Determining Child Abuse Potential with the Child Guidance Interview Subscales

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Sabyrkulova, Sabina; Talbert, Jasmine; Dahle, Sarah; Williams, Anna; and Flamand, Kenneth, "Determining Child Abuse Potential with the Child Guidance Interview Subscales" (2016). *University of Montana Conference on Undergraduate Research (UMCUR)*. 5.  
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Determining Child Abuse Potential with the Child Guidance Interview Subscales
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Introduction
- Skinner et al. (2005) have identified categories of adaptive and maladaptive parental behaviors which were used to develop the The Child Guidance Interview (CGI).
- The CGI (Infant/Preschool Form) measures parental behaviors that may be predictive of parents’ abuse status.
- The frequencies of adaptive and maladaptive subcategory codes and demographic information were examined to determine whether they also predict likely types of abuse.

Materials and Methods
- 149 parents were interviewed about how they would respond to a preschooler’s grocery store tantrum and responses were recorded, then transcribed. Follow-up questions were posed regarding options if first and second responses failed.
- Current and previous members of a research team coded transcripts for adaptive (warmth, structure, autonomy support) and maladaptive (rejection, chaos, coercion) categories along with selected sub-categories.
- Totals for each code type were calculated along with total word counts for each transcript. Code type frequencies were adjusted to control for transcript word counts, as parents’ verbosity varied.
- Likelihood of child abuse subtypes and parents’ own abuse histories, as well as other demographic data were identified from archived psychological evaluations using several coding systems.
- Correlations were calculated between likelihood of each abuse subtype, CGI responses, and demographics. T-tests also were used to compare abuse/no abuse status for CGI responses and demographics.

Results
- Pearson’s r and t scores were calculated. While some CGI variables were related to child abuse or neglect status, correlations and mean differences were modest, suggesting that they were inadequate to predict abuse/neglect. Some CGI variables showed results reverse of what we would expect, e.g., “Warmth” statements predicted physical abuse; “Coercion” and “Rejection” predicted absence of abuse; “Role Reversal” predicted absence of neglect. Conversely, “Adaptive Guidance,” “Structure” “Meta-Parenting” statements predicted absence of abuse. These results show that the CGI has potential to predict child abuse but may need more analyses.

Correlation Results for CGI Variables*

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Correlation Results for Demographic Variables*

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References

Acknowledgments
Researchers in this project would like to thank Dr. Paul Silverman for his guidance, knowledge, facilities, and archival data.