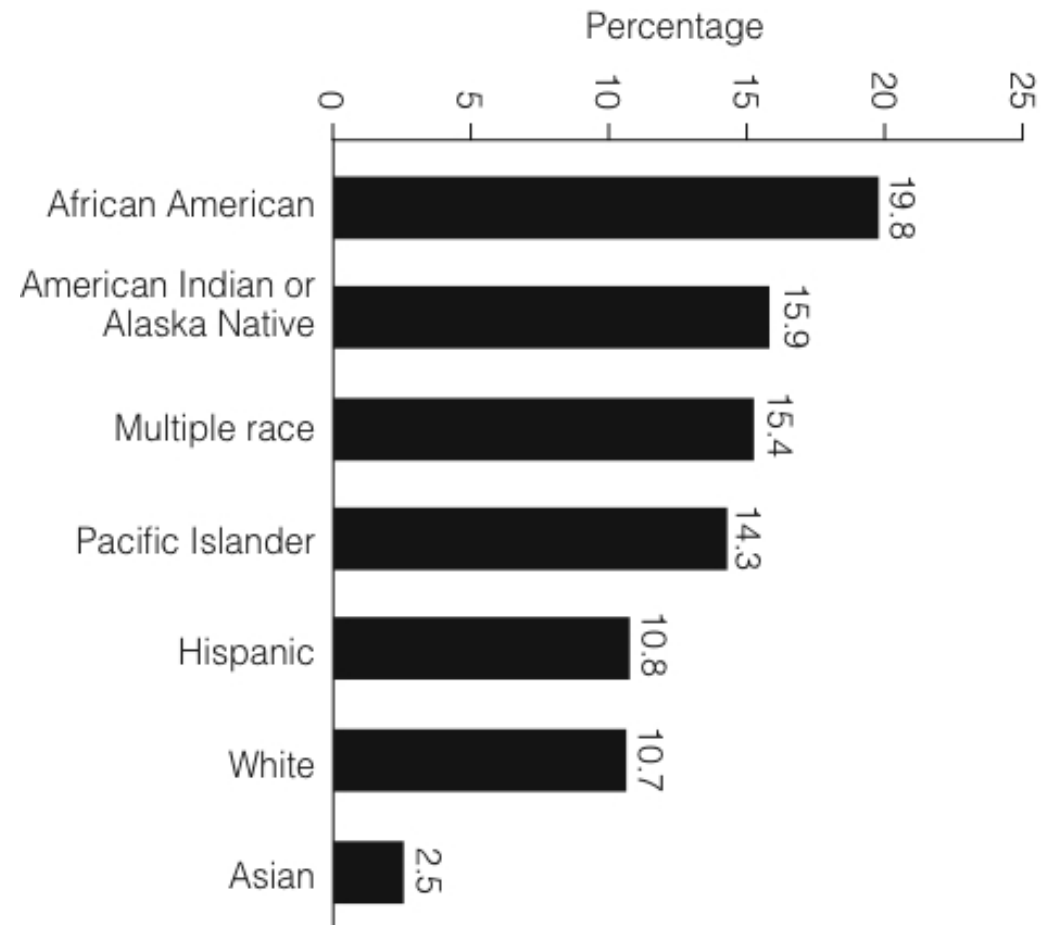


# Chapter 7

## Special Topics in Child Maltreatment

# Diversity Issues

- Culture and ethnicity
  - Microculture
  - Ethnicity
  - Race



# Diversity Issues

- Poverty and diverse groups
- Abuse and neglect often defined differently in groups
- Common cultural practices of some groups may be associated with child maltreatment
  - Unquestioned obedience
  - Some forms of physical punishment
  - Number of meals
  - Interpretation of cleanliness or supervision

# Socioeconomic Status and Child Maltreatment

- Child in poverty 22 times likelihood to suffer abuse
- Assist and understand lower SES families by:
  - Providing information and access to community resources
  - Being sensitive to families and their needs
  - Examining personal biases and beliefs

# Religious Differences

- Religiosity is not a risk factor for child maltreatment
- Some faiths encourage more physical discipline, but not associated with abuse
- Work with families of different religious beliefs
  - When religious beliefs appear to be an important part of a child's life, try to find out more about what they are.
  - Don't assume that just because someone has a certain religious belief, that they are harsh or abusive in their guidance of their children.
  - When religion is given as a reason for harsh treatment of children, encourage the parent to seek out their religious leaders for further advice and counsel.
  - Never tell a parent that their religious belief in spanking, discipline etc. is incorrect.

# Cultural Practices Checklist

- To make a culturally sensitive decision on child maltreatment ask:
  - Has the child been harmed or is there potential for harm?
  - Is the child safe?
  - What practice is in question?
  - Is the practice legal?
  - Does this practice interfere with meeting the child's basic needs? (DePanfilis, 2006)

# Gender Issues

- Girls (50.7%) experience more overall abuse than boys
- More boys (56%) die as a result of child maltreatment than girls
- Girls are 2-3 times more likely to be sexually abused
- More men report experiencing violent behavior from adults as children

# Professionals and Gender

- Examine your attitudes about boys and girls
  - Should boys cry?
  - Is abuse being suspected equally for boys as for girls?
  - Do you encourage boys and girls equally to discuss feelings and attitudes?
  - Do you teach boys how to express emotions and tell if they are being mistreated?
  - Do you teach boys as well as girls about good and bad touches?



