does not claim to be representative of the entire population of parents born and raised on the African continent in Minnesota or the

United States. Rather structured exploratory survey questionnaires were administered to the most easily accessible parents who were willing to participate in the study.

The researcher recruited one research assistant from Commonwealth Terrace Community (CTC). Subjects were recruited through a number of sources, including flyers placed around CTC resident mailboxes and advertisements placed in Commonwealth Terrace newsletter and by word of mouth. Research assistants located specific parents from Africa and parents born or raised in U.S. and placed flyers in their mailboxes.

The researcher approached Commonwealth Terrace Community (CTC) and Luther Seminary management by scheduling an appointment with the managers. At the appointment researcher introduced himself as a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota. The researcher provided advisers and co-advisers names and phone numbers for reference. The study was explained and a discussion was held about why CTC and Luther Seminary were good places to carry this research. The researcher talked about his experience with child maltreatment when he used to be a member of CTC. The possible benefit of the study and findings were discussed and researcher acknowledged that he would be happy to share results of the study with management. The researcher requested assistance from CTC and Luther Seminary management in order to complete this study. The CTC weekly newsletter was used to announce and publicize this study. The study was published twice in the newsletter. On the third time, dates, times and places to meet for this study were included. Day care was not provided but children accompanied by an adult were

welcome to be in the room. The newsletter published the researcher and the research assistants' names, addresses, and phone numbers. Flyers were placed in residents' mailboxes explaining the study and requesting voluntary participation from CTC & Luther Seminary residents. The flyer stated clearly that the study was interested in parents born and raised on the Africa continent until at least age 18 before coming to U.S., and also those parents born or raised in the United States. The research assistant (RA) from CTC helped with coordination and placing flyers. The research assistant responded to phone calls if called for clarifications or questions and will consult or forward information to the researcher.

Parents born and raised on the Sub-Saharan African continent: (African parents)

CTC is located south of the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. It is a resident-owned management corporation offering housing to University of Minnesota student families. CTC houses 464 families of which 19 percent are from the United States. The other families come from over 70 different countries (*The Minnesota Daily*, 12-03-2003). The Board of Directors, assisted by various committees, a general manager and hired staff, manages the co-op and sets policies. Only University of Minnesota student families (with or without children) or single parents (who have 50 percent or greater legal custody of minor children) are eligible to live in the CTC. A total of 75 parents born and raised on the sub-Saharan African continent were interviewed from CTC and Luther Seminary student family housing communities.

Parents born or raised in the United States (U.S. parents)

This group consisted of people born or raised in the United States of America living at CTC and Luther Seminary student family housing communities. A total of 75 U.S. parents were interviewed from CTC and Luther Seminary communities. The purpose behind this approach was to ensure that all participants - African parents and U.S. parents - are from the same community in St. Paul. The researcher is aware that CTC and Luther Seminary are communities of relatively highly educated parents. In addition, while this group could have included African American parents, none of the U.S. born parents was African American.

Child welfare professionals

A total of 63 child welfare professionals were interviewed from Washington and Anoka counties in Minnesota. The researcher communicated with the Directors of Family and Children Services, Washington and Anoka Counties, in preparation of the study. The researcher sent an abstract and a copy of the proposal as desired. The county, through its internal system, informed their staff about the research objective. The name and telephone number of the researcher was provided to child welfare professionals. It was clearly stated that participation is voluntary. The interview was conducted by utilizing opportunities where child welfare professionals were gathered as a group, (Staff meetings, lunch breaks, and seminars). The researcher pre-arranged to be at the meeting and explain more about the study. Those willing to participate were asked to remain in the room after their meeting. African American parents born and raised in the United States were not excluded from the

U.S. born samples. However, by chance, very none of the respondents were African American.

Response to this study was voluntary. Data were collected directly from study respondents. The process involved administering a survey questionnaire to 213 respondents. Each respondent was asked to judge 60 specific behaviors described by the vignette. A self-administered vignette questionnaire was distributed to parents born and raised on the African continent and parents born or raised in U.S. in a group setting in a room at CTC Student Housing at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, and to child welfare professionals in Washington and Anoka counties in Minnesota during summer and fall semesters, 2004. The vignette had three questions to create a three-item measurement. Respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with each item. Item one asked respondents to indicate their acceptability of the parents/caregiver act or behavior to the child. The second asked respondents to rate the seriousness of such act/behavior, on a scale of 1-4, one being the least serious and 4 being the most serious. The third question asked if the respondent would intervene by reporting the act to one of the child protective agencies.

Each of the 60 vignettes consisted of one to three sentences describing a potential abusive or neglectful situation or act. In addition, each vignette included a description of the consequences this behavior or situation has had on the child. All respondents had the same vignettes.

Additional items based on the likely experiences or backgrounds of African culture were constructed, pre-tested, and tested for reliability. The researcher set a day and time at the participant's convenience, frequently meeting at the CTC hall. The meeting was communicated through Commonwealth Terrace's weekly newsletter. Research assistant made phone calls to remind those participants who had initiated contact with the researcher or research assistant of their willingness to participate. The research assistant arranged the hall and prepared snacks.

The researcher, being aware that such a study may spur people to disclose their own experiences of having been maltreated or to disclose knowledge of maltreatment, went through the process with the University Institutional Research Board (IRB). On the day of interview each respondent signed the human subject consent form. The form was approved by the University's Research Subjects Protection Program. The latter included statements about risks and offered referrals for counseling. In addition, prior to the interview, respondents were told that if they disclose any maltreatment of a child, as defined by Minnesota statutes, the interviewer is required by law to report it to authorities. A small token of appreciation was provided to participants. The gratuity is not so great as to coerce participation, but sufficient to provide recognition of the time given.

On the day of interview, the hall was arranged in such a way that respondents were seated far away from each other and no consultation between them was allowed during the interview. The research assistant participated in assisting with the process of administering

the questionnaire. The researcher first thanked all participants for devoting their time to the study. The objective of the study was explained. The researcher asked if there were any questions. He answered questions to clarify any related issues. Once there were no more questions the researcher continued to the next step. All those who had come to the interview hall were told of their right to withdraw or continue with the study. Those who agreed to continue with the study were asked to sign a human-subject consent form. After signing, the research assistant distributed survey questionnaires to respondents. The researcher provided respondents with oral instructions. The oral instruction explained what was contained in the survey questionnaire and how respondents were to complete it. They were told that the questionnaire asks respondents to rate the vignette on acceptability and potential harmfulness to the child, seriousness of the maltreatment, and whether authorities should intervene in the situation. The latter question does not focus on what the respondent would do; rather it is merely the opinion of what the respondent thinks should be done. The study does not seek to reach conclusions about reporting behaviors or intentions. After completing the above process, the researcher asked if there were any other questions. Next, respondents were allowed to respond to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed individually.

Social Hour: The questionnaire took approximately 30 to 45 minutes. When the individuals completed the questionnaire they were instructed to place the completed questionnaire in one of three large envelopes placed on the table at the front or back of the

room. Then they were instructed to proceed to another table and receive \$10 in appreciation for answering the questionnaire. After the completion and submission of the survey questionnaires the researcher provided an opportunity for respondents to interact with the researcher during a social hour. This was done when participants were having refreshments. The researcher mixed with the respondents, talked with them, listened to their ideas, and addressed any concerns. The primary objective was to make sure respondents had cleared up issues or at least knew where and how to access services if they felt they needed to do so. It was a set time to be used to identify if there were any misunderstandings. According to Esposito et al (1993), follow-up questions are useful for five reasons:

“(1) to establish whether there were any misunderstandings of terms or phrases used in the main survey; (2) to ascertain the extent to which respondents’ understandings of questions and concepts were consistent with the official definitions; (3) to evaluate whether some questions in the main survey were superfluous; (4) to examine whether alternate versions of a question did a better job of identifying or measuring specific activities; (5) to construct comparable subsets of respondents from different questionnaire versions to allow comparative analyses” (pp18-19).

The researcher thanked respondents individually as they left or as a group if they stayed together. Although researcher knew some respondents, all completed questionnaires were de-identified so that the researcher cannot link responses with the names of respondents.

Chapter 4: Results

Table 2 presents the number of respondents, their ages, gender, marital status, household income, educational levels, field of work, number of children and place born and raised. Participation in this study was voluntary. Respondents were free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time during the study. The missing information was largely found in the socio-demographic items. The researcher found if people did not wish to complete the child maltreatment items, they returned the questionnaire uncompleted and withdrew from the study. All 75 U.S born respondents were white and all 63 child welfare professionals were white, while all 75 African born parents were black. Child welfare professionals tended to be more female while more males responded among the parent samples (though this difference was not statistically significant). This could be associated with the fact that the researcher and research assistant were male.

Table 2
Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Frequency	African Born N=75	U.S. Born N=75	Professionals N=63	Overall N= 213
Gender				
Male	(n=39) 52.0%	(n=39) 52.0%	(n=11) 17.5%	(n=89)41.8%
Female	(n=36)48.0	(n=36)48.0	(n=52) 82.5	(n=124) 58.2
Age				
19-40yrs	(n=46)61.3	(n=42) 56.0	(n=32)50.8	(n=120) 56.3
41 and over	(n=29) 38.7	(n=33) 44.0	(n=31) 49.2	(n=93) 43.7
Education				
High School/GED	(n=9) 12.0	(n=8) 10.7	(n=0)0.0	(n=17) 8.0
Some College/Technical	(n=10) 13.3	(n=14)18.7	(n=0) 0.0	(n=24) 11.3
College Degree & Higher	(n=56) 74.7	(n=53)70.7	(n=63)100	(n=172) 80.8
Marital Status				
Single	(n=8) 10.7	(n=10) 13.3	(n=12) 19.0	(n=30) 14.1
Married	(n=67) 89.3	(n=65)86.7	(n=51)81.0	(n=183) 85.
Family Income				
\$20,000-\$39,000	(n=58) 80.6	(n=35) 49.3	(n=3) 4.9	(n=96) 47.1
\$40,000 and over	(n=14) 19.4	(n=36) 50.7	(n=58) 95.1	(n=108) 52.9
Field of work				
Social Services	(n=20) 26.7	(n=18) 24.0	(n=63) 100.0	(n=101) 47.4
Non Social Services	(n=30) 40.0	(n=42) 56.0	(n=0) 0.0	(n=72) 33.8
Graduate Student	(n=25) 33.3	(n=15) 20.0	(n=0) 0.0	(n=40) 18.8
Number of Children				
1 child to 3 children	(n=66)88.0	(n=68) 90.7	(n=46) 95.8	(n=180) 90.9
4 or more children	(n=9) 12.0	(n=7)9.3	(n=2) 4.2	(n=18) 9.1

*When N = is fewer than the total N in the group it is due to missing information/data Race or ethnicity is not presented as a category due to the variability in the responses received. For example, the parents or the workers might have answered with such degree of specificity, such as 'Irish' or numerous responses for mixed race, that it was not possible to accurately categorize them.

The participants in this study answered each question by responding “yes” or “no” for maltreatment and “yes” or “no” for reporting maltreatment. Respondents use a 4 point scale to rate the seriousness of the behavior by “1” indicating for low (nothing serious), 2

for moderate (within acceptable range), 3 for high (outside normal range), and 4 for extreme serious (abnormal needs immediate attention). The presentation of the data analysis is organized with reference to these major questions:

1. How do parents who differ in culture, differ in evaluating the behavior as maltreatment or non-maltreatment?
2. How do parents who differ in culture, differ in their attitudes toward reporting practices that are considered child maltreatment?
3. How do parents who differ in culture, differ in the perception of the severity of child maltreatment?

Cross tabulation and chi-square tests were used to compare groups within the sample. The statistical comparisons for the entire 60 vignette and between each grouping were processed. The comparison was made from the three areas of the vignette items: Defining child maltreatment by “yes” or “no”, reporting maltreatment “yes” or “no”, and how serious is the maltreatment on a scale of 1 to 4. The results for research question 1 and 2 for each subject group separately are presented in Table 3. The percentage was calculated by chi-square tests on all 60 vignettes. The results are further simplified by separately summarizing “defining child maltreatment” as presented in Table 4 and “reporting maltreatment” summarized and presented in Table 5.

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
Welfare						
1. The parent burned the child on the buttocks and chest with a cigarette. Round scars the size of a cigarette are visible. The child doesn't need medical attention but he is afraid of his parents.	100%	98.7%	100.0%	95.9%	89.3%	100.0%
2. A mother kicked her six-year-old son and used a stick to beat him. The boy has developed anger towards his mother.	<u>95.9%#</u>	<u>68.0%#</u>	98.4%*	<u>89.0%#</u>	<u>45.3%#</u>	98.4%
3. A 14-year-old girl was beaten with a belt for intentionally skipping school. The following day, she did go to school.	<u>71.2%#</u>	<u>40.0%#</u>	95.2%*	<u>52.1%#</u>	<u>26.7%#</u>	96.8%*
4. When their son does something wrong, the parents usually punish him by spanking him with a leather strap. As a result, this child seems to learn from his mistake and	<u>57.5%#</u>	<u>41.3%#</u>	<u>81.0%*</u>	<u>26.0%</u>	<u>25.3%</u>	<u>77.8%*</u>

¹ All respondents answered all questions in this section of the questionnaire. While this is highly unusual, the researcher had impressed upon the respondents the importance of this part of the questionnaire. If respondents determined they did not wish to answer the questions they had been informed they were free to leave at any time. Possibly due to the emphasis on this issue, all bona fide participants (those that completed the instrument), responded to all of these items.

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
prevent it from happening again.						
5. An eight-year-old boy was caned severely by an adult for stealing from a neighbor. The child needed medical treatment for injuries.	95.9%	89.3%	100.0%	<u>90.5%</u>	<u>74.7%</u>	<u>98.4%*</u>
6. The parents were concerned about their 10-year-old son's poor attendance and low grades at school. They decided to physically punish him using a wooden stick. They punished him at least four different times. As a result, the child's attendance has improved to 95% and his grades are A's.	<u>72.2%#</u>	<u>39.2%#</u>	<u>85.2%*</u>	<u>51.4%#</u>	<u>24.3%#</u>	<u>80.3%*</u>
7. The parents of an eight-year-old girl who suffers from a mild learning disability struggle to help her do well in school, but frequently they become very impatient and occasionally hit her out of frustration. Although the child has never been bruised or injured, she is clearly developing an increasingly negative attitude towards academics and acts out aggressively when frustrated in school.	<u>86.5%</u>	<u>81.3%</u>	<u>52.4%*</u>	<u>56.8%</u>	<u>58.7%</u>	<u>38.1%*</u>
8. The parents allowed their child to undergo a physically painful procedure as a tradition for transition from childhood to adulthood. The child is proud of himself and the process boosted his self-esteem.	29.7%	33.3%	22.6%	9.5%	20.0%	17.7%
Sexual Abuse						
9. On one occasion, a parent fondled their child's genital area. The child now doesn't trust the parent.	100.0%	96.0%	100.0%	<u>93.2%</u>	<u>81.3%</u>	<u>100.0*</u>
10. The parents have intercourse where their child can see them. The child is telling his friend about what he sees when mom and dad are in bed together.	<u>70.3%</u>	<u>89.3%</u>	79.4%	<u>47.3%*</u>	<u>64.0%</u>	<u>77.8%</u>
11. On one occasion, a parent and child engaged in mutual masturbation. The child is having extreme sexual behavior that seems inappropriate for his age.	94.6%	94.7%	100.0%	<u>90.5%</u>	<u>85.3%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
12. On one occasion, a parent and child engaged in sexual intercourse. The child is experiencing depression and unusual fears.	97.3%	100.0%	100.0%	97.3%	92.0%	98.4%
13. A parent repeatedly suggested to the child that they have sexual relations. The child is not sure what to do.	97.3%	96.0%	96.8%	97.3%	92.0%	96.8%
14. A grandmother occasionally touches her 15-year-old granddaughter's genital to confirm that she is still a virgin. This is part of her grandmother's customs, but the granddaughter doesn't like the practice.	<u>77.0%#</u>	<u>59.5%#</u>	<u>76.2%</u>	<u>56.8%#</u>	<u>32.4%#</u>	<u>85.5%*</u>
15. The parents raise their female and male children by teaching female kids certain roles and obligations different from those of the male. No female is allowed to perform male roles or activities.	<u>23.0%</u>	<u>24.0%</u>	<u>4.8%*</u>	1.4%	5.3%	3.2%
16. As part of traditional rituals, parents allowed their 14-year-old daughter to join a group of 14-year-old girls in exposing their breasts in public for three hours. The daughter is proud of herself for accomplishing this. She believes the process was necessary and useful to her.	47.9%	37.3%	28.6%	24.7%	30.7%	25.4%
Parental Sexual Mores						
17. After migrating to the United States, parents told their 17-year-old daughter she is not allowed to date and she dare not bring a boyfriend home. According to their culture of origin she must remain a virgin until she gets married. The daughter has attempted to run away twice.	9.6%	13.3%	0.0%	2.7%	6.7%	1.6%
18. A 17-year-old son seems to behave sexually inappropriate when his girlfriend is visiting him at home. His parents don't seem to take any action to rectify this behavior. Instead, they give their child more freedom and space to do as he wishes. They even assist him financially to spend money on his girlfriend.	<u>41.9%</u>	<u>65.3%#</u>	<u>6.3%*</u>	<u>10.8%</u>	<u>28.0%</u>	<u>6.3%</u>
19. On more than three occasions, a mother appeared wearing just her underwear in front of her 16-year-old son. This makes the son feel ashamed and embarrassed.	<u>44.6%</u>	<u>79.7%#</u>	<u>31.7%*</u>	<u>23.0%</u>	<u>54.1%</u>	<u>33.3%</u>

