

ABSTRACT

A BACKGROUND STUDY OF THE FACTORS THAT PREDICT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN HIGH-RISK INFANTS

This study attempted to identify risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect in intrauterine drug-exposed children. These factors may be helpful in assisting future researchers design a tool for clinicians to use in identification of children at high risk for child maltreatment. The study used secondary data collection and analysis to examine prenatal and perinatal characteristics of 724 mother-infant dyads. The results of this study indicated that a history of CPS involvement with a sibling puts a newborn child at 2.6 times relative risk for future child maltreatment. A large amount of missing data impeded statistically significant results for many of the other seven variables. Future research can build on these results to design a clinical tool to assist in predicting the likelihood of future child abuse and neglect for a high-risk newborn.

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