



CHILDREN AND FAMILY
| RESEARCH | CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Pattern of Chronic Maltreatment: A Latent Growth Curve Analysis

Saijun Zhang Ph.D.

Tamara Fuller Ph.D.

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Chronic Maltreatment

- The issue of child maltreatment recurrence
 - A primary child safety indicator
- Definition of chronic maltreatment
 - Three and more incidents in a row
- Why chronic maltreatment a special concern?
 - Imposes persistent harm to children
 - consumes disproportional child welfare resources
 - challenges current intervention strategies



Prevalence of Chronic Child Maltreatment

- 11% of cases in 3 years follow-up using data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (Fluke et al., 2005)
- 24% of studied families that involved in a statewide large family preservation and support program (Chaffin et al, 2011)
- 42% of studied families in a 4 years follow-up period in Missouri, and 19% studied families in a 27 months follow-up period in a county in Minnesota (Loman, 2006).



Research Base for Chronic Maltreatment

- Recurrence research
 - Majority research focuses on one single recurrence
 - Prevalence of recurrence
 - Pattern of recurrence (recurrence trend over time)
 - Factors predicting recurrence
 - Some studies describe chronic maltreatment
 - A few studies distinguish chronic maltreatment cases from one single recurrence cases (Bae, et. al; 2009)



Research In Chronic Maltreatment (cont.)

- Increasing interest in the trajectory of chronic child maltreatment
 - Identify case trajectories based on maltreatment risk/protective scores over time (Chaffin, et. al, 2011)
 - Identify case trajectories based on recurrence pattern over time: no re-reports, continuous re-reports, intermittent re-reports, and early re-reports (Proctor, et. al, 2012)



Limitation of Previous Research

- Most recurrence studies focus on one single recurrence
- A few studies concerning maltreatment trajectories emphasize on classifying cases
- No study examines the change of maltreatment intensity over time



Research Question

- What is the trajectory of maltreatment frequency among chronic maltreatment cases across multiple sessions?



Methods

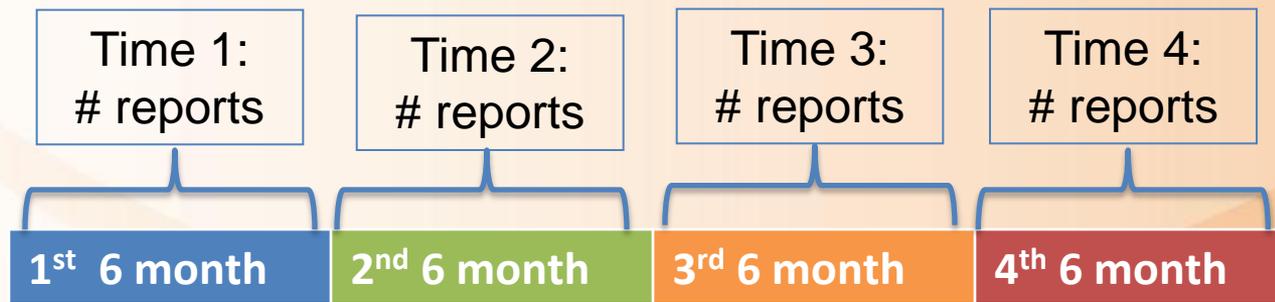
- Data
 - The Illinois Child Abuse and Neglect Tracing System (CANTS), the state administrative dataset that records all child maltreatment reports and subsequent investigation procedures and findings
- Sample (N=2,781)
 - Had at least one maltreatment report in the one year period before the 2 year studied period (July 1st 2009 to June 30th 2011)
 - Had at least two re-reports
 - Had no foster care experience



Methods (cont.)