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
20. A single mother who has a five-year-old son often brings home different men. The child is asking who his father is. The mother tells him that every man she brings home for the night is his father.	<u>86.3%</u>	<u>85.1%</u>	<u>46.0%*</u>	39.7%	52.7%	27.0%
21. A divorced father who has custody of his 10-year old child is a homosexual.	<u>13.7%#</u>	<u>41.9%#</u>	<u>1.6%*</u>	<u>5.5%#</u>	<u>12.9%#</u>	<u>0.0%*</u>
22. A divorced mother who has custody of her child is lesbian and recently got married to another woman. A fifteen-year-old daughter is ashamed and embarrassed with this relationship. Her school grades are now dropping.	<u>13.7%#</u>	<u>56.0%#</u>	<u>3.2%*</u>	<u>5.5%#</u>	<u>44.0%#</u>	<u>4.8%*</u>
Fostering Delinquency						
23. The parents buy almost everything their 4 year child asks for. The child has too many toys and more clothing than necessary.	<u>30.1%</u>	<u>25.7%</u>	<u>4.8%*</u>	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%
24. The parents make their 8year old child take merchandise to a store that sells it illegally.	82.2%	86.7%	82.5%	74.0%	78.7%	77.8%
25. A 13-year-old child is paid money by his parents as an incentive to accomplish house chores. This child is now 15 years old and he refuses to do any house chores or other activities as requested by his parents unless he is paid.	<u>18.1%</u>	<u>37.8%</u>	<u>1.6%*</u>	<u>1.4%</u>	<u>10.8%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
26. The parents make their 9-year-old child sell juice, candy, and chocolate as an after school activity. The child is trying to raise money for her mother's surgery. The child's grades are declining.	<u>46.6%</u>	<u>43.2%</u>	<u>23.8%*</u>	23.3%	32.4%	20.6%
Supervision						
27. A five-year-old girl is locked up in her room all the time. She never goes out to play with the neighborhood kids. She is now afraid of people, including children her own age.	94.5%	94.7%	93.5%	<u>87.7%</u>	<u>76.0%</u>	<u>95.2%</u>
28. Parents often leave their ten year-old child alone during the day while they each search for a job. The child cries a little when left alone, but then watches T.V. until the parents come home.	<u>44.3%</u>	<u>65.8%#</u>	<u>31.7%*</u>	<u>24.3%</u>	<u>43.8%</u>	39.7%
29. On one occasion, parents left their 11-year-old son alone all night. The child was scared and was unable to sleep all night.	77.8%	86.7%	92.1%	<u>40.3%*</u>	<u>61.3%</u>	<u>85.7%</u>

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
30. An 8-year-old girl is often left alone at home for four hours during the day because her parents work and cannot be home right after school.	52.1%	41.9%	55.6%	<u>34.2%</u>	<u>33.8%</u>	<u>63.5%*</u>
31. The parents keep their 9month-old child in a separate room at night. On two occasions the child had a high temperature and no one was aware until morning.	<u>33.3%#</u>	<u>58.1%#</u>	<u>11.1%</u>	<u>16.7%</u>	<u>32.4%</u>	<u>7.9%</u>
Housing						
32. The parents are homeless and have been sleeping on the street for two weeks with their five-year-old son.	59.7%	45.9%	58.7%	63.9%	55.4%	69.8%
33. The parents of 4 children were previously homeless until they inherited a two-bedroom house after their parents died. A 2-year-old boy, a 4-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl, and a 15-year-old girl share one bedroom.	<u>13.9%</u>	<u>18.9%</u>	<u>6.3%</u>	8.3%	16.2%	4.8%
Emotional Maltreatment						
34. A five-year-old boy was made to study long hours even though he is only in kindergarten. The minute he wakes up, he has to study until afternoon. The boy is now refusing to go to kindergarten.	<u>63.0%</u>	<u>76.0%</u>	<u>34.9%*</u>	19.2%	36.0%	19.0%
35. The parents ignore their child all the time, seldom talking with him or listening to him.	<u>91.8%</u>	<u>87.8%</u>	<u>54.0%*</u>	<u>45.2%</u>	<u>45.9%</u>	<u>20.6%*</u>
36. The parents dress their 3-year-old son in girl's clothing and sometimes put makeup on him.	<u>75.3%</u>	<u>75.7%</u>	<u>42.9%*</u>	37.0%	36.5%	30.2%
37. The parents are constantly screaming at their child and threatening physical punishment. The child has developed a sudden decline in self-confidence.	<u>90.4%</u>	<u>86.7%</u>	<u>68.3%#</u>	41.1%	54.7%	50.8%
38. When arguing with her 12-year-old stepdaughter, the parent reminds her that she is a stepdaughter and doesn't belong to the family.	<u>89.0%</u>	<u>92.0%</u>	<u>52.4%*</u>	<u>24.7%#</u>	<u>56.0%#</u>	<u>0.0%*</u>
39. A mother of 3 children gave her 4 th child, who is 9 months old; up for adoption because the child's biological father is from a different tribe. The child is not accepted with the rest of the family.	<u>35.6%#</u>	<u>74.4%#</u>	<u>6.3%*</u>	<u>12.3%#</u>	<u>50.7%#</u>	<u>0.0%*</u>
40. A single mother named her newborn baby "Evil". She chose this name because it reminds her of the harsh treatment she received from the child's father while pregnant.	<u>80.8%</u>	<u>77.0%</u>	<u>38.1%*</u>	<u>37.0%</u>	<u>36.5%</u>	<u>15.9%*</u>

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
41. The parents and their 12-year-old stepson are of different color. When they are out meeting people, the parents introduce him as their stepson. He does not want to be identified as a stepchild. He is angry at his parents and is threatening that one day he will physically attack them.	<u>61.1%</u>	<u>74.3%</u>	<u>16.1%*</u>	<u>25.0%#</u>	<u>54.1%#</u>	<u>14.5%*</u>
42. The parents occasionally withhold their love to a 13 year old child because they believe showing too much love will spoil the child. The child seems to behave appropriately when love is temporarily withheld.	32.4%	26.7%	17.5%	2.7%#	9.3%#	1.6%
43. The parents have decided to put their 8-year-old son up for adoption because he is verbally abusive to them. The child wants to stay with his parents.	75.7%	83.8%	71.4%	<u>51.4%</u>	<u>64.9%</u>	<u>73.0%</u>
Drug and Alcohol						
44. On several occasions, a parent became very drunk while alone taking care of a 3-year old child.	86.1%	88.0%	85.7%	<u>69.4%</u>	<u>76.0%</u>	<u>90.5%</u>
45. The parents always allow their child to stay around when they have friends over to experiment with cocaine.	<u>90.4%#</u>	<u>98.7%</u>	100.0%	95.9%	97.3%	100.0%
46. The parents occasionally give their 1-year-old daughter half a glass of beer as a sleep aid. In the parent's culture, this is a traditional method of helping children sleep. The beer seems to help the child sleep.	71.2%	78.1%	74.6%	<u>68.5%</u>	<u>43.8%</u>	<u>73.0%</u>
47. The parents always allow their 14-year-old son to drink at least three beers when they have drinking parties or on special occasions like Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year. The child always behaves well even when a little drunk.	<u>79.5%</u>	<u>78.4%</u>	<u>57.1%*</u>	47.9%	63.5%	52.4%
48. As a way of teaching their daughter good behavior, the parents always allow their 11 year-old daughter to open beer bottles, pour it into glasses, and serve it to their visitors at home.	<u>18.1%</u>	<u>39.2%</u>	<u>4.8%*</u>	<u>4.2%#</u>	<u>18.9%#</u>	<u>4.8%*</u>
49. The parents are moderate drinkers, but the mother's brother is an alcoholic who visits their home often drinking constantly in front of their 9-year daughter and 12 year	<u>26.0%</u>	<u>43.2%</u>	<u>3.2%#</u>	6.8%	13.5%	3.2%

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
son.						
Medical Neglect						
50. The parents refuse to seek treatment for their 13-year-old son who has epilepsy, because they believe the sickness should be controlled by God's will. The child has never had any treatment and has no insight into his illness.	87.7%	90.5%	83.9%	74.0%	81.1%	87.1%
51. The parents waited two days before seeking medical attention for their 2-year-old child's ear infection because they had no health insurance. The government helped them with the insurance but the child now has a permanent damage to her ears.	<u>53.4%</u>	<u>58.1%</u>	<u>38.7%</u>	30.1%	37.8%	37.1%
52. A 6-year child has severe mental retardation. The parents refuse any kind of service because they believe that their child is a gift from God and they will take care of their own child.	<u>52.8%</u>	<u>70.7%</u>	<u>30.2%*</u>	<u>40.0%</u>	<u>57.3%</u>	<u>31.7%</u>
53. The parents refuse to try alternative traditional medicines. All other treatment has failed. There is evidence that traditional medicine can help. The child's health condition is declining rapidly.	74.0%	63.5%	77.8%	<u>56.2%</u>	<u>45.9%*</u>	<u>77.8%*</u>
Cleanliness						
54. The parents do not bathe their 1-year-old child regularly. The child currently has developed symptoms of a skin disease.	90.4%	81.1%	84.1%	<u>64.4%</u>	<u>52.7%</u>	<u>82.5%*</u>
Clothing						
55. The parent chooses and buys clothes for their 11-year-old son. They do this because when the child is given freedom to choose he picks the most expensive clothes. The child is not too happy about this.	4.1%	5.3%	1.6%	2.7%	0.0%	1.6%
56. The parents always let their child play outside in the winter without a jacket or gloves.	36.1%	41.3%	53.2%	36.1%	41.3%	53.2%
Educational Neglect						
57. The parents let their 11-year daughter stay home from school when one parent is ill	38.4%	37.3%	46.0%	<u>23.3%</u>	<u>29.3%</u>	<u>52.4%*</u>

Table 3

Percent of respondents defining and reporting child maltreatment for all groups for each vignette, N=75 (U.S. born), N=75 (African born), N=63 (Child welfare professionals)¹

	Yes, This is Maltreatment %			Yes, Will Report to Authority %		
	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare	U.S. born	African born	Child Welfare
and the other parent is working so that she can baby-sit her younger sister.						
Nutritional Neglect						
58. The parents feed their 3-year-old child meals with little nutritional value out of ignorance. The child is now suffering from malnutrition.	<u>75.3%#</u>	<u>56.8%#</u>	73.0%	<u>71.2%</u>	<u>51.4%</u>	<u>81.0%*</u>
59. The parents fail to prepare regular meals for their 9-year-old child. The child has learned to fix his own simple meals.	<u>45.8%</u>	<u>54.1%</u>	<u>34.9%</u>	13.9%	20.3%	23.8%
60. Parents are depriving their 12-year son of food for three days as part of his rite of passage to manhood. The boy is willing to undergo this process and wants to demonstrate he is strong.	36.5%	45.9%	34.9%	21.6%	29.7%	30.2%

Note 1: Underlining indicates groups who do not agree– that there is, indicated significant difference in defining child maltreatment or in reporting to authority.

Note 2: Note all respondents did answer all questions

Note 3: The asterisk () indicate significant difference between workers and all parents*

Note 4: The pound sign (#) indicate significant difference between U.S. born parents and African born parent

The assumption was made that if a vignette was identified as maltreatment by 50% or more respondents in the group then that is an affirmation defining a vignette (behavior) as maltreatment or affirmation of agreeing to report such a behavior to authority. Table 4 illustrates patterns of agreement in defining maltreatment and Table 5 illustrates patterns in reporting maltreatment.

Question # 1: How do parents who differ in culture differ in evaluating the behavior as maltreatment or non-maltreatment?

Table 4

*Vignettes that Respondents Defined as Maltreatment. (50% respondents and above).
U.S. born (N=75), African born (N=75), Child Welfare Workers (N=63)*

Category	Group	# of Vignettes	Less than 50%	50% and Above	Defined as Maltreatment
Physical Abuse	U.S. born	8	1	7	7
	African born	8	4	4	4
	Professionals	8	1	7	7
Sexual Abuse	U.S. born	8	2	6	6
	African born	8	2	6	6
	Professionals	8	2	6	6
Parental Mores	U.S. born	6	5	1	1
	African born	6	2	4	4
	Professionals	6	6	0	0
Delinquency	U.S. born	4	3	1	1
	African born	4	3	1	1
	Professionals	4	3	1	1
Supervision	U.S. born	5	2	3	3
	African born	5	1	4	4
	Professionals	5	2	3	3

Table 4

*Vignettes that Respondents Defined as Maltreatment. (50% respondents and above).
U.S. born (N=75), African born (N=75), Child Welfare Workers (N=63)*

Category	Group	# of Vignettes	Less than 50%	50% and Above	Defined as Maltreatment
Housing	U.S. born	2	1	1	1
	African born	2	2	0	0
	Professionals	2	1	1	1
Emotional	U.S. born	10	2	8	8
	African born	10	1	9	9
	Professionals	10	6	4	4
Drug & Alcohol	U.S. born	6	2	4	4
	African born	6	2	4	4
	Professionals	6	2	4	4
Medical	U.S. born	4	0	4	4
	African born	4	0	4	4
	Professionals	4	2	2	2
Cleanliness	U.S. born	1	0	1	1
	African born	1	0	1	1
	Professionals	1	0	1	1
Clothing	U.S. born	2	2	0	0
	African born	2	2	0	0
	Professionals	2	2	1	1
Educational	U.S. born	1	1	0	0
	African born	1	1	0	0
	Professionals	1	1	0	0
Nutritional	U.S. born	3	2	1	1
	African born	3	1	2	2
	Professionals	3	2	1	1

Question # 2: How do parents who differ in culture, differ in their attitudes toward reporting practices that are considered child maltreatment?

Reporting of child abuse and neglect is rarely supported in many societies (Kiong, Elliott & Tan, 1996). In this study, the respondents tended to support the reporting of sexual, physical abuse and medical neglect more readily than educational, clothing, delinquency and parental mores (Table 5).

