

CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY AND COMMUNITY INFLUENCES: SAVING CHILDREN FROM CHRONIC HARMS

Public Service Announcement About Healthy Child Development



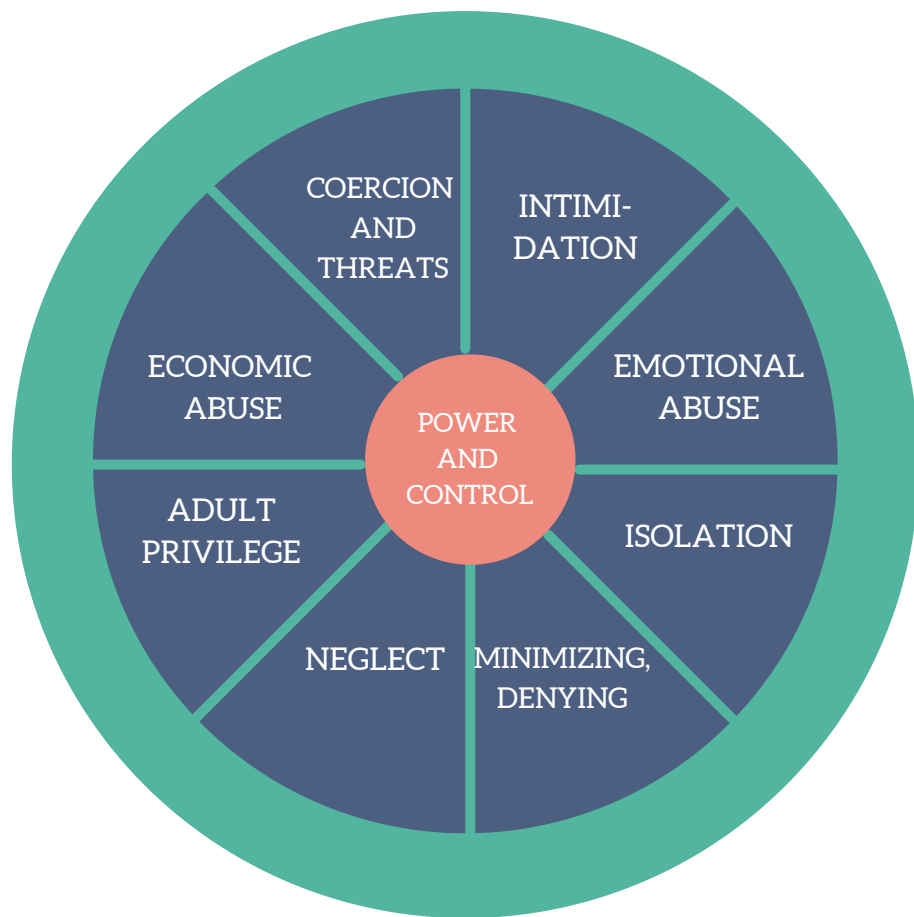
To those who endeavor in social welfare and child development in the U.S.

CHILDHOOD MALTREATMENT AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

- The striking reality of U.S. children's lives
 - There are **6.6 MILLION** reported cases of child abuses every year.
 - The U.S. loses **5 CHILDREN PER DAY** due to family maltreatment.
 - **NEGLECT** has been the most prevalent abuse.
 - Children **LESS THAN 1 YEAR OLD** are most likely to be abused.