# Perpetrators, Gender and Abuse

- More women (57%) than men abuse children
- Men and women use physical violence about equally
- Males are more likely to perpetrate sexual assault
  - 25% of sexual abuse is committed by women
- Males at risk for child maltreatment are less able to take child's perspective when seeing behavior
- Women at high risk show more personal distress

# Ages and Stages

- Younger children more likely to be abused
  - More vulnerable
  - Less able to communicate
- Children affected differently by child maltreatment at different stages of development

# Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development and Child Maltreatment

- Trust vs Mistrust
- Autonomy vs Shame and Doubt
- Initiative vs Guilt
- Industry vs Inferiority

# Children with Special Needs

- Children with disabilities
  - 1.6 times more likely be physically abused
  - 2.2 times more likely to be sexually abused
  - 1.8 times more likely to be neglected
  - More likely to be maltreated by a family member

# Relationships between special needs and child maltreatment

- A disability puts child at increased risk for maltreatment
- Disability may have been caused by maltreatment
- Factors that increase likelihood of having a disability also increase chance of maltreatment
  - Child born to addicted parent
  - Child born in severe poverty

# Resiliency

- The ability of a child to endure adversity, threat or risk and to adapt positively
- Different types of resiliency
  - Academic
  - Social
  - Emotional and other

# Factors that Contribute to Resiliency of a Child

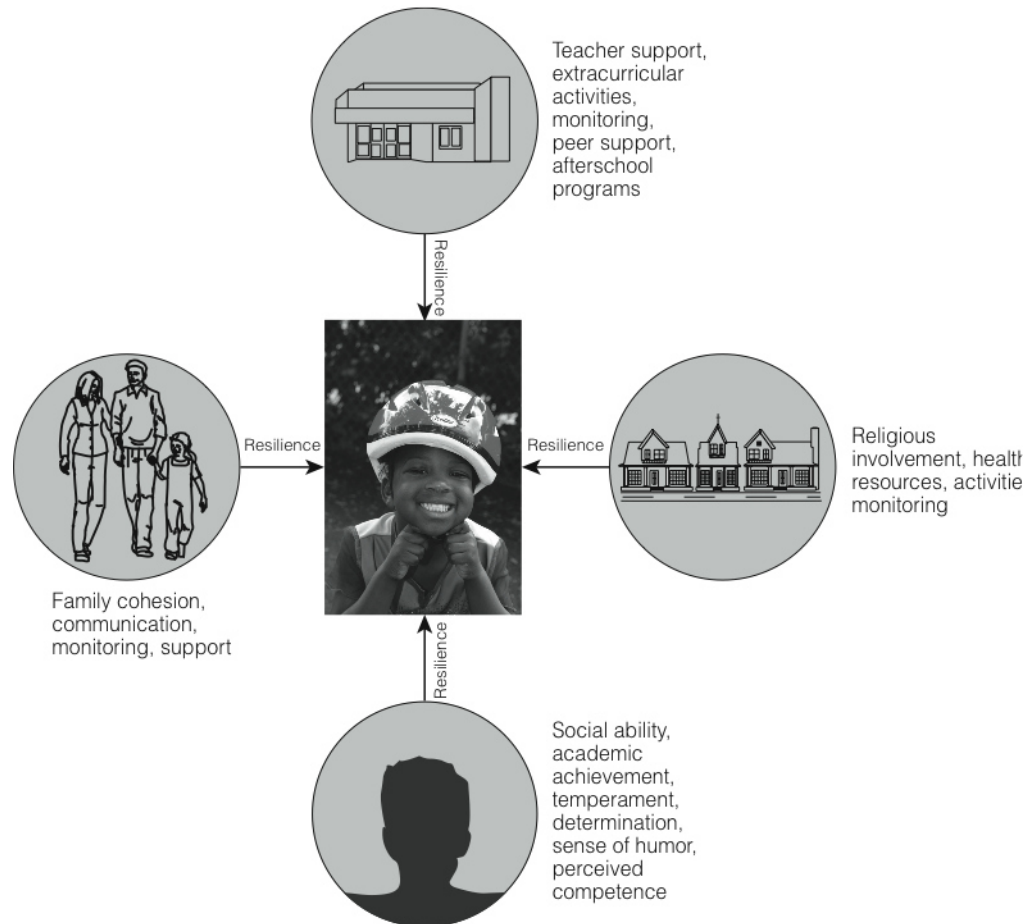


FIGURE 7.2

A child's personal characteristics, family, community, school, and child care all send support to the child.  
From page 137 in book.

# Supports to resiliency

- Extra-curricular activities
- Religiosity
- Nondelinquent peer groups
- Teachers
- Supportive adults such as coaches and mentors
- Community resources
- Lower risk communities
- Hobbies



# Bullying

- Physical
- Verbal
- Relational
- Reactive
- School Mobbing

# Bullying

- Perpetrators
  - Many feel very secure and have high self-esteem
  - Often use physical violence as means to ends
  - Home environments may lack nurturance and support
  - Commit crimes at 4 times rate of nonbullies as they grow
- Victims
  - More compliant and submissive
  - Often experience health problems as result
  - Effects can last into adulthood and interfere with relationships, academics, work
  - May cause them to be more violent

# Cyberbullying

- Flaming
- Harassment
- Denigration
- Impersonation
- Outing
- Trickery
- Exclusion
- Cyberstalking