Table 5

*Vignettes that Respondents thought should be reported. (50% respondents and above)
U.S. born (N=75), African born (N=75), Child Welfare Workers (N=63)*

Category	Group	# of Vignettes	Less than 50%	50% & over	Should be Reported
Physical Abuse	U.S. born	8	2	6	6
	African born	8	5	3	3
	Professionals	8	2	6	6
Sexual Abuse	U.S. born	8	3	5	5
	African born	8	3	5	5
	Professionals	8	2	6	6
Parental Mores	U.S. born	6	6	0	0
	African born	6	5	1	1
	Professionals	6	6	0	0
Delinquency	U.S. born	4	3	1	1
	African born	4	3	1	1
	Professionals	4	3	1	1
Supervision	U.S. born	5	4	1	1
	African born	5	3	2	2
	Professionals	5	2	3	3
Housing	U.S. born	2	1	1	1
	African born	2	1	1	1
	Professionals	2	1	1	1
Emotional	U.S. born	10	9	1	1
	African born	10	5	5	5
	Professionals	10	8	2	2

Table 5

*Vignettes that Respondents thought should be reported. (50% respondents and above)
U.S. born (N=75), African born (N=75), Child Welfare Workers (N=63)*

Category	Group	# of Vignettes	Less than 50%	50% & over	Should be Reported
Drug & Alcohol	U.S. born	6	3	3	3
	African born	6	3	3	3
	Professionals	6	2	4	4
Medical	U.S. born	4	2	2	2
	African born	4	2	2	2
	Professionals	4	2	2	2
Cleanliness	U.S. born	1	0	1	1
	African	1	0	1	1
	Professionals	1	0	1	1
Clothing	U.S. born	2	2	0	0
	African born	2	2	0	0
	Professionals	2	2	1	1
Educational	U.S. born	1	1	0	0
	African born	1	1	0	0
	Professionals	1	0	1	1
Nutritional	U.S. born	3	2	1	1
	African born	3	2	1	1
	Professionals	3	2	1	1

PHYSICAL ABUSE: There was a variability of responses in this category. African born parents thought some of the actions were acceptable. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals generally considered physical punishment as maltreatment and will report any such act (Table 5).

SEXUAL ABUSE: There is greater consensus in defining sexual abuse and reporting incidents of sexual abuse. All three groups defined most of the vignettes in this

category as maltreatment and are willing to report the behaviors (Tables 4 & 5). On culturally-based behaviors, the three groups see it as not maltreatment. For example, touching, though most see it as maltreatment, few African born would report. Parents differed on defining and reporting while workers differed on reporting. However, compared to parents, child welfare professionals have the lowest percentage on issues related to culture. Table 5, shows child welfare professionals most likely to report all incidents they define as sexual abuse. That would be expected because of their jobs in child welfare.

PARENTAL SEXUAL MORES: The sexual behavior of parents was clearly one of the least defined maltreatment categories by U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals (Table 4). African born parents tend to differ significantly on all incidents. African born parents are likely to report incidents of body exposure.

FOSTERING DELIQUENCY: As seen in Tables 4 & 5, the three groups generally did not see these behaviors as maltreatment. The only exception was where parents encouraged or engaged a child in the commission of a crime, this was identified as maltreatment. There is consensus in willingness to report criminal behavior. Professionals are more likely to say there is no maltreatment.

SUPERVISION: This category is one where the three groups disagreed. The kinds of parental failure involved in this category include leaving a child alone at various times during the day or night. Locking a child in a room has the strongest agreement as

maltreatment among all the groups studied. African born parents differ with U.S. parents and child welfare professionals by identifying majority of the parental behaviors in this category as maltreatment. For example, 60% of African parents thought that keeping a 9-month-old in a separate room at night was maltreatment compared to 33% of the U.S. parents and 11% of child welfare professionals.

African born parents are unlikely to report when a child is left a couple of hours while parents are job hunting even when they have identified this as maltreatment. Professionals are more likely to report all of the behaviors they identified as maltreatment (Table 5). U.S. parents are unlikely to report most of the behaviors. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals are generally in agreement in most of the incidents although they slightly differ by percentage.

HOUSING: There are no significant differences in this category. African born parents tend to report the homeless situation of a parent even though they do not see it as maltreatment (Tables 4 & 5). One item they agreed to report is a homeless family with small kids living on the street, although African born parents were lower in defining it as maltreatment. U.S. born and child welfare professionals agreed that a homeless parent living on the street with children is maltreatment. All three groups agree with reporting this. Keeping children in one bedroom regardless of their gender differences was defined by all three groups as non-maltreatment, but there is significant statistical difference. All three groups agree they will not report but with significant statistical difference.

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT: Tables 3, 4 & 5 show this category as another major area of disagreement between parents (African born, U.S. born) and child welfare professionals (child welfare professionals). In half the vignettes African born parents were most likely to identify the scenario as maltreatment (Tables 4 & 5). U.S. born parents had the next higher number of vignettes defined as maltreatment, but there is a general unwillingness to report such behaviors to the authorities. Professionals had the fewest vignettes that they defined as maltreatment and generally tended to not report such incidents. For example, when parents made a child study for prolonged hours, 63% of U.S. born and 76% of African born parents identified this as maltreatment. On the same vignette 19% U.S. born and 36% of African born parents selected non-reporting (Tables 3, 4 & 5). With regard to reporting a child who is being put up for adoption because of verbal abuse, child welfare professionals have a higher percentage compared to parents.

DRUG & ALCOHOL: Tables 4 & 5 show all three groups defining most of the incidents in this category as maltreatment. U.S. born and African born parents were not necessarily going to report all incidents they defined as maltreatment. Professionals were inclined to report all incidents they defined as maltreatment. African born parents tend to define maltreatment by higher percentages compared to U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals. There was greater consensus in defining maltreatment on incidents where parent was using drugs and alcohol while taking care of the child. There is a

general agreement in reporting such incidents except African born parents identified an unlikeness to report culturally acceptable use of alcohol to the baby.

MEDICAL NEGLECT: In this category parents had similar views by defining most incidents as maltreatment (Table 4), but were less likely to report these incidents to authorities. Professionals had different views in this category. For example, 61% did not see it as maltreatment when a child's medical treatment was delayed while parents were having a problem getting health insurance, compared to 42% to 47% of parents in general. Sixty nine-percent of child welfare professionals did not identify maltreatment for parents who refuse treatment for their child due to religious beliefs. All three groups would report some incidents and not others. Seventy-eight-percent of child welfare professionals would report parental refusal to alternative medicine, a significantly higher percentage than both sets of parents.

CLEANLINESS: There is consensus from all three groups in defining as maltreatment when parents neglect their children's hygiene. All three groups would report such behavior.

CLOTHING: U.S. born and African born parents have similar views in this category as they do not define any behaviors as maltreatment. Professionals differed by defining maltreatment where parents let their kids play outside while not properly dressed according to weather. Most child welfare professionals agreed to report such behavior. It

should be noted here that this study was conducted in Minnesota, a well known cold weather environment.

EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT: There is consensus that incidents in this category are not viewed as maltreatment. However 52.4% of child welfare professionals had a different view about reporting when parents willingly failed to see to it that their children go to school.

NUTRITIONAL NEGLECT: Table 4 shows African born parents were the only group that defined more than one incident in this category as maltreatment. U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals each had one incident defined as maltreatment. All three groups were in agreement of not reporting most of the incidents even when they have defined some of them as maltreatment.

Logistic regression analyses: Several demographic variables were examined for possible links to individual attitudes toward defining child maltreatment and reporting it to authorities. Variables, such education, income, and field of service were examined. Logistic regression analysis was used to determine if demographic variables influenced decisions. While controlling for age, gender, education and income, U.S. born parents and workers are different from African born parents in the following vignettes as presented in Table 6. On physical abuse child welfare professionals are less likely than all parents to see maltreatment in excessive discipline on a disabled child, Q 7. Both U.S. born and child welfare professionals are more likely to identify maltreatment in most

physical abuse vignettes, than African American parents, Q 2, Q 3, Q 4 and Q 6. On sexual abuse Q 10, child welfare professionals are less likely than all parents to identify maltreatment when parents have intercourse where the child could see. U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals are unlikely to identify maltreatment in most of the sexual mores vignette than African born parents, Q 18, Q 19, Q21 and Q 22. Child welfare professionals are less likely to see maltreatment than all parents when a single mother of a five year old brings home different men. In addition, on fostering delinquency, child welfare professionals are less likely to define as maltreatment Q 23, Q 25 and Q 26 than African born and U.S. born parents. In supervision U.S. born parents are less likely than African born parents and child welfare professionals to identify maltreatment on Q 28, leaving a 10 year old son when parents are searching for a job. Both U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals are unlikely to identify maltreatment on Q 31, where a 9 month old child is kept in a separate room at night, compared to African born parents. On emotional maltreatment U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals are less likely to see maltreatment on Q 34, and Q 39 than African born parents. Child welfare professionals are unlikely to see maltreatment on Q 36, and Q 40. On drug and alcohol use or abuse Q 48 (teaching a child to serve liquor to adults) both U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals less likely to identify maltreatment, while child welfare professionals are less likely than all parents to identify as maltreatment an alcohol abusing non-resident relative, Q 49. Child welfare professionals are less likely than all parent to identify maltreatment on medical neglect due to religious reasons, Q 52. On

malnutrition Q 58, U. S. parents are more likely to identify maltreatment than either African born parents or child welfare professionals.

In addition to parental place of origin or professional identity, gender, age, education and income are also predictors for some of the vignettes. Males are more likely to identify a lesbian mother who has custody of a child as maltreatment, Q 22. Age is a predictor for two vignettes on physical abuse, Q 2 and Q 7. Younger respondents (ages 16-40) are more likely to say the incident described was maltreatment. Age is also important for one question on sexual mores Q 17 and on supervision Q 27 (youngest age group (ages 16-40) is less likely to identify maltreatment with respect to a daughter's permission to date and more likely to identify maltreatment compared to the oldest age group (60 years and older)). Education is a predictor to four vignettes, Q 18, Q 20 and Q 21 on sexual mores, and Q 35 on emotional maltreatment. Those with some college or technical education are less likely to see Q 18 and 20 as maltreatment than college educated respondents and more likely to regard a father's homosexuality as maltreatment. They are also more likely to say ignoring a child all the time is not maltreatment. Income is a predictor to Q 56 on clothing and Q 57 on educational neglect. Those with the lowest incomes are more likely to view failure to provide education and appropriate clothing for the weather as maltreatment.

Table 6
Statistical Significance of vignettes by place born and raised

Category & Questions	Place Born & Raised, Worker, Other Influences	Sig.
Physical Abuse:		
Q# 2		
A mother kicked her six-year-old son and used a stick to beat him. The boy has developed anger towards his mother.	U.S. born parents	.001
	Child welfare professionals	.005
	Age 19years – 40years	.017
	Age 41years – 60 and above	.029
Q#3		
A 14-year-old girl was beaten with a belt for intentionally skipping school. The following day, she did go to school.	U.S. born parents	.001
	Child welfare professionals	.001
Q#4		
When their son does something wrong, the parents usually punish him by spanking him with a leather strap. As a result, the child seems to learn from his mistake and prevent it from happening again.	U.S. born parents	.002
	Child welfare professionals	.014
	Education: High school/GED	-.016
	Education: Technical/Degree	-.023
Q#6		
The parents were concerned about their 10-year-old son's poor attendance and low grades at school. They decided to physically punish him using a wooden stick. They punished him at least four different times. As a result, the child's attendance has improved to 95% and his grades are A's	U.S. born parents	.001
	Child welfare professionals	.001
Q#7		
The parents of an eight-year old girl who suffers from a mild learning disability struggle to help her do well in school but frequently they become very impatient and Occasionally hit her out of frustration. Although the child Has never been bruised or injured, she is clearly developing an increasingly negative attitude towards academics and acts out aggressively when frustrated in school.	Child welfare professionals	-.045
	Age 16years – 40years	.023

Table 6
Statistical Significance of vignettes by place born and raised

Category & Questions	Place Born & Raised, Worker, Other Influences	Sig.
Sexual Abuse		
Q# 10 The parents have intercourse where their child Can see them. The child is telling his friends About what he sees when mom and dad are in Bed together	Child welfare professionals	-.007
Parental Sexual Mores		
Q# 17 After migrating to the United States, parents told their 17- year old daughter she is not allowed to date and she dare not bring her boyfriend home. According to their culture of origin she must remain a virgin until she gets married. The daughter has attempted to run away twice.	Age 14 – 40 years	-.015
Q#18 A 17-year-old son seems to behave sexually inappropriate when his girlfriend is visiting him at home. His parents don't seem to take any action to rectify this behavior. Instead, they give their child more freedom and space to do as he wishes. They even assist him financially to spend money on his girlfriend.	U.S. born parents Child welfare professionals Education: Technical/Degree	.022 .001 - .021
Q#19 On more than three occasions, a mother appeared wearing just her underwear in front of her 16-year-old son. This makes the son feel ashamed and embarrassed.	U.S. born parents Child Welfare Workers	-.001 -.001
Q# 20 A single mother who has a five-year son often brings home different men. The child is asking who his father is. The mother tells him that every man she brings home for the night is his father	Child welfare professionals Education: Technical/Degree	-.002 -.018
Q#21. A divorced father who has custody of his 10-year old child is a homosexual.	U.S. born parents Child welfare professionals Education: Technical/Degree	-.001 -.008 .033

Table 6
Statistical Significance of vignettes by place born and raised

Category & Questions	Place Born & Raised, Worker, Other Influences	Sig.
Q#22.		
A divorced mother who has custody of her child is lesbian and recently got married to another woman. A fifteen-year-old daughter is ashamed and embarrassed with this relationship. Her school grades are now dropping.	U.S. born parents	-.001
	Child welfare professionals	-.002
	Gender: Male	.036
 Fostering Delinquency:		
Q# 23		
The parents buy almost everything their 4-year child asks for. The child has too Many toys and more clothing than necessary	Child welfare professionals	-.034
 Q# 25		
A 13-year old child is paid money by his parents As an incentive to accomplish house chores. This Child now is 15-years old and he refuses to do any House chores or other activities as requested by his Parents unless he is paid	Child welfare professionals	-.003
 Q#26		
The parents make their 9-year-old child sell juice, candy, and chocolate as an after school activity. The child is trying to raise money for her mother's surgery. The child's grades are declining.	Child welfare professionals	-.004
 Supervision		
Q# 27		
A five-year old girl is locked up in her room all the time. She never goes out to play with neighborhood kids. She is now afraid of people including children her own age.	Age 16 – 40 years	.019
 Q28		
Parents often leave their ten year-old child alone During the day while they each search for a job. The child cries a little when left alone, but then Watches T.V. until the parents come home.	U.S. born parents	-.023

Table 6
Statistical Significance of vignettes by place born and raised

Category & Questions	Place Born & Raised, Worker, Other Influences	Sig.
Q#31		
The parents keep their 9-month-old child in a separate room at night. On two occasions the child had a high temperature and no one was aware until morning.	U.S. born parents	-.013
	Child welfare professionals	-.001
Emotional Maltreatment:		
Q# 34		
A five year boy was made to study long hours Even though he is only in kindergarten. The minute He wakes up, he has to study until afternoon. The boy Is now refusing to go to kindergarten	U.S. born parents	-.012
	Child welfare professionals	-.001
	Income: \$20,00-39,000	-.013
Q#35		
The parents ignore their child all the time, seldom talking with him or listening to him.	Income: \$20,000-39,000	.021
	Education: Technical/Degree	-.016
Q# 36		
The parents dress their 3-year-old son in girl's Clothing and sometimes put makeup on him	Child welfare professionals	-.023
Q#38		
When arguing with her 12-year-old stepdaughter, the parent reminds her that she is a stepdaughter and doesn't belong to the family.	Child welfare professionals	-.001
Q#39		
A mother of 3 children gave her 4th child, who is 9months old, up for adoption because the child's biological father is from a different tribe. The child is not accepted with the rest of the family.	U.S. born parents	-.001
	Child welfare professionals	-.001
40. A single mother named her newborn baby "Evil". She chose this name because it reminds her of the Harsh treatment she received from the child's father while pregnant.	Child welfare professionals	-.001
41. The parents and their 12-year-old stepson are of different color. When they are out meeting people, the parents introduce him as their stepson.	Child welfare professionals	-.001

Table 6
Statistical Significance of vignettes by place born and raised

Category & Questions	Place Born & Raised, Worker, Other Influences	Sig.
He does not want to be identified as a stepchild. He is angry at his parents and is threatening that one day he will physically attack them.		
Drug and Alcohol:		
Q#48 As a way of teaching their daughter good behavior, the parents always allow their 11-year-old daughter to open beer bottles, pour it into glasses, and serve it to their visitors at home.	U.S. born parents Child welfare professionals	-.022 -.001
Q# 49 The parents are moderate drinkers, but the mother's brother is an alcoholic who visits their home often drinking constantly in front of their 9-year daughter and 12 year son.	Child welfare professionals	-.001
Medical Neglect:		
Q#52 A 6-year child has severe mental retardation. The parents refuse any kind of service because they believe that their child is a gift from God and they will take care of their own child.	Child welfare professionals	-.001
Clothing		
Q# 56 The parents always let their child play outside in the winter without a jacket or gloves	Income: \$20,000-39,000	.029
Education		
Q# 57 The parents let their 11-year daughter stay home from School when one parent is ill and the other parent is Working so that she can baby-sit her younger sister.	Income: \$20,000-39,000	-.026
Nutrition		
Q# 58 The parents feed their 3-year –old child, meals with little Nutritional value out of ignorance. The child is now Suffering from malnutrition.	U.S. born parents	.003

Question # 3: How do parents who differ in culture, differ in the perception of the severity of child maltreatment?