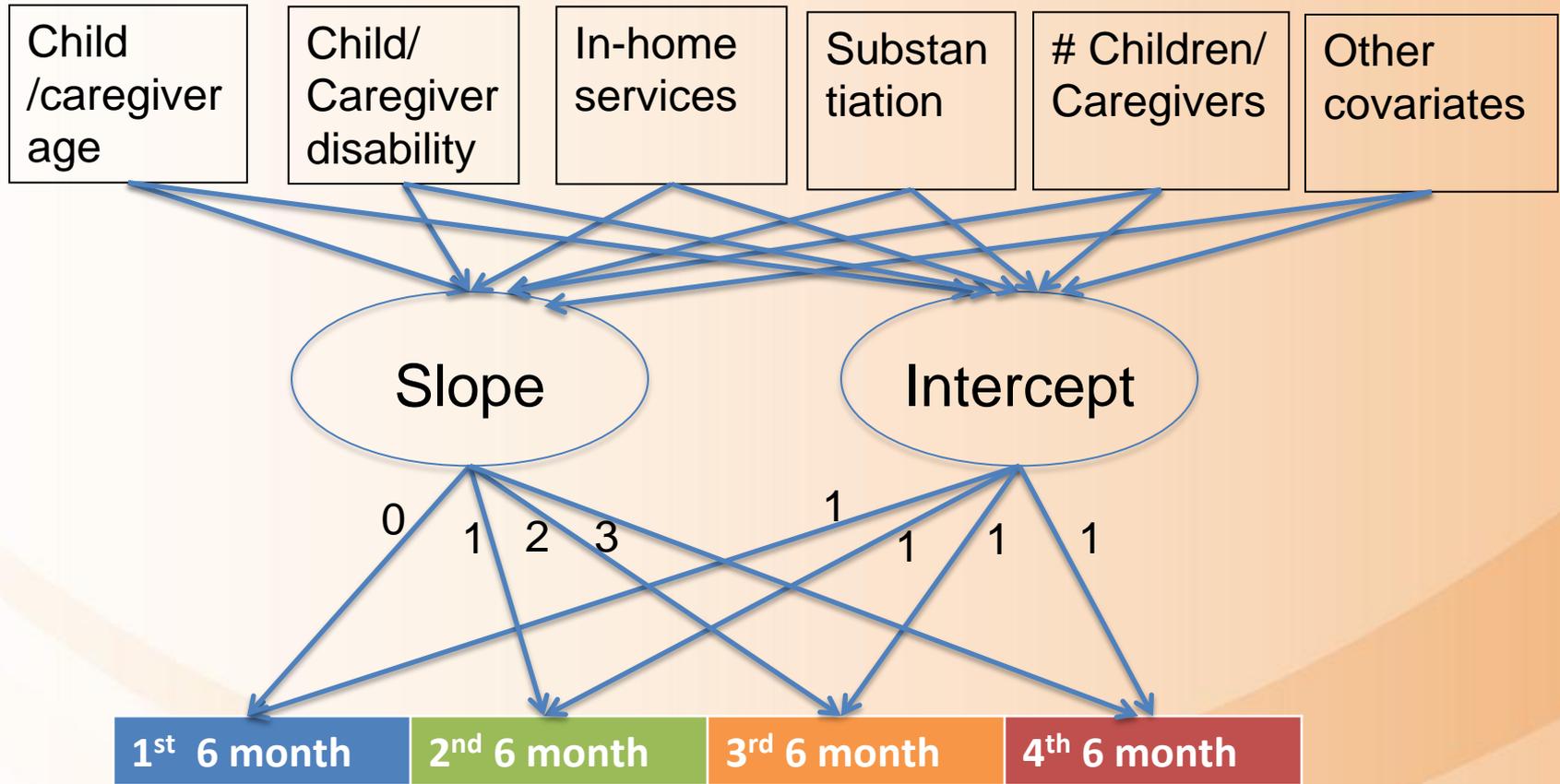
- Measures

- Outcome variable: number of maltreatment reports in four 6-month consecutive sessions (0, 1, 2 and more re-reports)





Model Illustration





Measures (cont.)

