

Child Maltreatment: New Frontiers in Research & Practice

A Multilevel perspective on the consequences of Child Maltreatment

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Child maltreatment has been conceptualized as a pathogenic relational experience that represents one of the most adverse and stressful challenges that confront children. Child maltreatment constitutes a severe, if not the most severe, environmental hazard to children's healthy development. Child Maltreatment progressively contributes to compromised adaptation on a variety of stage-salient developmental tasks central to successful adjustment.

These developmental failures pose significant risk for the emergence of psychopathology across the life course. In addition, to the psychological consequences of maltreatment, a growing body of research has documented the deleterious effects of child abuse and neglect on biological processes.

Multilevel investigations have been conducted recently that incorporate genetic, neural, physiological, and psychological domains in relation to maladaptation and resilient functioning. These multilevel studies are reviewed and intervention implications are discussed.