A further examination of the data was done by analysis of variance (ANOVA) to determine which parental behaviors each group rates as most severe and least severe. An analysis of the data drawn from the responses was calculated using the mean ratings for all 13 maltreatment categories. African born parents' responses were compared directly to those of U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was completed to enable the researcher to determine whether there are greater differences between the groups than among the respondents within a group.

The data are presented in tabular form as it is the most useful for observing the relative seriousness of the different incidents of maltreatment. Table 7 presents the mean ratings for each respondent group in all 60 vignettes. In Table 8 the mean ratings for African born parents and U.S. born parents in each of the 13 categories are presented. In Table 9, the summary on seriousness is presented. In Table 10 the mean ratings in relation to field of work are presented.

African born parents rate physical punishment less seriously than others unless there is serious injury. For African born parents, issues of belonging and separation are more likely to be labeled as maltreatment than for the other two groups. They also rank higher in drugs/alcohol, and bringing children's role expectations (dating, chores). Parents were in agreement with each other and are similar to child welfare professionals

on emotional maltreatment, physical punishment that does not result in serious injury and fostering delinquency.

Physical Abuse: Table 7, shows this category generated different perceptions in regard to physical punishments. U.S. born and African born parents tended to rate the seriousness of physical incidents higher, while child welfare professionals tend to rate them as moderate. One area of disagreement involved physical punishment using a wooden stick even when it produces positive behavior. U.S. born rated this as high serious, child welfare professionals rated as moderate serious, while African born rated it as low serious. Professionals identified as low serious when a disabled child was punished by parents. African born parents rated this as extreme serious U.S. born rated as moderate. All three groups are against physical abuse that would result in or require medical treatment. This was clear where a child is caned and needs medical treatment; all three groups were in agreement about reporting such abuse. Professionals did not consider it maltreatment when a disabled child is punished and where a child undergoes a painful procedure as part of that child's culture. U.S. parents did not deviate much from child welfare professionals. U.S. parents generally considered physical abuse to be quite serious.

Sexual Abuse: This was one of the categories where all three groups had higher numbers of vignettes they rated as moderate, high or extreme serious. There is greater consensus about the extreme seriousness of this kind of child maltreatment than about

any other (Table 8). The only difference was on cultural based behavior of monitoring virginity where child welfare professionals rated this as low serious while both parent groups rated as high serious.

Parental Sexual Mores: This category of child mistreatment was a major area of disagreement between African parents and other groups. African born compared to other two groups rated parental sexual mores as extremely serious. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals perception was on less serious (Table 8).

Fostering Delinquency: This category was perceived as less serious compared to others. From Table 7, most vignettes were perceived at less serious by the three groups. Professionals perceived all vignettes at low serious. African born parents perceived at extreme serious where parents encouraged a child in the commission of a crime.

Supervision: From Table 8, Africa born parents perceived more vignettes at extreme serious than other groups. Child welfare professionals rated most of the behaviors at low serious except where parents locked up their child, child welfare professionals rated this at high serious.

Housing: This category generally was perceived as less serious by all three groups studied. U.S. and child welfare professionals perceived the incident where parents sleep on the street with a small child as more serious than the other behavior (Table 7).

Emotional mistreatment: This category of maltreatment was one of the major sources of disagreement between parents and child welfare professionals. African parents perceived most of the incidents as extremely serious while U.S. born at moderate serious. This is one of the categories where child welfare professionals generally tended to perceived incidents as low serious (Table 8).

Drug & Alcohol: In this category African parents perceived as extremely serious all the behaviors where the parent used drugs or alcohol and took care of the child. U.S. parents perceived this as moderately serious while child welfare professionals' perception was low serious. This is one area where parents considered most of the behaviors as most serious but child welfare professionals' perceptions were the opposite.

Medical Neglect: African born perceived all the behaviors in this category as extreme serious. In general all three groups agree that incidents of medical neglect are serious (Table 8)

Cleanliness: All three groups differed in perceiving seriousness in this category. African parents rated this as extreme serious, U.S. parents rated as moderate while child welfare professionals rated as low serious.

Clothing: There was clear disagreement between African born parents and the other two groups (U.S. parents and child welfare professionals). African born perceived as extreme serious the behavior where parents let their child play outside while

improperly dressed in relation to cold weather. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals perceived this as low serious (Table 7).

Educational: This is one of the categories where all three groups are in agreement. All three are in agreement where parents willingly encourage their 11-year-daughter to stay home from school to baby-sit her sibling when one parent is ill as nothing serious.

Nutritional Neglect: There is general agreement among the three groups that the behaviors are not serious maltreatment. However, the groups have differences in relation to specific behaviors. For example, African born parents identified the situation as extremely serious where parents feed their child with little nutritional valued foods, and resulting in the child's malnutrition. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals both perceived this behavior as highly serious. In general there was not much deviation from each other.

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
Physical Abuse					
1. The parent burned the child on the buttocks and chest with a cigarette. Round scars the size of a cigarette are visible. The child doesn't need medical attention but he is afraid of his parents.	4.62	4.58	4.77	<u>4.47</u>	<u>4.68</u>
2. A mother kicked her six -year -old son and used a stick to beat him. The boy has developed anger towards his mother.	3.99	4.31	3.61	4.06	3.95
3. A 14-year-old girl was beaten with a belt for intentionally skipping school. The following day, she did go to school	3.11	3.28	2.57	<u>3.55</u>	<u>2.92</u>
4. When their son does something wrong, the parents usually punish him by spanking him with a leather strap. As a result, this child seems to learn from his mistake and prevent it from happening again.	2.78	2.83	2.52	3.04	2.67
5. An eight- year-old boy was caned severely by an adult for stealing from a neighbor. The child needed medical treatment for injuries	2.99	4.32	4.12	<u>4.60</u>	<u>4.22</u>
6. The parents were concerned about their 10-year-old son's poor attendance and low grades at school. They decided to physically punish him using a wooden stick. They punished him at least four different times. As a result, the child's attendance has improved to 95% and his grades are A's.	4.33	3.26	2.72	2.98	2.99
7. The parents of an eight-year-old girl who suffers from a mild learning disability struggle to help her do well in school, but frequently	3.23	<u>3.29</u>	<u>3.66</u>	2.65	3.48

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
they become very impatient and occasionally hit her out of frustration. Although the child has never been bruised or injured, she is clearly developing an increasingly negative attitude towards academics and acts out aggressively when frustrated in school.					
8. The parents allowed their child to undergo a physically painful procedure as a tradition for transition from childhood to adulthood. The child is proud of himself and the process boosted his self-esteem.	2.28	<u>2.31</u>	<u>2.60</u>	1.88	2.45
Sexual Abuse					
9. On one occasion, a parent fondled their child's genital area. The child now doesn't trust the parent.	4.54	4.56	4.57	<u>4.48</u>	<u>4.57</u>
10. The parents have intercourse where their child can see them. The child is telling his friends about what he see when mom and dad are in bed together.	3.74	<u>3.48</u>	<u>4.46</u>	<u>3.17</u>	<u>3.97</u>
11. On one occasion, a parent and child engaged in mutual masturbation. The child is having extreme sexual behavior that seems inappropriate for his age.	4.59	4.56	4.73	<u>4.46</u>	<u>4.65</u>
12. On one occasion, a parent and child engaged in sexual intercourse. The child is experiencing depression and unusual fears.	4.88	4.85	4.93	4.87	4.89
13. A parent repeatedly suggested to the child that they have sexual relations. The child is not sure what to do.	4.57	4.58	4.84	<u>4.25</u>	<u>4.71</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
14. A grandmother occasionally touches her 15-year-old granddaughter's genitals to confirm that she is still a virgin. This is part of her grandmother's customs, but the granddaughter doesn't like the practice.	3.25	<u>3.50</u>	<u>3.10</u>	3.12	3.30
15. The parents raise their female and male children by teaching female kids certain roles and obligations different from those of the male. No female is allowed to perform male roles or activities.	2.08	2.31	2.29	1.57	2.30
16. As part of traditional rituals, parents allowed their 14-year-old daughter to join a group of 14-year-old girls in exposing their breasts in public for three hours. The daughter is proud of herself for accomplishing this. She believes the process was necessary and useful to her.	2.56	<u>2.94</u>	<u>2.09</u>	2.75	2.55
Parental Sexual Mores					
17. After migrating to the United States, parents told their 17-year-old daughter she is not allowed to date and she dare not bring a boyfriend home. According to their culture of origin she must remain a virgin until she gets married. The daughter has attempted to run away twice.	1.93	2.16	2.08	1.5	2.12
18. A 17-year-old son seems to behave sexually inappropriate when his girlfriend is visiting him at home. His parents don't seem to take any action to rectify this behavior. Instead, they give their child more freedom and space to do as he wishes. They even assist him financially to spend money on his girlfriend.	2.65	2.77	3.28	<u>1.77</u>	<u>3.02</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
19. On more than three occasions, a mother appeared wearing just her underwear in front of her 16-year-old son. This makes the son feel ashamed and embarrassed.	3.13	<u>2.81</u>	<u>4.02</u>	2.47	3.41
20. A single mother who has a five-year-old son often brings home different men. The child is asking who his father is. The mother tells him that every man she brings home for the night is his father.	3.57	3.56	4.16	<u>2.90</u>	<u>3.86</u>
21. A divorced father who has custody of his 10-year-old child is a homosexual.	2.15	<u>1.93</u>	<u>3.27</u>	<u>1.11</u>	<u>2.6</u>
22. A divorced mother who has custody of her child is lesbian and recently got married to another woman. A fifteen-year-old daughter is ashamed and embarrassed with this relationship. Her school grades are now dropping.	2.69	<u>2.53</u>	<u>3.69</u>	<u>1.68</u>	<u>3.12</u>
Fostering Delinquency					
23. The parents buy almost everything their 4-year-old child asks for. The child has too many toys and more clothing than necessary.	2.02	2.36	2.18	<u>1.42</u>	<u>2.27</u>
24. The parents make their 8year old child take merchandise to a store that sells it illegally.	3.46	<u>3.28</u>	<u>4.09</u>	<u>2.93</u>	<u>3.69</u>
25. A 13-year-old child is paid money by his parents as an incentive to accomplish house chores. This child is now 15 years old and he refuses to do any house chores or other activities as requested by his parents unless he is paid.	2.07	<u>2.16</u>	<u>2.58</u>	<u>1.38</u>	<u>2.37</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
26. The parents make their 9-year-old child sell juice, candy, and chocolate as an after school activity. The child is trying to raise money for her mother's surgery. The child's grades are declining.	2.82	3.00	3.17	<u>2.20</u>	<u>3.08</u>
Supervision					
27. A five-year-old girl is locked up in her room all the time. She never goes out to play with the neighborhood kids. She is now afraid of people, including children her own age.	4.03	4.13	4.13	3.79	4.13
28. Parents often leave their ten-year-old child alone during the day while they each search for a job. The child cries a little when left alone, but then watches TV until the parents come home.	2.67	2.61	3.10	<u>2.25</u>	<u>2.86</u>
29. On one occasion, parents left their 11-year-old son all night. The child was scared and was unable to sleep all night	3.22	<u>3.04</u>	<u>3.64</u>	2.93	3.34
30. An 8-year-old girl is often left alone at home for four hours during the day because her parents work and cannot be home right after school	2.69	2.79	2.85	<u>2.38</u>	<u>2.82</u>
31. The parents keep their 9-month-old child in a separate room at night. On two occasions the child had a high temperature and no one was aware until morning.	2.74	2.76	3.39	<u>1.95</u>	<u>3.08</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
Housing					
32. The parents are homeless and have been sleeping on the street for two weeks with their five-year old son.	3.34	<u>3.69</u>	<u>3.25</u>	3.04	3.47
33. The parents of 4 children were previously homeless until they inherited a two-bedroom house after their parents died. A 2-year-old boy, 4-year-old boy, 13-year-old girl, and 15-year-old girl share one bedroom.	2.01	2.05	2.33	1.58	2.19
Emotional Mistreatment					
34. A five-year-old boy was made to study long hours even though he is only in kindergarten. The minute he wakes up, he has to study until afternoon. The boy is now refusing to go to kindergarten.	2.79	2.86	3.25	<u>2.15</u>	<u>3.06</u>
35. The parents ignore their child all the time, seldom talking with him or listening to him.	3.49	3.63	3.93	<u>2.82</u>	<u>3.78</u>
36. The parents dress their 3-year-old son in girl's clothing and sometimes put makeup on him.	3.07	3.38	3.48	<u>2.22</u>	<u>3.43</u>
37. The parents are constantly screaming at their child and threatening physical punishment. The child has developed a sudden decline in self-confidence.	3.49	<u>3.43</u>	<u>3.97</u>	<u>2.98</u>	<u>3.70</u>
38. When arguing with her 12-year-old stepdaughter, the parent reminds her that she is a stepdaughter and doesn't belong to the family.	3.40	<u>3.35</u>	<u>4.18</u>	<u>2.53</u>	<u>3.77</u>
39. A mother of 3 children gave her 4th child, who is 9 months old, up for adoption because	2.83	<u>2.57</u>	<u>3.93</u>	<u>1.82</u>	<u>3.2</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
the child's biological father is from a different tribe. The child is not accepted with the rest of the family.					
40. A single mother named her newborn baby Evil. She chose this name because it reminds her of the harsh treatment she received from the child's father while pregnant.	3.45	3.63	3.94	<u>2.68</u>	<u>3.78</u>
41. The parents and their 12-year-old stepson are of different color. When they are out meeting people, the parents introduce him as their stepson. He does not want to be identified as a stepchild. He is angry at his parents and threatens that one day he will physically attack them.	3.19	<u>3.09</u>	<u>3.77</u>	2.61	3.43
42. The parents occasionally withhold their love to a 13-year-old child because they believe showing too much love will spoil the child. The child seems to behave appropriately when love is temporarily withheld.	2.31	2.44	2.36	2.09	2.40
43. The parents have decided to put their 8-year-old son for adoption because he is verbally abusive to them. The child wants to stay with his parents.	3.90	3.81	4.04	3.84	3.92
Drug and Alcohol					
44. On several occasions, a parent became very drunk while alone taking care of a 3-year old child.	3.77	3.7	4.21	<u>3.31</u>	<u>3.96</u>
45. The parents always allow their child to stay around when they have friends over to experiment with cocaine.	4.38	<u>4.31</u>	<u>4.89</u>	<u>3.85</u>	<u>4.6</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
46. The parents occasionally give their 1-year-old daughter a half glass of beer as a sleep aid. In the parent's culture, this is a traditional method of helping children sleep. The beer seems to help the child sleep.	3.32	<u>3.08</u>	<u>4.04</u>	<u>2.77</u>	<u>3.56</u>
47. The parents always allow their 14-year-old son to drink at least three beers when they have drinking parties or on special occasions like Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year. The child always behaves well even when a little drunk.	3.35	<u>3.27</u>	<u>3.82</u>	<u>2.90</u>	<u>3.55</u>
48. As a way of teaching their daughter good behavior, the parents always allow their 11-year-old daughter to open beer bottles, pour it into glasses, and serve it to their visitors at home.	2.13	<u>2.04</u>	<u>2.66</u>	1.61	2.35
49. The parents are moderate drinkers, but the mother's brother is an alcoholic who visits their home often drinking constantly in front of their 9-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son.	2.48	2.63	2.79	<u>1.93</u>	<u>2.71</u>
Medical Neglect					
50. The parents refuse to seek treatment for their 13-year-old son who has epilepsy, because they believe the sickness should be controlled by God's will. The child has never had any treatment and has no insight into his illness.	3.99	3.91	4.36	3.64	4.14
51. The parents waited two days before seeking medical attention for their 2-year-old child's ear infection because they had no health insurance. The government	3.29	<u>3.19</u>	<u>3.71</u>	2.91	3.45