- Covariates
 - Child/caregiver age, race, gender, child/caregiver disability, initial maltreatment types, substantiation status, number of children/caregivers at home, and caregivers' relationship with the children



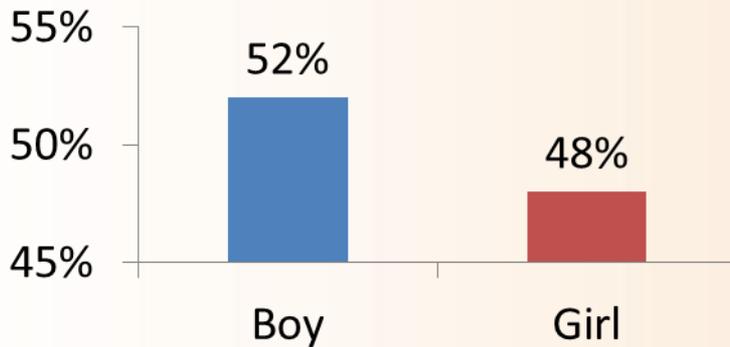
Model Fit

- Model has a good fit
 - Chi-square (df=35, n=2781) =62.48, $p < .01$
 - Comparative fit index=.97
 - RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation) = .02

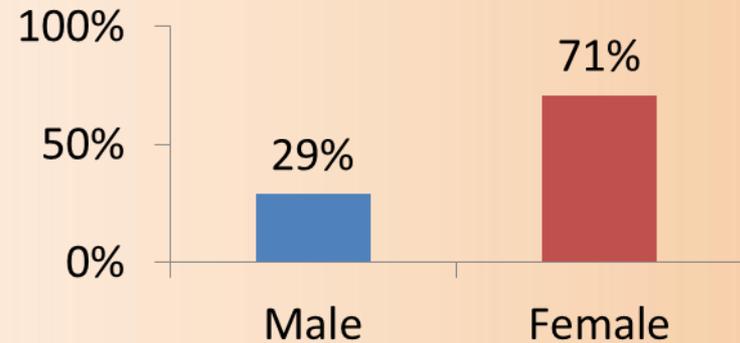


Sample Characteristics

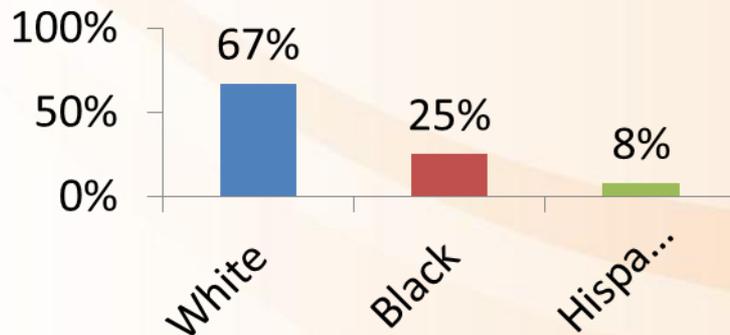
Child gender



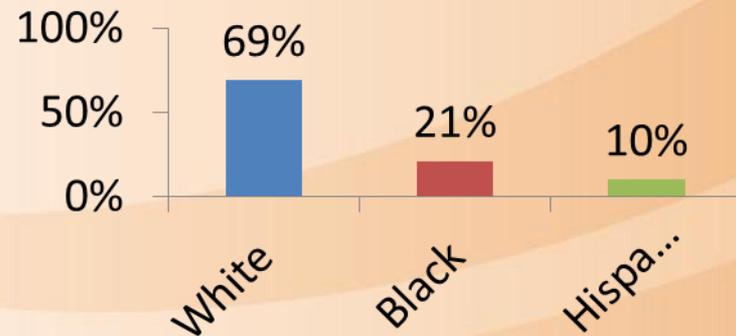
Caregiver gender



Child race



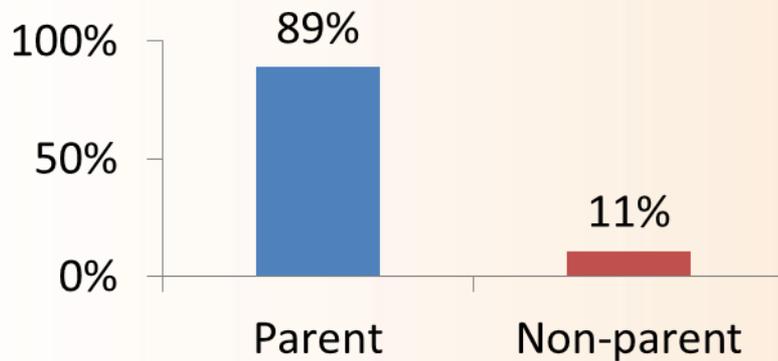
Caregiver race



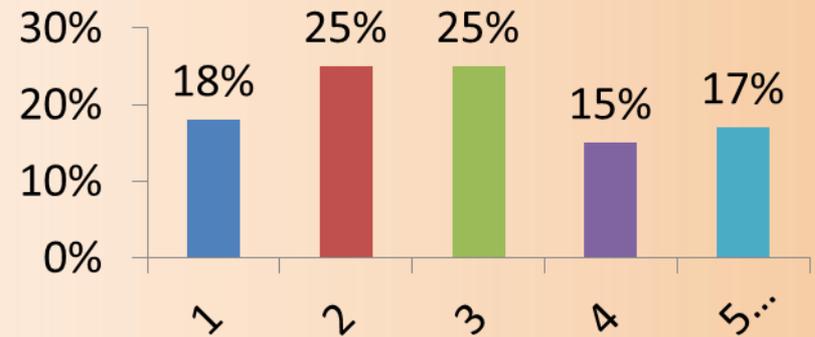


Sample Characteristics

