

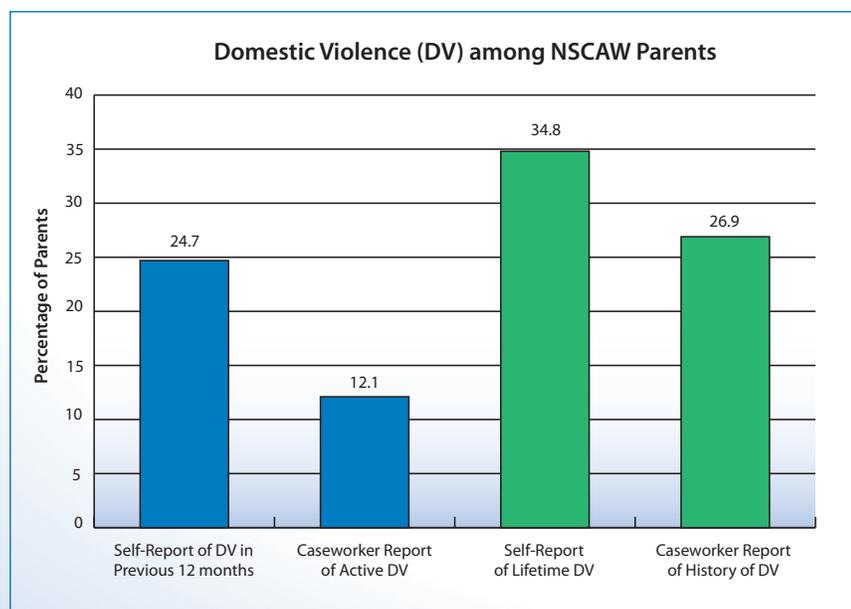
NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

February 13, 2013

Child Well-Being Spotlight

Parents Reported for Maltreatment Experience High Rates of Domestic Violence

The vast majority (86%) of children who have received a report of child abuse or neglect remain in their homes following the investigation.¹ In addition to the maltreatment event that brought them to the attention of the child welfare system, these children may be exposed to domestic violence.² Parents' self-reports from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II (NSCAW II) indicate



that a quarter of parents whose children remained at home following a maltreatment report³ experienced physical domestic violence during the previous 12 months.⁴ Among the same parents, investigative caseworkers identified active domestic violence for about one in ten.⁵ These findings are consistent with prior research indicating that caseworkers may be under-identifying domestic violence.⁶ Such violence likely affects child safety, as well as a parents' ability to effectively care for their children. Caseworkers play an important role as a gateway to services for parents who come into contact with the child welfare system. Identification of domestic violence by caseworkers is crucial to ensure better outcomes in families reported for

maltreatment who are experiencing domestic violence. These data highlight the reality that parents may have a high need for domestic violence services, even in cases where children are not removed from the home after reports of child maltreatment.

For more information on the well-being of children and their caregivers in the child welfare system, visit: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/nscaw/.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2011). *Child Maltreatment 2010*. Available from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can.

² Edleson, J. L. (2001). Studying the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and domestic violence in families. In S. A. Graham-Bermann & J. L. Edleson (Eds.), *Domestic violence in the lives of children: The future of research, intervention, and social policy*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

³ Percentages are from the baseline of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II (NSCAW II). Baseline data collection began in 2008-2009. The study includes 5,775 caregivers of children ranging from birth to 17.5 years old at the time of sampling. The subgroup of 3,158 in-home caregivers that reported domestic violence includes 2,546 biological mothers, 37 adoptive mothers, and 246 other female primary caregivers. The subgroup also includes 271 males; among them 233 were biological fathers.

⁴ Physical intimate-partner violence (IPV) was reported by parents of in-home children using the Conflict Tactics Scale. Domestic violence (DV) in the previous 12 months was defined as acts against the parent that occurred up to 12 months before the interview. Lifetime DV was defined as acts against the parent that occurred at any point of their history of intimate partner relationships.

⁵ During the NSCAW II baseline interview, investigative caseworkers were asked two questions related to domestic violence: (1) "At the time of the investigation, was there active domestic violence?" and (2) "Was there a history of domestic violence against the caregiver?"

⁶ Kohl, P. L., Barth, R. P., Hazen, A. L., & Landsverk, J. A. (2005). Child welfare as a gateway to domestic violence services. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27(11), 1203-1221.

Source: The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II (NSCAW II) is the second nationally representative sample of children reported to child protective services sponsored by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews with caseworkers, children, caregivers, and teachers.

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