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
helped them with the insurance but the child now has a permanent damage to her ears.					
52. A 6-year child has severe mental retardation. The parents refuse any kind of service because they believe that their child is a gift from God and they will take care of their own child.	3.00	<u>2.88</u>	<u>3.69</u>	<u>2.33</u>	<u>3.29</u>
53. The parents refuse to try alternative traditional medicines. All other treatment has failed. There is evidence that traditional medicine can help. The child's health condition is declining rapidly.	3.72	3.75	3.7	3.71	3.72
Cleanliness					
54. The parents do not bathe their 1-year-old child regularly. The child currently has developed symptoms of a skin disease.	3.44	<u>3.41</u>	<u>3.95</u>	<u>2.87</u>	<u>3.68</u>
Clothing					
55. The parent chooses and buys clothes for their 11-year-old son. They do this because when the child is given freedom to choose he picks the most expensive clothes. The child is not too happy about this.	1.46	<u>1.48</u>	<u>1.74</u>	<u>1.11</u>	<u>1.61</u>
56. The parents always let their child play outside in the winter without a jacket or gloves.	3.08	<u>2.93</u>	<u>3.62</u>	2.59	3.28
Educational Neglect					
57. The parents let their 11-year daughter stay home from school when one parent is ill and the other parent is working so that she can baby-sit her younger sister.	2.65	2.57	2.93	<u>2.42</u>	<u>2.75</u>

Table 7

Vignette Mean Ratings by Three Groups

Vignette	N=214*	U.S. Born N=75*	African Born N=75**	Professionals N=63*	Parents N=150**
Nutritional Neglect					
58. The parents feed their 3-year-old child meals with little nutritional value out of ignorance. The child is now suffering from malnutrition.	3.66	3.68	3.72	3.55	3.7
59. The parents fail to prepare regular meals for their 9-year-old child. The child has learned to fix his own simple meals.	2.55	2.59	2.78	<u>2.25</u>	<u>2.69</u>
60. Parents are depriving their 12-year son of food for three days as part of his rite of passage to manhood. The boy is willing to undergo this process and wants to demonstrate he is strong.	2.46	<u>2.32</u>	<u>2.86</u>	<u>2.17</u>	<u>2.59</u>

Note: Underlining indicates groups who agree

A further examination of data was done to address the question “How much do the three groups agree on the relative seriousness of harm to children among the various categories of maltreatment?” Table 8 offers summary information as to the level of agreement about ratings of seriousness of each category.

Table 8

Mean category ratings by three groups.

Categories	Overall Rating N=213	African born N=75	U.S. born N=75	Child protection workers N=63
Physical abuse	-3.40	3.32	3.50	3.39
Sexual abuse	-3.77	3.97*	3.79*	3.50*
Parental mores	-2.69	3.42*	2.62*	1.91*
Fostering delinquency	-2.58	3.00*	2.69*	1.98*
Supervision	-3.07	3.44*	3.05*	2.59*
Housing	-2.66	2.79*	2.82*	2.31*
Emotional Mistreatment	-3.18	3.67*	3.22*	2.56*
Drug and alcohol	-3.24	3.73*	3.20*	2.71*
Medical neglect	-3.50	3.86*	3.42*	3.17*
Cleanliness	-3.44	3.95*	3.41*	2.87*
Clothing	-2.27	2.68*	2.20*	1.85*
Educational neglect	-2.65	2.93*	2.57*	2.42*
Nutritional neglect	-2.89	3.12*	2.85*	2.66*

Note 1: Underlining indicates groups who agreed

*Note 2: * Group disagreement*

Note 3: The ratings were derived by taking the weighted average of all items in the category. For example, all ratings of the African born parents were derived in the following way: the sum of the individual ratings for each physical abuse vignette was added to the sum of all other individual ratings for the entire physical abuse category, and then divided by the total number of ratings for all items.

Table 9 offers summary information as to the level of agreement about the ratings of seriousness of each category. This information reflects what has already been observed on Table 8. All ratings are bundled for easy understanding. All ratings of “low” are considered “nothing serious”. All ratings of “moderate, high and extreme” are considered as serious. The data are presented in Table 9, which is the most useful in comparing the relative seriousness among the groups.

Table 9:

*Severity of Child Maltreatment**U.S. born (N=75), African born (N=75), Child Welfare Workers (N=63)*

Category	Group	# of Vignettes	Nothing Serious	Moderate	High	Extreme	(Serious)
Physical Abuse	U.S. born	8	2	2	1	3	= 6
	African born	8	4	0	0	4	= 4
	Professionals	8	2	3	1	2	= 6
Sexual Abuse	U.S. born	8	1	1	2	4	= 7
	African	8	2	0	1	5	= 6
	Professionals	8	3	1	0	4	= 5
Parental Mores	U. S born	6	5	0	1	0	= 1
	African born	6	2	0	1	3	= 4
	Professionals	6	6	0	0	0	= 0
Delinquency	U.S. born	4	2	2	0	0	= 2
	African born	4	3	0	0	1	= 1
	Professionals	4	4	0	0	0	= 0
Supervision	U.S. born	5	2	2	1	0	= 3
	African born	5	2	0	0	3	= 3
	Professionals	5	3	1	1	0	= 2
Housing	U.S. born	2	1	0	0	1	= 1
	African born	2	2	0	0	0	= 0
	Professionals	2	1	1	0	0	= 1
Emotional	U.S. born	10	2	6	2	0	= 8
	African born	10	1	1	2	6	= 9
	Professionals	10	7	1	1	1	= 3
Drug & Alcohol	U.S. born	6	2	2	1	1	= 4
	African born	6	2	0	0	4	= 4
	Professionals	6	4	1	1	0	= 2
Medical	U.S. born	4	1	1	1	1	= 3
	African born	4	0	0	0	4	= 4
	Professionals	4	1	1	2	0	= 3
Cleanliness	U.S. born	1	0	1	0	0	= 1
	African	1	0	0	0	1	= 1
	Professionals	1	1	0	0	0	= 0
Clothing	U.S. born	2	2	0	0	0	= 0
	African born	2	1	0	0	1	= 1
	Professionals	2	2	0	0	0	= 0
Educational	U.S. born	1	1	0	0	0	= 0
	African born	1	1	0	0	0	= 0
	Professionals	1	1	0	0	0	= 0
Nutritional	U.S. born	3	2	0	1	0	= 1
	African born	3	2	0	0	1	= 1
	Professionals	3	2	0	1	0	= 1

The analyses also revealed that field of work did not seem to have any profound influence on perception of child maltreatment (Table 10). When respondents were grouped by whether they were employed in the social services, were graduates students or were employed in a field other than social services the findings were mixed. In each category either two fields of work were in agreement or all three were in agreement except on drug and alcohol.

Table 10

Mean Ratings on Severity of Maltreatment by Field of Work

Categories	Overall Rating (N=213)	Non-Social Service (N=72)	Social Services (N=101)	Graduate Students (N=40)
Physical abuse	-3.40	<u>3.39</u>	3.53	<u>3.22</u>
Sexual abuse	-3.77	<u>3.61</u>	<u>3.89</u>	<u>3.96</u>
Parental mores	-2.69	2.32	<u>2.94</u>	<u>3.17</u>
Fostering delinquency	-2.58	2.31	<u>2.81</u>	<u>2.90</u>
Supervision	-3.07	<u>2.87</u>	<u>3.22</u>	<u>3.35</u>
Housing	-2.66	2.46	<u>2.91</u>	<u>2.72</u>
Emotional Mistreatment	-3.18	<u>2.87</u>	<u>3.37</u>	3.66
Drug and alcohol	-3.24	3.03	3.46	3.42
Medical neglect	-3.5	3.38	<u>3.66</u>	<u>3.53</u>
Cleanliness	-3.44	3.22	<u>3.55</u>	<u>3.79</u>
Clothing	-2.27	<u>2.11</u>	<u>2.40</u>	<u>2.45</u>
Educational neglect	-2.65	<u>2.64</u>	<u>2.61</u>	<u>2.77</u>
Nutritional neglect	-2.89	<u>2.80</u>	<u>2.98</u>	<u>2.94</u>

Note 1 : Underlining indicates groups who agree. Note 2: Non-social services include those engaged in activities on physical, agricultural, engineering and mining development etc. Social services refers to activities to enhance human welfare including social workers, health workers, teachers etc. Graduate students include all those who are not currently working but are enrolled as full time student and pursuing either second degree or doctorate.

Discussion

Although the study was partly a replication of Giovannoni and Becerra's 1979 research, this study was essentially different because of the following reasons. The study focused on parents from Africa, the U.S., and U.S. child protection workers. The study added two additional items to create a three item questionnaire. (1) Defining the behavior as maltreatment or not. (2) Should they report the behavior or not. The scale on severity used in this study was 1-4 rather than 1-9 used by Giovannoni and Becerra. The present study provided information about what can generally be considered child maltreatment amongst the three groups (sub-Saharan African born parents, U.S. born parents, and child welfare child welfare professionals) studied. The findings indicate some significant differences among the three groups. The respondents ranked sexual abuse highest or most serious (mean=3.77 on 4-point scale with 4 being the most severe). This ranking is similar to the findings of four other studies using essentially the same questionnaire, one done in the U.S. (Giovannoni, & Becerra, 1979), one done in India (Segal, 1992), one done in South Africa (Pierce and Bozalek, 2004) and one in Singapore (Kiong, Elliott, & Tan, 1996). In this study respondents evaluated clothing as the least severe with a mean of 2.27. When compared between groups, African parents in defined more sexual abuse vignettes as abusive. Professional ratings of the seriousness of all the categories tended to be on the low scale of serious. The result showed African born parents perceived parental sexual mores, emotional abuse, supervision, drug and alcohol and medical neglect as more serious than did the U.S. born and child welfare professionals (see Table 7).

However, they were less likely to perceive punishment as physical abuse. African born parents are most likely to seek intervention in matters related to sexual abuse, emotional abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and medical neglect. Most respondents seemed to judge sexual abuse very seriously, and were less concerned with education. Demographic characteristics of respondents were important predictors of identification of maltreatment in some vignettes but generally, place of origin and role as a child welfare professional were the most consistent predictors, even when controlling for other characteristics.

Physical Abuse: Physical abuse was generally considered by U.S. born and child welfare professionals to be quite serious. Some forms of abuse like burning, kicking, caning and hitting the child with an object were considered very serious. On the other hand, other forms were not considered serious, like spanking and making the child undergo a painful cultural procedure. When the means and ANOVA tests were done on this category, there were no significant differences among the three groups (Table 8). In this study some of the incidents were not seen as serious by the African born parents as they were by U.S. born and child welfare professionals. African parents tend to be more sympathetic towards physical punishment. For example, African born parents were unlikely to participate or seek intervention for punishing a child with wooden stick (particularly if it is to correct a behavior and it is successful). The African born parents' attitudes towards physical punishment are similar to the findings among some Asian societies. Samuda (1988), who conducted a questionnaire survey of experiences of child

care and discipline among university students in Hong Kong, noted: “Traditionally, the use of physical punishment to ensure obedience has played an important role in the rearing of Chinese children once they reach 4 or 5 years.”

Sexual Abuse: Although, the mean tests and results of ANOVA indicate child welfare professionals have significant differences from parents (Table 8), all three groups considered this category as the most serious form of abuse. Professionals identified fewer incidents in the category as serious (Table 7). However, the findings point to some common points of agreement between western and African cultures, especially with regard to the amount of sexual relation between adults and children. Giovannoni and Becerra (1979) surveyed the community (Caucasians, Mexican-Americans and African Americans) and child welfare professionals in the Los Angeles on how they view certain items with the potential to be considered child abuse and neglect. The respondents rated items in the sexual abuse category (e.g., fondling of genital area, showing of pornographic pictures etc.) very serious. Rescoe (1990) surveyed American students on the same items and they too rated items in sexual abuse as the most serious. Segal (1992) obtained the same results with Indian child welfare professionals. The behavior that seemed to be more a societal norm to prepare a child was acceptable to all three groups as non maltreatment. Example, raising children strictly by gender roles and obligations and the harsh initiation rites that are important to the society were not regarded as abuse. The three groups, U.S. born, African born and child welfare professionals agreed that

housing, educational and clothing were the least serious forms of abuse. These acts are unlikely to be reported by all the three groups studied.

Parental Mores: African born parents considerably differed with U.S. parents and child welfare professionals in this category by identifying most of the behaviors as quite serious maltreatment, though they felt it was not necessary to seek intervention. For example, to allow a 17-year old kissing his girlfriend in front of his parents was defined as maltreatment. Children kissing in front of parents, parents wearing underwear in front of their children and openly lesbian or gay may be in conformity with American culture rather than other cultures. African parents maintain a clear physical, emotional and sexual boundary with their children. Cultural values regarding behavior are taught at the youngest age possible. The teachings are strictly gender and age based. Girls are required to remain a virgin until marriage. If the girl is able to maintain her virginity and able to go through all rituals at the time of marriage, there is greater respect to the family and society in general. Young, mature girls and boys are not supposed to tell their parents that they are dating or having intimate relationship with one another. The relationship has to be approved at the right time and after completion of necessary preparations. Sex is supposed to be a secret and only by required preparation and age. Therefore such behaviors like kissing in public are forbidden and highly indicative of a “lost child” or poor parenting from the family. The Masai follow strict gender and age based social rules Jacobs (1965), points that the “warriors” (olmurran) are those from circumcision to

well beyond marriageable age of 20-25. On the other side parents and mostly women are not supposed to stay “naked”. Most African cultures consider body exposure for women above the knees is being naked. This conflicts with most American values, for example during summer time, when people dress in shorts, parents go swimming with their teenagers and are only dressed in swimming suits that expose their bodies. Professionals and U.S. born respondents clearly considered parental mores issues as the least serious of types of maltreatment.

Fostering Delinquency: When mean tests are compared and using the results of ANOVA, there are significant differences between child welfare professionals and parents (Table 7). Professionals rated most incidents in this category on the scale of 1 to 4 as low (1 in the scale). As a general observation, respondents from all three groups tended to judge fostering delinquency as less serious compared to other incidents. Among the three groups studied, they appear to agree that most of the behaviors in the category are not maltreatment and all three groups are unlikely to report such incidents except when parents knowingly let their child facilitates an illegal activity.

Supervision: All three groups define most of the incidents in this group as maltreatment. However, the differences are in the perception of seriousness and reporting. African parents and U.S. parents agree the incidents are serious (Table 8). Professionals rated fewer incidents as serious but interestingly, they will likely report each incident. This category of child maltreatment had some disagreements and

agreements. African parents were the only group that thought a child is left alone for a couple of hours while parents are job hunting and when a child is separated in a different room at bedtime as maltreatment. They rated both incidents as extreme serious but at the same time they indicated that they are not likely to report to authority. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals did not identify these two behaviors as maltreatment. In the situation where parents are late coming home because of work, African parents did not see this as maltreatment, while U.S. parents and child welfare professionals tended to see this as maltreatment. U.S. parents rated this as moderately serious but indicated they would not report.

