**Chapter 1**

### **HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT**

### **Multiple-Choice Questions**

1. In a review of several self-report studies from high income countries, Gilbert, Widom, and Browne estimate that actual child maltreatment rates are \_\_\_\_\_\_ times higher than reported in official statistics.

a. 3

\*b b. 10

c. 100

d. 1,000

2. Research in child victimization shows that children are most likely to be assaulted

a. in school.

b. in day care.

c. on the street.

\*d d. at home.

3. Research on the locations of violence shows that children are

a. usually safest from violence in their own homes.

\*b b. often at greater risk for violence at home than on the street.

c. most frequently assaulted in subways and in other public transportation.

d. more at risk on streets in urban areas than in their homes.

4. The recognition of child maltreatment as a social problem can be

attributed to each of the following EXCEPT

a. the liberation of women.

b. claims-making.

\*c c. an increase in the rate of child maltreatment.

d. the founding of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

5. Claims-makers

a. have reached a consensus about the definition of family violence.

\*b b. shape society's conception of what a social problem is.

c. have forced family violence researchers to employ their (i.e.,

claims-makers') definitions.

d. usually negotiate their definitional preferences with small groups

like judges.

6. Many trace the discovery of child abuse to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the early 1800s.

\*a a. the Mary Ellen Wilson case

b. the Puritan Reformers

c. the House of Refuge Movement

d. the C. Henry Kempe Foundation

7. When Etta Wheeler discovered that 8-year-old Mary Ellen Wilson was

being beaten and starved she sought help from which of the following organizations?

\*a a. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

b. Department of Children and Family Services

c. Puritan Reformers of America

d.Child Protective Services

8. Sexual interaction between children and adults was/is condoned by

a. ancient Greeks.

b. Aristotle.

c. the Sambia of Papua New Guinea.

\*d d. all of the above

9. Wars tend to produce \_\_\_\_\_ ratios and infanticide tends to produce \_\_\_\_\_\_ ratios.

a. high boy to girl; high boy to girl

b. high boy to girl; low boy to girl

\*c c. low boy to girl; high boy to girl

d.low boy to girl; low boy to girl

10. One reason why children are over represented in victimization data:

a. Children are physically dependent on adults.

b. Societal norms of family privacy prevail.

c. Children cannot retaliate when victimized.

\*d d. All of the above

11. Child maltreatment was \_\_\_\_\_ before it was considered as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. disguised; a social condition

\*b b. a social condition; a social problem

c. a social problem; a social condition

d. not pervasive; a social condition

12. Dr. Henry Kempe’s work was most important because he

a. discovered child abuse.

b. defined child abuse.

\*c c. identified child abuse as a widespread problem.

d. identified victimization rates for abused children.

13. The research community began to notice child maltreatment in

a. the 1980’s.

\*b b. the 1960’s.

c. the early 1900s.

d. the late 1800s.

14. Social constructionist sociologists like Spector and Kitsuse (1977) have pointed out that

a. society defines a social condition as a social problem as soon as

many people want to know more about it.

\*b b. social reactions are central to defining social conditions as social

problems.

c. claims-makers tend to provide helpful and accurate facts about social

problems.

d. when enough different groups in society determine "facts"

separately, they combine these facts into knowledge.

15. Which of the following is NOT central to the social constructionist

perspective on social problems?

\*a a. A social problem is a condition that causes harm.

b. Social problems are discovered through societal reactions and

social definitions.

c. Social problems come and go as societal reactions change.

d. A social problems is any condition successfully defined as such by

claims-makers.

16. Child sexual abuse laws tend to focus on \_\_\_\_\_\_ and laws on physical

abuse, child neglect, and psychological abuse focus on \_\_\_\_\_\_.

\*a a. perpetrator actions; injury outcomes

b. injury outcomes; perpetrator actions

c. perpetrator actions; injury motives

d. injury motives; injury outcomes

17. Instrumental violence is

a. an end in itself.

\*b b. used as a means to an end.

c. hurting someone out of anger.

d. culturally condemned.

18. Adult-child sexual interactions

a. only came to light in the 1980s.

\*b b. are promoted by the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA)

for the sexual "liberation" of children.

c. are illegal in every state, but not illegal according to federal law.

d. are not acceptable in any culture currently.

19. Definitions of family violence

a. has proved to be a simple matter.

b. has finally reached a consensus among researchers.

\*c c. are socially constructed.

d. should be the province of victims.