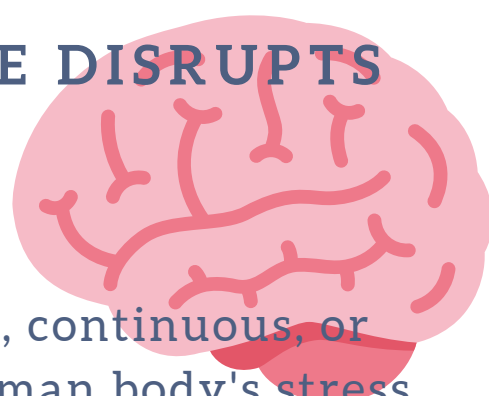


- Major aspects of domestic abuse---The wheel of abuse

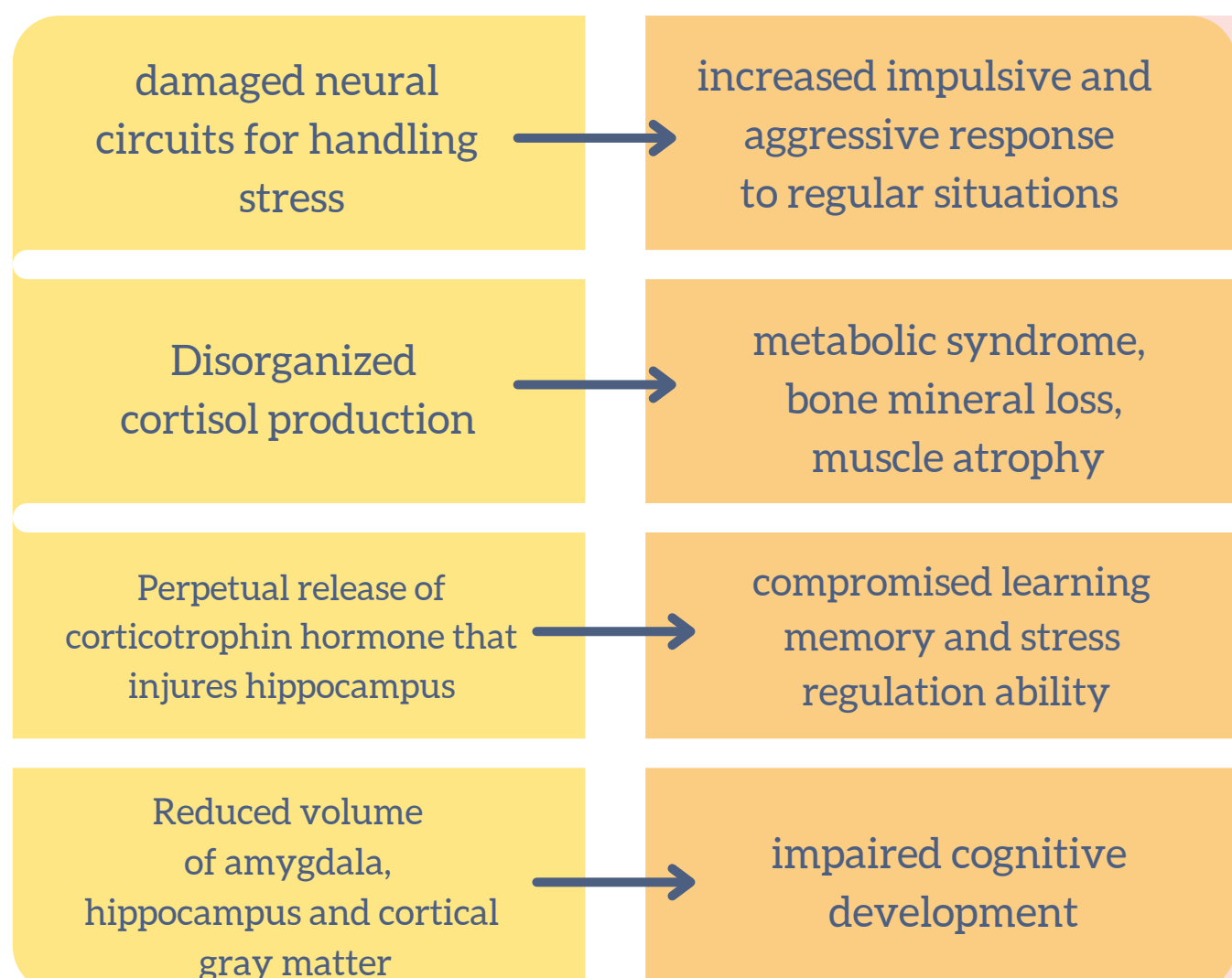


The multiple forms of abuses inflict toxic stress response within young children, whose developing brains are particularly vulnerable to the mounted stresses and the adverse effects they cause.

TOXIC STRESS RESPONSE DISRUPTS BRAIN DEVELOPMENT



- What is toxic stress?
 - **Toxic stress** is the fortified, continuous, or prolonged activation of human body's stress response system
- What happens to children's brain with chronic toxic stress?



CULTIVATING RESILIENCE AND FINDING "BUFFER" IN THE COMMUNITY



- Can abuse be prevented?
 - Yes, abuses can be prevented! Despite the shocking statistics of child fatality of domestic maltreatment, the imposed threats that cause child abuse in the household are usually interrelated and resolvable; triggers of family predicament include poverty, psychological illness, substance abuses, etc. All these afflictions are in the hope to be alleviated with the collective work conducted in an attentive community that contains accessible resources for children development.

- A caring community as an effective buffer to child abuse is expected to provide:

- **Economic assistance to families in need.** (e.g. unemployment compensation)
- **Health care.** (e.g. child nutrition programs)
- **Social support.** (e.g. the child welfare services)



- If abuse happens, what resources are available for buffering negative effects?

Based on the announcement of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010, social agencies and practitioners put endeavors to launch effective therapeutic intervention or treatment programs including:

- **Family preservation.** The abused child stays at home with a designated professional protective agency supervising the household, educating both the child and the parent with proper knowledge of child development.
- **Family therapy.** Family therapies help problematic households to better address the problems and to decode hidden conflicts behind daily interaction patterns.
- **Foster care.** For those families that are unable to unite often, children are placed in other homes until the original families are qualified for adequate child care.
- **Parent support groups.** Parent support groups such as Parents Anonymous teach child abusers to cope with negative emotions, form social and emotional bonds between parents, and help them to develop solutions to their difficulties.

- Advocate for child protection!!!

- Visit Child Welfare Information Gateway and Understanding Child Maltreatment for further information in child advocacy.