Housing: All three groups in this study rated this category as less serious. African and U.S. parents rated the incident where parents sleep on the street with a small child as serious.

Emotional Mistreatment: This category of child maltreatment was one of the major area of disagreement between parents (both African born, U.S. born) and child welfare professionals (child welfare professionals). Parents were higher in defining maltreatment than child welfare professionals. Both African and U.S. born tend to be lower on reporting emotional mistreatment although they were high in defining them. For example, they all defined the situation where a child is made to study for prolonged hours as maltreatment, but both groups of parents were unlikely to report such incidents. Professionals did not see most of the incidents as maltreatment. They only defined the

behavior of parents screaming to a child and putting a child for adoption as maltreatment (Table 3).

Drug and alcohol: There is a general consensus in this category that the behaviors are maltreatment. African parents tend to be higher in defining the behaviors as maltreatment and perceived them more serious. Child welfare professionals see the behavior where parents are intoxicated or experimenting with cocaine while have kids with them, as maltreatment. There is a general agreement in reporting such incidents except African parents are unlikely to report culturally recognized and acceptable use of alcohol to children Q: 46, (Table 3) although 78.1% of them defined this incident as maltreatment.

Medical neglect: In this category African and U.S. parents defined all incidents as maltreatment. However, they differed in perceiving seriousness. African parents rated all incidents of medical neglect as extremely serious. U.S. parents perceived more as moderate seriousness. All groups are low in reporting incidents of medical neglect with exception of child welfare professionals who were high in reporting parental refusal of evidence based alternative medicine.

Cleanliness: All three groups agree the behavior in this category is maltreatment and should be reported, however they differ in perceiving the seriousness. African parents rated this as extreme serious, U.S. parents rated as moderate while child welfare professionals rated as low serious.

Clothing: African and U.S. parents were low in defining this category as maltreatment. Professionals were high in defining the behavior where a child is allowed to play outside without being properly dressed according to weather as maltreatment. Professionals identify reporting such behavior although they rated it as low serious.

Educational neglect: Professionals perceived this category as low serious, but are higher in defining this category as neglect and are likely to report such incidences.

Nutritional neglect: African parents are higher in defining nutritional neglect. They perceived malnutrition as the most serious incident of neglect but are unlikely to report. U.S. parents and child welfare professionals are high in defining malnutrition as neglect, they perceived as low serious and unlikely to report.

All three groups in the study considered sexual abuse of children a serious kind of maltreatment. The seriousness is a reflection of societal standards and values in regard to sexual relationship. The study by Jacobs (1965), of the Masai people of East Africa affirms this perception. The Masai culture is governed by social rules which include one's sexual relations, and other relations between men and women (cf. Llewelyn-Davis, 1981). In Masai society baby girls are of high value as they are considered to be a source of wealth. The Masai culture is very explicit in providing care and protection to baby girls and it is important for them to do so because when girls later get married they bring wealth to the family in form of "dowry". Such practices are very common among many other African cultures and elsewhere in the world like India, China and Middle East.

Any sexual maltreatment before marriage will be punished severely. On the other hand Americans culture highly values their children and parents show less tolerance to incidents with regard to sexual abuse. The school system and family provide the basic education and protection mechanism for sexual abuse. Parents tend to initiate early discussion, as early as kindergarten age, with their children about inappropriate adult sexual behaviors. American schools at all levels follow strict policies on sexual abuse and harassment and are involved in educating young children to identify inappropriate behaviors such as touching and other advances. Schools teach their students what to do in such situations, including reporting to the teacher, parents or trusted adult.

All three groups studied agree on reporting sexual abuse, housing, drug and alcohol, medical neglect, cleanliness. With respect to the relative seriousness with different kinds of maltreatment, we found agreement in sexual abuse, drug and alcohol and medical neglect. The least serious were delinquency and educational neglect.

Overall, there was a high level of agreement in defining maltreatment between U.S. born parents and child welfare child welfare professionals in the categories of physical abuse and housing. The two groups have similar views on reporting physical abuse and housing related maltreatment. With respect to the relative seriousness with which different kinds of maltreatment are viewed, U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals had slight differences. African born responses appeared to reflect some ambivalence with regard to physical punishment. Corporal punishment is widely

practiced in African families. The practice is not banned in schools and institutions. U.S. born parents and child welfare professionals (U.S. born or raised overwhelmingly white) have less tolerance for physical abuse. Most African born respondents believed that physical punishment was the best way to handle children who misbehaved. This is confirmed by the findings by Ebigbo, (2003) and anecdotal accounts from graduate students from Africa, (AAAGS, 2004).. Ebigbo, (2003) in his survey of civil servants, child welfare professionals, teachers and traders in Enugu, Kaduna and Ibadan found, 26 percent of respondents believed that physical punishment was the best way to handle children who misbehaved and 85 percent admitted to beating their children in such instances. In another study Ebigbo, found most (89 percent) children who have been beaten by a teacher consider this to be acceptable.

Limitations

There are a number of limitations to this study. The size of the sample was smaller than would have been preferred. Also the participants in this study were not randomly selected and their answers may better reflect those of this sample alone rather than the population as a whole. It should be noted that the term “African” is essentially geographical in that it refers to people from African countries. Yet, findings from studies on African immigrants in the Twin Cities are not generalizable to all Africans or all African immigrants from Africa or those from other countries. The use of questionnaires made it difficult to determine if respondents’ answers actually reflect how they think and

act. For example, the reporting might have been inflated by respondents in response to some perceived social desirability. The researcher tried to minimize this problem by using a consent form and giving clarifications at the beginning of the study. Although the vignettes used in this study were similar to those used by Giovannoni and Beerra (1979), they were revised to reflect African culture and may no longer have been as reliable as the original questionnaire.

The method of questionnaire distribution very likely tapped a non-representative sample. While this limits generalization to larger populations, still adds to the existing literature with new details on an important population and updates descriptions of the differences among selected groups. Additionally, it will not be known whether differences in rating the seriousness of maltreatment is a result of being a member of an African culture, U.S. culture or child welfare professional. It is also important to consider that this sample seems to be a highly educated middle class sample. On top of that, such factors as history, poverty, and exposure to warfare might play a greater role in perceiving child maltreatment. While some variables can be controlled statistically, others may remain unknown.

Implications and future directions

Although there is disagreement in perception of child maltreatment, we can assume that all parents and cultures want the best for their children, but cultures clearly disagree about what exactly “best” might be. One objective of this study was to gather

information about how parents from other parts of the world who differ in culture, evaluate practices that are, or might be, harmful to children.

The analyses revealed that, respondents' place of birth, concurrent with the culture in which one is raised, have significant influence in the differences in perception of child maltreatment. First and foremost it is important to have a reliable definition of child maltreatment. The definition needs to take into account practical aspects of childrearing from differing cultures. This means that it has to take the views from other cultures as well as of the child welfare professionals in the field of child welfare. Professionals need to know the beliefs underlying the definitions of maltreatment as held by African parents, U.S. parents and child welfare professionals. Professionals need to become aware of the sources of potential disagreement among families from diverse cultures and themselves. Beth H. (1992) points that "simply becoming aware of the framework from which a culturally different family operates" is not enough. African families may not parent the same way as Americans because of important factors including their history, culture, religion, and the geographical area in which they were raised. Murray (1999) summarizes the factors necessary for improved child well-being as follows: assisting child welfare workers in establishing whether or not the behavior is truly harmful to the child; assessing the parents level of acculturation to the United States (many newly arriving families may not realize their behaviors are considered abnormal

and unacceptable in this country); and assessing whether a report is biased because the person is of differing cultural background.

Child welfare professionals need to educate immigrants on the practical facts about child maltreatment and appropriate services available for families. It is necessary to know what parents from other cultural groups consider to be bad or good treatment of children. It is necessary to understand the social and cultural factors that contribute to and propagate child maltreatment among African born groups in order to construct and implement the most appropriate measures for intervention and prevention. This study agrees with Korbin (2002) that much work needs to be done to understand how culture is involved in child maltreatment. We cannot assume that what is held to be good parenting in one cultural group always applies in another. For example, sex before marriage is strongly discouraged among African societies. Physical punishment is widely used among African groups in such institutions like schools and families. Child protection workers will need to make competent culturally-congruent assessments and conclusions in child maltreatment related cases. Many African born parents may leave children in the home or in the care of extended family. Laosa (1983) recommended that service providers become informed as to normative disciplinary practices among cultural groups they serve, and that they make judgment based on what is acceptable to that group, rather than on the professional's assumptions. Differentiating standards to children's independence, disciplinary strategies and protection are acceptable actions done by

parents or caregivers for the good of the child, family and society as a whole. Such events are not to be interpreted as evidence of abuse or neglect. The ultimate goal is to help families and children avoid the deep scars of maltreatment and help the government avoid unnecessary and costly child welfare services or treatment. However, much work needs to be done to understand how culture is involved in child maltreatment and how it can be used for prevention and intervention of the same. Parents from other cultures should be given adequate time and opportunity to learn and correct/adjust their behaviors before being “punished”. At the same time child welfare professionals should demonstrate willingness to be receptive to new behaviors and ideas. There is agreement on those categories that are seen as most severe, sexual abuse, physical abuse and medical neglect. Child protection should target such categories for public education and programs.

Future studies should focus on much larger samples and address the problem of non-randomization. In addition, future studies would need to more closely match groups culturally. Future studies should be conducted on parents from various African countries who differ in education, social status, history and culture. It is important to have a sample that cuts across all types of group including rich, middle class and poor. The target should be those categories where there was more disagreement like physical abuse, parental mores, emotional and medical neglect. More importantly, studies should compare parenting styles between abusive and non-abusive African parents. Children should also

be investigated with regards to what they consider to be maltreatment. This information can then be used in community education, child welfare worker training, and social work education. This information is crucial in assisting child protection workers in the evaluation and planning for the physical and psychological safety of the children of African immigrant. Studies should contribute to the promotion, recognition, and acceptance of cultural diversity as a crucial factor in dealing with child maltreatment.

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Appendix A – Logistic Regression

Q: 2 A mother kicked her six-year-old son and used a stick to beat him. The boy has developed anger towards his mother.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers			16.169	2	.000	
	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-2.593	.747	12.063	1	.001	.075
	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	-3.423	1.214	7.951	1	.005	.033
	Gender(1)	-.125	.495	.064	1	.800	.882
	Range(1)	.512	.691	.548	1	.459	1.668
	School			2.733	2	.255	
	School(1)	-1.611	1.130	2.033	1	.154	.200
	School(2)	-.728	.744	.957	1	.328	.483
	Dateofbirth			8.105	2	.017	
	Dateofbirth(1)	-1.591	1.314	1.465	1	.226	.204
	Dateofbirth(2)	-3.016	1.381	4.769	1	.029	.049
	Constant	1.151	1.328	.752	1	.386	3.163

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q: 3 A 14-year-old girl was beaten with a belt for intentionally skipping school. The following day, she did go to school.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			29.222	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-1.503	.404	13.813	1	.000	.222
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	-3.725	.743	25.157	1	.000	.024
Gender(1)	-.150	.366	.168	1	.682	.861
Range(1)	-.536	.439	1.488	1	.222	.585
School			1.882	2	.390	
School(1)	.834	.698	1.429	1	.232	2.302
School(2)	.423	.514	.678	1	.410	1.527
Dateofbirth			.024	2	.988	
Dateofbirth(1)	20.488	13433.712	.000	1	.999	790091882.006
Dateofbirth(2)	20.430	13433.712	.000	1	.999	745643838.925
Constant	-19.615	13433.712	.000	1	.999	.000

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q: 4 When their son does something wrong, the parents usually punish him by spanking him with a leather strap. As a result, this child seems to learn from his mistake and prevent it from happening again.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a) Af_parents_US_parents			12.229	2	.002	
_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents	-.965	.393	6.022	1	.014	.381
_Workers(1)						
Af_parents_US_parents	-1.783	.527	11.425	1	.001	.168
_Workers(2)						
Gender(1)	.019	.336	.003	1	.954	1.019
Range(1)	-.334	.417	.638	1	.424	.716
School			9.955	2	.007	
School(1)	1.976	.817	5.847	1	.016	7.211
School(2)	1.177	.518	5.173	1	.023	3.246
Dateofbirth			1.849	2	.397	
Dateofbirth(1)	-1.078	.874	1.522	1	.217	.340
Dateofbirth(2)	-.795	.864	.847	1	.358	.452
Constant	1.289	.911	2.004	1	.157	3.631

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q: 6 The parents were concerned about their 10-year-old son's poor attendance and low grades at school. They decided to physically punish him using a wooden stick. They punished him at least four different times. As a result, the child's attendance has improved to 95% and his grades are A's.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			18.401	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-1.491	.402	13.733	1	.000	.225
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	-2.014	.563	12.788	1	.000	.133
Gender(1)	.260	.347	.561	1	.454	1.297
Range(1)	-.122	.431	.081	1	.776	.885
School			2.220	2	.329	
School(1)	.765	.685	1.247	1	.264	2.150
School(2)	.571	.513	1.238	1	.266	1.770
Dateofbirth			.609	2	.738	
Dateofbirth(1)	.037	.948	.002	1	.969	1.038
Dateofbirth(2)	-.242	.951	.065	1	.799	.785
Constant	.332	1.001	.110	1	.740	1.393

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q: 7 The parents of an eight-year-old girl who suffers from a mild learning disability struggle to help her do well in school, but frequently they become very impatient and occasionally hit her out of frustration. Although the child has never been bruised or injured, she is clearly developing an increasingly negative attitude towards academics and acts out aggressively when frustrated in school.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			11.658	2	.003	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.699	.546	1.641	1	.200	.497
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.178	.588	4.014	1	.045	3.249
Gender(1)	.407	.403	1.019	1	.313	1.502
Range(1)	-.390	.512	.578	1	.447	.677
School			2.662	2	.264	
School(1)	.683	.712	.920	1	.337	1.980
School(2)	-1.315	1.069	1.513	1	.219	.269
Dateofbirth			5.363	2	.068	
Dateofbirth(1)	-2.036	.893	5.201	1	.023	.131
Dateofbirth(2)	-1.683	.882	3.642	1	.056	.186
Constant	.490	.973	.253	1	.615	1.632

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q: 10 The parents have intercourse where their child can see them. The child is telling his friend about what he sees when mom and dad are in bed together.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			7.294	2	.026	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	1.291	.481	7.203	1	.007	3.638
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	.859	.614	1.957	1	.162	2.361
Gender(1)	.241	.398	.368	1	.544	1.273
Range(1)	-.017	.472	.001	1	.972	.984
School			.856	2	.652	
School(1)	-.962	1.098	.768	1	.381	.382
School(2)	.122	.572	.046	1	.831	1.130
Dateofbirth			.027	2	.986	
Dateofbirth(1)	20.155	14043.578	.000	1	.999	566735651.361
Dateofbirth(2)	20.091	14043.578	.000	1	.999	531393820.685
Constant	-22.295	14043.578	.000	1	.999	.000

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:17 After migrating to the United States, parents told their 17-year-old daughter she is not allowed to date and she dare not bring a boyfriend home. According to their culture of origin she must remain a virgin until she gets married. The daughter has attempted to run away twice.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			1.121	2	.571	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.696	.657	1.121	1	.290	2.005
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	19.293	4959.052	.000	1	.997	239171936.418
Gender(1)	.166	.556	.089	1	.765	1.181
Range(1)	-.664	.748	.789	1	.374	.515
School			.375	2	.829	
School(1)	.715	1.170	.374	1	.541	2.045
School(2)	.017	.835	.000	1	.984	1.017
Dateofbirth			6.454	2	.040	
Dateofbirth(1)	2.997	1.232	5.915	1	.015	20.016
Dateofbirth(2)	2.028	1.155	3.080	1	.079	7.598
Constant	-.303	1.172	.067	1	.796	.739