20. What percentage of Americans agree that it is acceptable to use corporal punishment (spanking) as a way to discipline their children?

a. 25%

b. 50%

\*c c. 75%

d. 100%

21. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ violence is an act that is culturally condoned, for example, slapping the hand of a 3-year-old, whereas, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ violence is condemned, for example, punching the face of a 3-year-old.

a. Illegitimate; legitimate

\*b b. Legitimate; illegitimate

c. Expressive; instrumental

d. Instrumental; expressive

22. All of the following professionals are required to report child abuse and maltreatment EXCEPT:

a. doctors

b. nurses

\*c c. lawyers

d. teachers

23. The activities of individuals or groups making assertions of grievances or claims with respect to some putative condition refers to?

\*a a. the process of claims-making.

b. societal consensus about grievances.

c. the attention given to feminist policy errors.

d. opposing claims made by liberal vs. conservatives

24. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of the social constructionist agenda?

a. It provides a theoretical framework for understanding child

maltreatment.

\*b b. It helps us understand the true definition of child maltreatment

c. It illustrates the importance of advocacy in ongoing debates about

child maltreatment.

d. It helps to explain cross-cultural variations in definitions of child

maltreatment.

25. A probable contributor to child abuse in the past was?

a. the need for children in urban communities.

b. parental disregard for disciplining children.

\*c c. the belief that children were small replicas of adults.

d. the government’s belief in the doctrine of parens patriae.

26. In 1874 a court case involving child abuse was prosecuted under the law entitled?

a. Prevention of Cruelty by Stepmothers.

b. Prevention of Sexual Servitude.

\*c c. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

d. Prevention of Unseemly Public Behavior

27. The full recognition of child abuse as a social problem occurred when?

a. congress passed legislation outlawing child abuse.

\*b b. doctors described the battered child syndrome.

c. the women’s movement set up shelters.

d. the U.N. condemned child abuse globally.

28. All of the following are general categories of programs to prevent/intervene child abuse EXCEPT?

a. School-based programs.

b. Community awareness campaigns.

\*c c. Volunteer baby-sitting exchanges.

d. Family support and training.

29. The primary problem related to mandatory reporting laws for professionals is the?

a. failure of legislatures to clarify and publish such laws.

b. outspoken criticism of the laws by feminist advocates.

\*c c. ethical dilemmas stemming from violating client confidentiality.

d. attitudes professionals hold about being “above the law.”

30. Options for responding to child abuse do NOT include?

a. placement in foster care.

\*b b. employer-sponsored day care.

c. family preservation efforts.

d. adoption into a suitable home.

**Essay Questions**

1. From a social constructionist perspective, how does a phenomenon like

child maltreatment come to be seen as a social problem?

2. Describe the four types of parent-child violence discussed in the book and give examples of each (Gelles & Straus, 1979).

3. What is child maltreatment? Why is this such a difficult question to

answer?

4. Briefly discuss the various types of prevention programs that are available to help stop child maltreatment before it starts.

5. Discuss the intervention strategies that have been utilized to help those that have been victims of child maltreatment and their families.

6. After hearing about a particularly disturbing child maltreatment case

on the television show 60 Minutes, your roommate observes that children are more likely to be abused today than at any time in history. Being well aware of the history of indifference and abuse of children, you know that one could easily argue the opposite (i.e., that children are more protected today than at any time in history). Explain the issues to your roommate

**Fill in the Blanks**

l. The first child abuse case was prosecuted under\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ laws

2. Examination of the current sex ratios in countries like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leads to the conclusion that female infanticide (or sex-selective abortions) still occurs today.

3. The case of Mary Ellen Wilson led to the founding of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1874.

4. In 1962 Dr. C. Henry Kempe along with his colleagues described the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ syndrome which identified child abuse as a widespread problem.

5. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ holds that the state has the

right and responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an act carried out with the intention of or an act

perceived as having the intention of physically hurting another person.

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ violence is hitting someone out of anger and has no

utilitarian value.

8. Spanking a child in hopes of changing subsequent behavior is an example

of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. The term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to efforts designed to prevent child maltreatment from occurring in the first place.

10. The term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to practice and policy responses after child maltreatment has occurred.

*Answers to Fill in the Blanks*

1. cruelty to animals

2. India; China

3. the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children

4. Battered Child

5. parens patriae

6. violence

7. expressive

8. instrumental

9. primary prevention

10. intervention