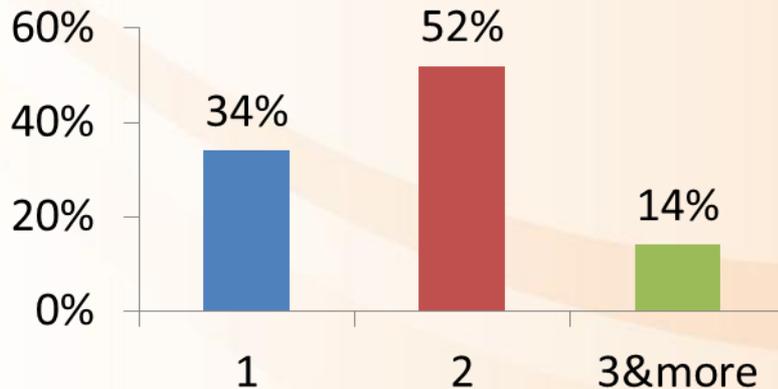
Parent-child relation



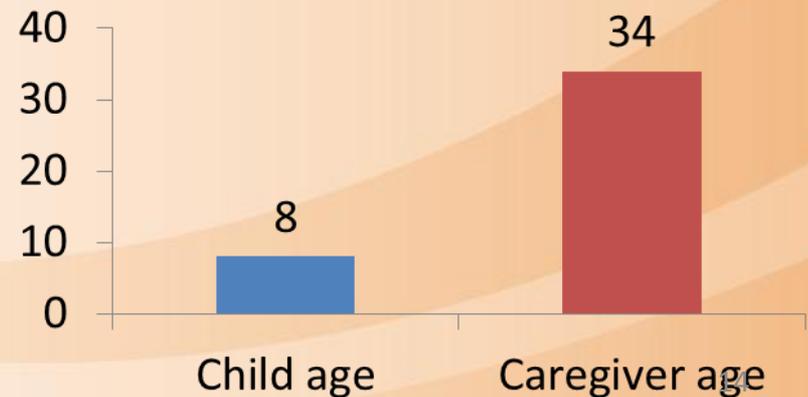
of children at home



of caregivers at home



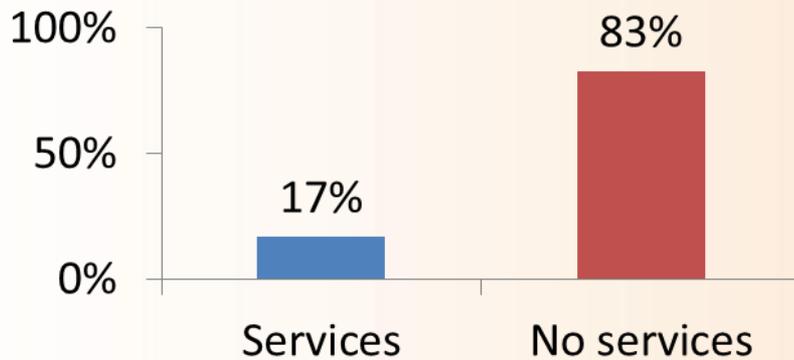
Age



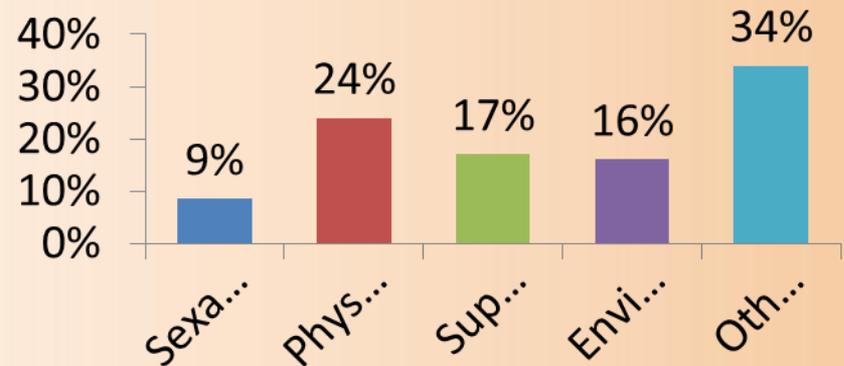


Sample Characteristics (cont.)

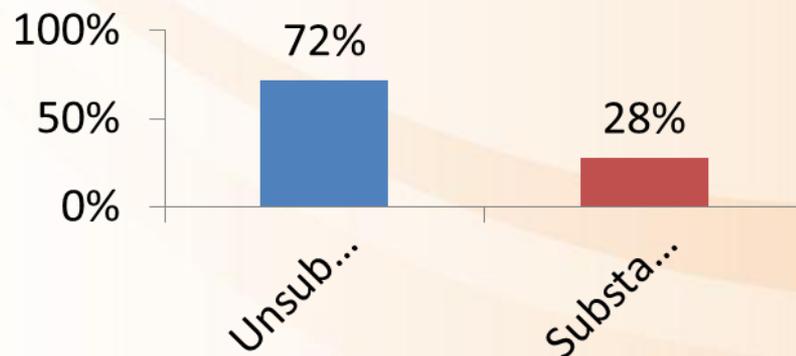
Family in-home services



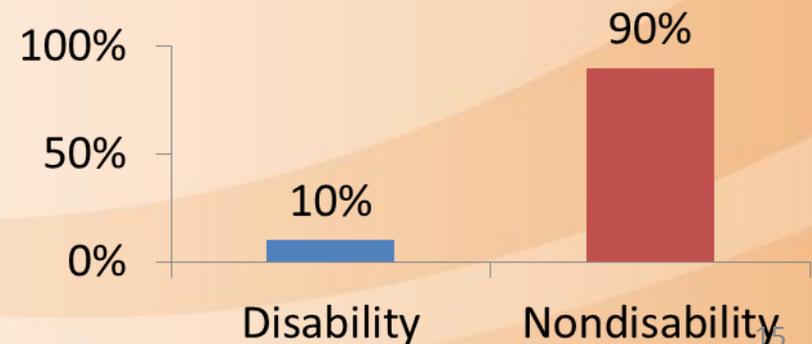
Maltreatment type



Substantiation Status



Child disability





Sample Characteristics (cont.)

Frequency of re-reports over the four sessions

# of reports	1 st 6 months (%)	2 nd 6 months (%)	3 rd 6 months (%)	4 th 6 months (%)
0	46	49	57	62
1	23	24	20	17
2 & more	31	27	23	21



Results

- Mean growth trajectory for maltreatment frequency is $-.43$, indicating decrease in intensity over the four observational sessions



Results (cont.)

- Factors predicting the slope (change magnitude)

Covariates	Slope (b)
Child age	.013**
Caregiver age	.005*
Child disability	-.16**
In-home services	.28***
substantiated	-.09**
Environmental neglect (vs. Other)	-.017**



Discussions

- Advance knowledge of chronic maltreatment in terms of the change of maltreatment intensity over time
- Reveal factors predictive of such a trajectory
- Provide implications for service programs concerning chronic maltreatment



Limitations

- No specific maltreatment intensity measures, and a proxy (number of maltreatment reports in a observation session) has to be used
- Lack family social economic information



Thank you!



Contact Information

For questions, please contact Saijun Zhang at
szhang11@illinois.edu