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:18 A 17-year-old son seems to behave sexually inappropriate when his girlfriend is visiting him at home. His parents don't seem to take any action to rectify this behavior. Instead, they give their child more freedom and space to do as he wishes. They even assist him financially to spend money on his girlfriend.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a) Af_parents_US_parents_Workers			21.576	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.868	.379	5.232	1	.022	2.381
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	3.041	.659	21.308	1	.000	20.933
Gender(1)	-.223	.352	.401	1	.527	.800
Range(1)	-.600	.416	2.079	1	.149	.549
School			5.330	2	.070	
School(1)	.155	.625	.061	1	.804	1.167
School(2)	1.202	.521	5.330	1	.021	3.326
Dateofbirth			1.852	2	.396	
Dateofbirth(1)	1.149	.869	1.750	1	.186	3.157
Dateofbirth(2)	.912	.858	1.128	1	.288	2.488
Constant	-1.289	.901	2.044	1	.153	.276

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:19 On more than three occasions, a mother appeared wearing just her underwear in front of her 16-year-old son. This makes the son feel ashamed and embarrassed.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			18.963	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	1.660	.413	16.143	1	.000	5.262
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.919	.526	13.324	1	.000	6.813
Gender(1)	-.572	.342	2.800	1	.094	.564
Range(1)	-.173	.422	.168	1	.682	.841
School			.964	2	.618	
School(1)	-.691	.706	.959	1	.327	.501
School(2)	-.022	.524	.002	1	.967	.979
Dateofbirth			.166	2	.920	
Dateofbirth(1)	-.072	.835	.007	1	.931	.931
Dateofbirth(2)	-.198	.828	.058	1	.810	.820
Constant	-.799	.888	.811	1	.368	.450

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:20 A single mother who has a five-year-old son often brings home different men. The child is asking who his father is. The mother tells him that every man she brings home for the night is his father.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			18.340	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.585	.560	1.092	1	.296	.557
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.876	.618	9.229	1	.002	6.530
Gender(1)	.138	.428	.104	1	.747	1.148
Range(1)	-.821	.543	2.287	1	.130	.440
School			6.445	2	.040	
School(1)	1.131	.769	2.164	1	.141	3.099
School(2)	1.476	.621	5.638	1	.018	4.374
Dateofbirth			.080	2	.961	
Dateofbirth(1)	-.042	1.006	.002	1	.967	.959
Dateofbirth(2)	-.148	1.006	.022	1	.883	.862
Constant	-1.609	1.123	2.056	1	.152	.200

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:21 A divorced father who has custody of his 10-year old child is a homosexual.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			14.976	2	.001	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	1.529	.477	10.269	1	.001	4.612
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	2.974	1.121	7.035	1	.008	19.562
Gender(1)	-.821	.433	3.591	1	.058	.440
Range(1)	-.240	.519	.215	1	.643	.786
School			5.236	2	.073	
School(1)	-.901	.750	1.444	1	.229	.406
School(2)	-1.161	.545	4.541	1	.033	.313
Dateofbirth			.135	2	.935	
Dateofbirth(1)	-18.877	14445.621	.000	1	.999	.000
Dateofbirth(2)	-19.042	14445.621	.000	1	.999	.000
Constant	20.272	14445.621	.000	1	.999	636860954.750

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:22 A divorced mother who has custody of her child is lesbian and recently got married to another woman. A fifteen-year-old daughter is ashamed and embarrassed with this relationship. Her school grades are now dropping.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			22.430	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	1.847	.452	16.709	1	.000	6.343
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	2.674	.854	9.813	1	.002	14.504
Gender(1)	-.866	.414	4.384	1	.036	.420
Range(1)	-.860	.506	2.888	1	.089	.423
School			1.958	2	.376	
School(1)	-.921	.758	1.473	1	.225	.398
School(2)	-.477	.546	.764	1	.382	.621
Dateofbirth			3.873	2	.144	
Dateofbirth(1)	-18.585	14557.828	.000	1	.999	.000
Dateofbirth(2)	-19.432	14557.828	.000	1	.999	.000
Constant	20.040	14557.828	.000	1	.999	504947900.431

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:23 The parents buy almost everything their 4 year child asks for. The child has too many toys and more clothing than necessary.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			7.955	2	.019	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.372	.409	.827	1	.363	.690
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.588	.747	4.517	1	.034	4.896
Gender(1)	-.570	.382	2.230	1	.135	.566
Range(1)	-.240	.448	.287	1	.592	.787
School			3.858	2	.145	
School(1)	-.701	.654	1.149	1	.284	.496
School(2)	.941	.615	2.338	1	.126	2.562
Dateofbirth			.855	2	.652	
Dateofbirth(1)	-1.065	1.220	.761	1	.383	.345
Dateofbirth(2)	-.882	1.214	.528	1	.468	.414
Constant	2.472	1.269	3.798	1	.051	11.851

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:25 A 13-year-old child is paid money by his parents as an incentive to accomplish house chores. This child is now 15 years old and he refuses to do any house chores or other activities as requested by his parents unless he is paid.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			10.171	2	.006	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.768	.420	3.341	1	.068	2.155
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	3.255	1.106	8.657	1	.003	25.927
Gender(1)	-.106	.393	.073	1	.787	.899
Range(1)	-.297	.472	.396	1	.529	.743
School			.936	2	.626	
School(1)	.448	.843	.282	1	.595	1.565
School(2)	-.380	.516	.544	1	.461	.684
Dateofbirth			.380	2	.827	
Dateofbirth(1)	-18.995	14592.961	.000	1	.999	.000
Dateofbirth(2)	-19.253	14592.961	.000	1	.999	.000
Constant	19.965	14592.961	.000	1	.999	468440965.361

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:26 The parents make their 9-year-old child sell juice, candy, and chocolate as an after school activity. The child is trying to raise money for her mother's surgery. The child's grades are declining.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			12.340	2	.002	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.163	.372	.191	1	.662	.850
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.489	.521	8.172	1	.004	4.434
Gender(1)	.576	.332	3.023	1	.082	1.780
Range(1)	.376	.401	.879	1	.348	1.456
School			.827	2	.661	
School(1)	-.213	.633	.113	1	.737	.808
School(2)	.398	.497	.640	1	.424	1.488
Dateofbirth			2.058	2	.357	
Dateofbirth(1)	-1.230	.926	1.765	1	.184	.292
Dateofbirth(2)	-.965	.919	1.103	1	.294	.381
Constant	.798	.954	.700	1	.403	2.222

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:27 A five-year-old girl is locked up in her room all the time. She never goes out to play with the neighborhood kids. She is now afraid of people, including children her own age.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			1.419	2	.492	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.268	.876	.093	1	.760	1.307
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.274	1.117	1.301	1	.254	3.575
Gender(1)	.344	.701	.241	1	.623	1.411
Range(1)	1.103	.951	1.346	1	.246	3.014
School			.077	2	.962	
School(1)	.338	1.233	.075	1	.784	1.402
School(2)	.090	1.165	.006	1	.938	1.095
Dateofbirth			5.536	2	.063	
Dateofbirth(1)	-2.783	1.184	5.529	1	.019	.062
Dateofbirth(2)	-2.020	1.102	3.361	1	.067	.133
Constant	-1.866	1.282	2.119	1	.145	.155

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:28 Parents often leave their ten year-old child alone during the day while they each search for a job. The child cries a little when left alone, but then watches T.V. until the parents come home.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			7.964	2	.019	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.866	.381	5.156	1	.023	2.377
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.287	.491	6.873	1	.009	3.621
Gender(1)	.014	.327	.002	1	.966	1.014
Range(1)	-.303	.397	.582	1	.445	.739
School			2.628	2	.269	
School(1)	1.054	.660	2.551	1	.110	2.869
School(2)	.232	.496	.219	1	.640	1.261
Dateofbirth			.492	2	.782	
Dateofbirth(1)	-.130	.911	.020	1	.887	.878
Dateofbirth(2)	-.340	.905	.141	1	.707	.712
Constant	-.335	.961	.122	1	.727	.715

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:31 The parents keep their 9month-old child in a separate room at night. On two occasions the child had a high temperature and no one was aware until morning.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			13.060	2	.001	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.977	.393	6.175	1	.013	2.656
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	2.007	.586	11.739	1	.001	7.443
Gender(1)	-.119	.349	.116	1	.734	.888
Range(1)	-.232	.422	.302	1	.583	.793
School			4.280	2	.118	
School(1)	.470	.682	.475	1	.491	1.600
School(2)	-.967	.518	3.479	1	.062	.380
Dateofbirth			2.105	2	.349	
Dateofbirth(1)	.023	.917	.001	1	.980	1.023
Dateofbirth(2)	.540	.918	.347	1	.556	1.717
Constant	-.158	.950	.028	1	.868	.854

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:34 A five-year-old boy was made to study long hours even though he is only in kindergarten. The minute he wakes up, he has to study until afternoon. The boy is now refusing to go to kindergarten.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			25.088	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	1.055	.422	6.242	1	.012	2.873
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	2.932	.587	24.911	1	.000	18.763
Gender(1)	-.166	.344	.234	1	.629	.847
Range(1)	1.203	.485	6.148	1	.013	3.329
School			2.190	2	.334	
School(1)	.912	.635	2.061	1	.151	2.490
School(2)	.289	.522	.307	1	.579	1.335
Dateofbirth			1.010	2	.604	
Dateofbirth(1)	.125	.871	.021	1	.886	1.133
Dateofbirth(2)	-.224	.871	.066	1	.797	.800
Constant	-2.263	.935	5.862	1	.015	.104

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:35 The parents ignore their child all the time, seldom talking with him or listening to him.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			12.126	2	.002	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-1.070	.677	2.496	1	.114	.343
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.153	.653	3.123	1	.077	3.168
Gender(1)	.000	.467	.000	1	.999	1.000
Range(1)	-1.493	.647	5.331	1	.021	.225
School			5.839	2	.054	
School(1)	-19.154	10395.920	.000	1	.999	.000
School(2)	1.688	.698	5.839	1	.016	5.408
Dateofbirth			3.862	2	.145	
Dateofbirth(1)	-1.933	1.055	3.358	1	.067	.145
Dateofbirth(2)	-1.437	1.028	1.952	1	.162	.238
Constant	.396	1.134	.122	1	.727	1.486

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:36 The parents dress their 3-year-old son in girl's clothing and sometimes put makeup on him.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			7.511	2	.023	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.017	.421	.002	1	.969	.984
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.163	.511	5.168	1	.023	3.198
Gender(1)	.038	.353	.011	1	.915	1.038
Range(1)	-.691	.430	2.575	1	.109	.501
School			1.166	2	.558	
School(1)	.016	.717	.000	1	.983	1.016
School(2)	.553	.516	1.149	1	.284	1.739
Dateofbirth			4.727	2	.094	
Dateofbirth(1)	1.830	1.133	2.611	1	.106	6.235
Dateofbirth(2)	1.239	1.133	1.196	1	.274	3.453
Constant	-2.342	1.186	3.898	1	.048	.096

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:38 When arguing with her 12-year-old stepdaughter, the parent reminds her that she is a stepdaughter and doesn't belong to the family.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			19.250	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.354	.621	.324	1	.569	1.424
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	3.132	.786	15.867	1	.000	22.922
Gender(1)	.026	.454	.003	1	.954	1.027
Range(1)	.846	.666	1.610	1	.205	2.329
School			.933	2	.627	
School(1)	.756	.878	.741	1	.389	2.129
School(2)	.442	.746	.352	1	.553	1.557
Dateofbirth			.611	2	.737	
Dateofbirth(1)	-.722	1.079	.448	1	.503	.486
Dateofbirth(2)	-.837	1.082	.598	1	.439	.433
Constant	-2.526	1.218	4.301	1	.038	.080

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:39 A mother of 3 children gave her 4th child, who is 9 months old; up for adoption because the child's biological father is from a different tribe. The child is not accepted with the rest of the family.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			27.281	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	1.431	.392	13.325	1	.000	4.184
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	3.521	.735	22.923	1	.000	33.804
Gender(1)	.073	.375	.037	1	.847	1.075
Range(1)	-.817	.422	3.752	1	.053	.442
School			.051	2	.975	
School(1)	.140	.668	.044	1	.834	1.151
School(2)	-.029	.523	.003	1	.955	.971
Dateofbirth			2.879	2	.237	
Dateofbirth(1)	1.119	.923	1.468	1	.226	3.060
Dateofbirth(2)	1.473	.922	2.551	1	.110	4.360
Constant	-1.707	.972	3.083	1	.079	.181

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:40 A single mother named her newborn baby “Evil”. She chose this name because it reminds her of the harsh treatment she received from the child’s father while pregnant.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			23.674	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.326	.452	.521	1	.470	.721
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	2.279	.578	15.560	1	.000	9.766
Gender(1)	.106	.372	.081	1	.775	1.112
Range(1)	.501	.492	1.034	1	.309	1.650
School			2.769	2	.251	
School(1)	.853	.677	1.586	1	.208	2.346
School(2)	.702	.542	1.683	1	.195	2.019
Dateofbirth			.005	2	.998	
Dateofbirth(1)	-.002	1.017	.000	1	.999	.998
Dateofbirth(2)	.023	1.016	.001	1	.982	1.024
Constant	-1.828	1.088	2.823	1	.093	.161

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:41 The parents and their 12-year-old stepson are of different color. When they are out meeting people, the parents introduce him as their stepson. He does not want to be identified as a stepchild. He is angry at his parents and is threatening that one day he will physically attack them.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			22.350	2	.000	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.571	.398	2.060	1	.151	1.770
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	2.559	.556	21.217	1	.000	12.926
Gender(1)	-.157	.350	.201	1	.654	.855
Range(1)	-.009	.421	.000	1	.983	.991
School			.544	2	.762	
School(1)	-.348	.719	.234	1	.629	.706
School(2)	-.325	.538	.365	1	.546	.723
Dateofbirth			.486	2	.784	
Dateofbirth(1)	.263	.938	.078	1	.780	1.300
Dateofbirth(2)	.464	.930	.249	1	.618	1.590
Constant	-1.260	.989	1.626	1	.202	.284

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:48 As a way of teaching their daughter good behavior, the parents always allow their 11year-old daughter to open beer bottles, pour it into glasses, and serve it to their visitors at home.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers			15.173	2	.001	
	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.987	.431	5.243	1	.022	2.683
	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	3.155	.853	13.669	1	.000	23.450
	Gender(1)	.006	.391	.000	1	.989	1.006
	Range(1)	.172	.463	.138	1	.710	1.188
	School			2.210	2	.331	
	School(1)	.808	.827	.955	1	.328	2.244
	School(2)	.740	.611	1.468	1	.226	2.095
	Dateofbirth			.033	2	.984	
	Dateofbirth(1)	-19.387	14626.243	.000	1	.999	.000
	Dateofbirth(2)	-19.460	14626.243	.000	1	.999	.000
	Constant	19.607	14626.243	.000	1	.999	327475115.865

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:49 The parents are moderate drinkers, but the mother's brother is an alcoholic who visits their home often drinking constantly in front of their 9-year daughter and 12 year son.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			14.163	2	.001	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.682	.401	2.893	1	.089	1.979
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	3.123	.840	13.813	1	.000	22.707
Gender(1)	.286	.371	.592	1	.442	1.331
Range(1)	-.340	.444	.585	1	.445	.712
School			3.500	2	.174	
School(1)	1.200	.814	2.171	1	.141	3.319
School(2)	.722	.564	1.637	1	.201	2.058
Dateofbirth			.367	2	.832	
Dateofbirth(1)	.106	1.207	.008	1	.930	1.111
Dateofbirth(2)	-.131	1.196	.012	1	.913	.877
Constant	.241	1.229	.039	1	.844	1.273

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:52 A 6-year child has severe mental retardation. The parents refuse any kind of service because they believe that their child is a gift from God and they will take care of their own child.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			11.578	2	.003	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.737	.382	3.726	1	.054	2.090
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	1.710	.503	11.557	1	.001	5.530
Gender(1)	.016	.329	.002	1	.961	1.016
Range(1)	-.023	.400	.003	1	.954	.977
School			1.121	2	.571	
School(1)	-.667	.735	.824	1	.364	.513
School(2)	.220	.489	.203	1	.652	1.247
Dateofbirth			.903	2	.637	
Dateofbirth(1)	-.468	.874	.286	1	.593	.626
Dateofbirth(2)	-.180	.873	.043	1	.837	.835
Constant	-.511	.932	.301	1	.583	.600

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:56 The parents always let their child play outside in the winter without a jacket or gloves.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers			2.638	2	.267	
	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-.010	.432	.001	1	.981	.990
	Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	.697	.521	1.786	1	.181	2.007
	Gender(1)	.579	.362	2.555	1	.110	1.785
	Range(1)	-.951	.437	4.749	1	.029	.386
	School			.527	2	.768	
	School(1)	-.005	.730	.000	1	.994	.995
	School(2)	.387	.539	.517	1	.472	1.473
	Dateofbirth			.674	2	.714	
	Dateofbirth(1)	.532	.912	.340	1	.560	1.702
	Dateofbirth(2)	.292	.908	.103	1	.748	1.339
	Constant	-1.373	.992	1.916	1	.166	.253

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:57 The parents let their 11-year daughter stay home from school when one parent is ill and the other parent is working so that she can baby-sit her younger sister.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			.829	2	.661	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	.242	.386	.395	1	.530	1.274
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	.434	.486	.796	1	.372	1.543
Gender(1)	.346	.325	1.133	1	.287	1.413
Range(1)	.886	.399	4.944	1	.026	2.427
School			.732	2	.693	
School(1)	-.475	.627	.575	1	.448	.622
School(2)	.153	.515	.088	1	.767	1.165
Dateofbirth			2.795	2	.247	
Dateofbirth(1)	-1.906	1.141	2.790	1	.095	.149
Dateofbirth(2)	-1.807	1.140	2.514	1	.113	.164
Constant	1.509	1.187	1.618	1	.203	4.524

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Q:58 The parents feed their 3-year-old child_meals with little nutritional value out of ignorance. The child is now suffering from malnutrition.

Dependent Variable Encoding

Original Value	Internal Value
Yes, this is child maltreatment	0
No, this is not child maltreatment	1

Variables in the Equation

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1(a)			9.149	2	.010	
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers						
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(1)	-1.240	.414	8.958	1	.003	.289
Af_parents_US_parents_Workers(2)	-.933	.514	3.298	1	.069	.394
Gender(1)	.048	.339	.020	1	.888	1.049
Range(1)	-.316	.429	.542	1	.462	.729
School			2.146	2	.342	
School(1)	-.108	.669	.026	1	.872	.898
School(2)	.725	.510	2.022	1	.155	2.066
Dateofbirth			1.635	2	.442	
Dateofbirth(1)	-1.027	.849	1.466	1	.226	.358
Dateofbirth(2)	-.802	.841	.908	1	.341	.449
Constant	.873	.905	.930	1	.335	2.394

a Variable(s) entered on step 1: Af_parents_US_parents_Workers, Gender, Range, School, Dateofbirth.

Appendix B - Questionnaire

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PARENTAL VIEW OF CHILD DISCIPLINE VERSUS
MALTREATMENT

Please take a moment to complete a few personal details about yourself.

Are you: Male Female

How old are you?

Age: 19-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-over

1. What is your marital status? Single Married Divorced

2. (a) Where were you born? In the United States Outside the United States

(b) If outside the United States, when did you come to live in the United States?

Month _____, Year _____

(c) How old were you at this time? Years old.

3. Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes No

4. How would you describe your culture or ethnicity of origin? .

5. (a) Do you speak a language other than English at home? Yes No

(b) If yes what is this language? _____ .

6. How well do you speak English? Very well Well Not well Not at all

7. What is the highest level of school you have completed?

_____ Grade

_____ High school grade

_____ Some college

_____ College graduate

_____ Others (specify)

8. What is your occupation/profession? .

9. (a) Do you have children? Yes No

(b) If yes, how many children? _____.

10. How many children live with you in your home? _____.

11. What are the ages of these children? (Fill in the number for each child and circle the appropriate days, months, or years).

child 1 _____ days, months or years

child 2 _____ days, months or years

child 3 _____ days, months or years

child 4 _____ days, months or years

child 5 _____ days, months or years

child 6 _____ days, months, years

12. Who spends more time taking care of the children during the day?

Spouse/partner

Relative

Day care

School

Baby sitter

Others (please specify) _____.

13. What is your approximate annual household income?

\$20,000 or less

\$21,000—29,000

\$30,000—39,000

\$40,000—49,000

\$50,000—59,000

\$60,000 and above

On the following pages you will find a series of vignettes. Each one describes a child incident and then lists three questions of responding. Please read each vignette and then consider each response in turn. Think about each response in terms of how appropriate you consider it to be according to your culture and life. Assume that you are a parent like any other parent.

There are no right or wrong answers or ratings on these vignettes. People's cultural background and parenting styles differ, and we are simply interested in what you consider appropriate.

Many incidents have been classified as child abuse or neglect. In order to better understand what parents think, we ask that you tell us three things about the following situations:

- (1) Would you classify it as child maltreatment?

- (2) How harmful is this situation for the child? On a scale of 1 - 5 (1 - not harmful, 5 - most serious)

- (3) Is it the type of situation that should be reported to child protection services or the police?

The following are child incident vignettes. We are asking you to respond according to your own belief. When responding to the questions please assume you're not a mandatory reporter.

- 1. A five-year-old boy was made to study long hours even though he is only in kindergarten. The minute he wakes up, he has to study until afternoon. The boy is now refusing to go to kindergarten.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 2. The parent burned the child on the buttocks and chest with a cigarette. Round scars the size of a cigarette are visible. The child doesn't need medical attention but he is afraid of his parents.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 3. A mother kicked her six-year-old son and used a stick to beat him. The boy has developed anger towards his mother.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 4. After migrating to the United States, parents told their 17-year-old daughter she is not allowed to date and she dare not bring a boyfriend home. According to their culture of origin she must remain a virgin until she gets married. The daughter has attempted to run away twice.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 5. A five-year-old girl is locked up in her room all the time. She never goes out to play with the neighborhood kids. She is now afraid of people, including children her own age.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

6. **A 14-year-old girl was beaten with a belt for intentionally skipping school. The following day, she did go to school.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

7. **When their son does something wrong, the parents usually punish him by spanking him with a leather strap. As a result, this child seems to learn from his mistake and prevent it from happening again.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 8. A 17-year-old son seems to behave sexually inappropriate when his girlfriend is visiting him at home. His parents don't seem to take any action to rectify this behavior. Instead, they give their child more freedom and space to do as he wishes. They even assist him financially to spend money on his girlfriend.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 9. An eight-year-old boy was caned severely by an adult for stealing from a neighbor. The child needed medical treatment for injuries.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 10. On one occasion, a parent fondled their child's genital area. The child now doesn't trust the parent.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 11. On more than three occasions, a mother appeared wearing just her underwear in front of her 16-year-old son. This makes the son feel ashamed and embarrassed.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 12. The parents have intercourse where their child can see them. The child is telling his friends about what he see when mom and dad are in bed together.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

13. On one occasion, a parent and child engaged in mutual masturbation. The child is having extreme sexual behavior that seems inappropriate for his age.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

14. On one occasion, a parent and child engaged in sexual intercourse. The child is experiencing depression and unusual fears.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

15. A parent repeatedly suggested to the child that they have sexual relations. The child is not sure what to do.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 16. The parent chooses and buys clothes for their 11-year-old son. They do this because when the child is given freedom to choose he picks the most expensive clothes. The child is not too happy about this.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 17. A grandmother occasionally touches her 15-year-old granddaughter's genitals to confirm that she is still a virgin. This is part of her grandmother's customs, but the granddaughter doesn't like the practice.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

18. The parents raise their female and male children by teaching female kids certain roles and obligations different from those of the male. No female is allowed to perform male roles or activities.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

19. As part of traditional rituals, parents allowed their 14-year-old daughter to join a group of 14-year-old girls in exposing their breasts in public for three hours. The daughter is proud of herself for accomplishing this. She believes the process was necessary and useful to her.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

20. The parents buy almost everything their 4 year child asks for. The child has too many toys and more clothing than necessary.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

21. The parents make their 8year old child take merchandise to a store that sells it illegally.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

22. Parents often leave their ten-year-old child alone during the day while they each search for a job. The child cries a little when left alone, but then watches T.V. until the parents come home.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

23. On one occasion, parents left their 11-year-old son alone all night. The child was scared and was unable to sleep all night.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

24. An 8-year-old girl is often left alone at home for four hours during the day because her parents work and cannot be home right after school.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

25. The parents are homeless and have been sleeping on the street for two weeks with their five-year-old son.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

26. The parents ignore their child all the time, seldom talking with him or listening to him.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

27. The parents dress their 3-year-old son in girl's clothing and sometimes put makeup on him.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

28. The parents are constantly screaming at their child and threatening physical punishment. The child has developed a sudden decline in self-confidence.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

29. When arguing with her 12-year-old stepdaughter, the parent reminds her that she is a stepdaughter and doesn't belong to the family.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

30. A mother of 3 children gave her 4th child, who is 9months old, up for adoption because the child's biological father is from a different tribe. The child is not accepted with the rest of the family.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

31. On several occasions, a parent became very drunk while alone taking care of a 3-year old child.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

32. The parents always allow their child to stay around when they have friends over to experiment with cocaine.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

33. A single mother named her newborn baby “Evil”. She chose this name because it reminds her of the harsh treatment she received from the child’s father while pregnant.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 34. The parents occasionally give their 1-year-old daughter half a glass of beer as a sleep aid. In the parent's culture, this is a traditional method of helping children sleep. The beer seems to help the child sleep.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 35. The parents always allow their 14-year-old son to drink at least three beers when they have drinking parties or on special occasions like Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year. The child always behaves well even when a little drunk.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 36. As a way of teaching their daughter good behavior, the parents always allow their 11-year-old daughter to open beer bottles, pour it into glasses, and serve it to their visitors at home.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 37. The parents are moderate drinkers, but the mother's brother is an alcoholic who visits their home often drinking constantly in front of their 9-year daughter and 12 year son.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 38. The parents refuse to seek treatment for their 13-year-old son who has epilepsy, because they believe the sickness should be controlled by God's will. The child has never had any treatment and has no insight into his illness.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes .

- 39. The parents waited two days before seeking medical attention for their 2-year-old child's ear infection because they had no health insurance. The government helped them with the insurance but the child now has a permanent damage to her ears.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 40. The parents do not bathe their 1-year-old child regularly. The child currently has developed symptoms of a skin disease.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

41. The parents feed their 3-year-old child meals with little nutritional value out of ignorance. The child is now suffering from malnutrition.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

42. The parents fail to prepare regular meals for their 9-year-old child. The child has learned to fix his own simple meals.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

43. The parents let their 11-year daughter stay home from school when one parent is ill and the other parent is working so that she can baby-sit her younger sister.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

44. The parents always let their child play outside in the winter without a jacket or gloves.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

45. The parents and their 12-year-old stepson are of different color. When they are out meeting people, the parents introduce him as their stepson. He does not want to be identified as a stepchild. He is angry at his parents and is threatening that one day he will physically attack them.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

46. A single mother who has a five-year-old son often brings home different men. The child is asking who his father is. The mother tells him that every man she brings home for the night is his father.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

47. A divorced father who has custody of his 10-year-old child is a homosexual.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

48. A divorced mother who has custody of her child is lesbian and recently got married to another woman. A fifteen-year-old daughter is ashamed and embarrassed with this relationship. Her school grades are now dropping.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 49. A 13-year-old child is paid money by his parents as an incentive to accomplish house chores. This child is now 15 years old and he refuses to do any house chores or other activities as requested by his parents unless he is paid.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 50. A 6-year child has severe mental retardation. The parents refuse any kind of service because they believe that their child is a gift from God and they will take care of their own child.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 51. The parents were concerned about their 10-year-old son's poor attendance and low grades at school. They decided to physically punish him using a wooden stick. They punished him at least four different times. As a result, the child's attendance has improved to 95% and his grades are A's.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

- 52. The parents of 4 children were previously homeless until they inherited a two-bedroom house after their parents died. A 2-year-old boy, a 4-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl, and a 15-year-old girl share one bedroom.**

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

53. Parents are depriving their 12-year son of food for three days as part of his “rite of passage “to manhood. The boy is willing to undergo this process and wants to demonstrate he is strong.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

54. The parents of an eight-year-old girl who suffers from a mild learning disability struggle to help her do well in school, but frequently they become very impatient and occasionally hit her out of frustration. Although the child has never been bruised or injured, she is clearly developing an increasingly negative attitude towards academics and acts out aggressively when frustrated in school.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

55. The parents keep their 9-month-old child in a separate room at night. On two occasions the child had a high temperature and no one was aware until morning.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

56. The parents make their 9-year-old child sell juice, candy, and chocolate as an after school activity. The child is trying to raise money for her mother's surgery. The child's grades are declining.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

57. The parents refuse to try alternative traditional medicines. All other treatment has failed. There is evidence that traditional medicine can help. The child's health condition is declining rapidly.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

58. The parents occasionally withhold their love to a 13 year old child because they believe showing too much love will spoil the child. The child seems to behave appropriately when love is temporarily withheld.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

59. The parents allowed their child to undergo a physically painful procedure as a tradition for transition from childhood to adulthood. The child is proud of himself and the process boosted his self-esteem.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

60. The parents have decided to put their 8-year-old son up for adoption because he is verbally abusive to them. The child wants to stay with his parents.

Do you view this as child maltreatment?

Yes No

How serious do you rate this on a scale of 1-4?

1 being the least and 4 the most serious

1, 2, 3, 4

Would you report this to a child protection agency/authority?

Yes No

Appendix C – Consent Form

Study of Cross-Cultural Definitions of Child Maltreatment

Consent Form

You are invited to be in a research study of cultural differences in perceptions of child maltreatment. You were selected as a possible participant because of: a) your role as mandated reporter of child maltreatment, or b) your national background, or c) simply as an adult who resides in the metropolitan area. Please read this form carefully and ask any questions before agreeing to be in the study.

This study is being conducted by: Oswald Shanalingigwa, doctoral student, at the School of Social Work University of Minnesota with academic advisor, Susan J. Wells, professor at the school of Social Work.

The purpose of this study is to explore cultural value- based differences in defining and perceiving child maltreatment. In this study you will be presented with a series of vignettes. Each one describes child incident as a consequence of parental or caretaker act/behavior and asks for your response. There are no right or wrong answers as well as no right or wrong rating. We are asking your voluntary participation in this study. There are no direct benefits in participating in this study.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to do the following: Read the instructions for filling out the questionnaire, ask for further explanation if you don't understand. Complete the questionnaire by responding, to the best of your knowledge and experience, to the questions. The survey should take about 30 to 40 minutes to complete.

Risks involved in the study are minimal. First, it is possible that stories in the questionnaire may remind you of your own experience of having been maltreated or having knowledge of maltreatment. Second, you may be affected psychologically by reading about the incidents/stories included in the questionnaire. If this is the case please call Ramsey County Mental Health system. **Intake/Information /Referral at 651-266-7890. Mental Health Counseling appointments at 651-266-7999.**

The records of this study will be kept confidential. Participants will not be identified by name or by any other identification on the questionnaire. In any reporting done as a result of the study, no information will be used which makes it possible to identify a participant. Records retained after the study will be stored securely, and only researchers will have access to the records.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researchers, contact the Research Subjects' Advocate Line, D528 Mayo, 420 Delaware St. Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455; 612-625-1650.

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Minnesota or any other institution. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships. You may ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, you may contact Oswald Shanalingigwa at 651-275-8733, e-mail at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Susan Wells at 612-624-4721, e-mail at swell@che.umn.edu.

After you have completed and turned in the questionnaire, you will receive \$10 in appreciation of your time and effort. **You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.**

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

Signature of participant: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Investigator: _____

Date: _____