

A systematic review of parenting interventions to prevent child abuse



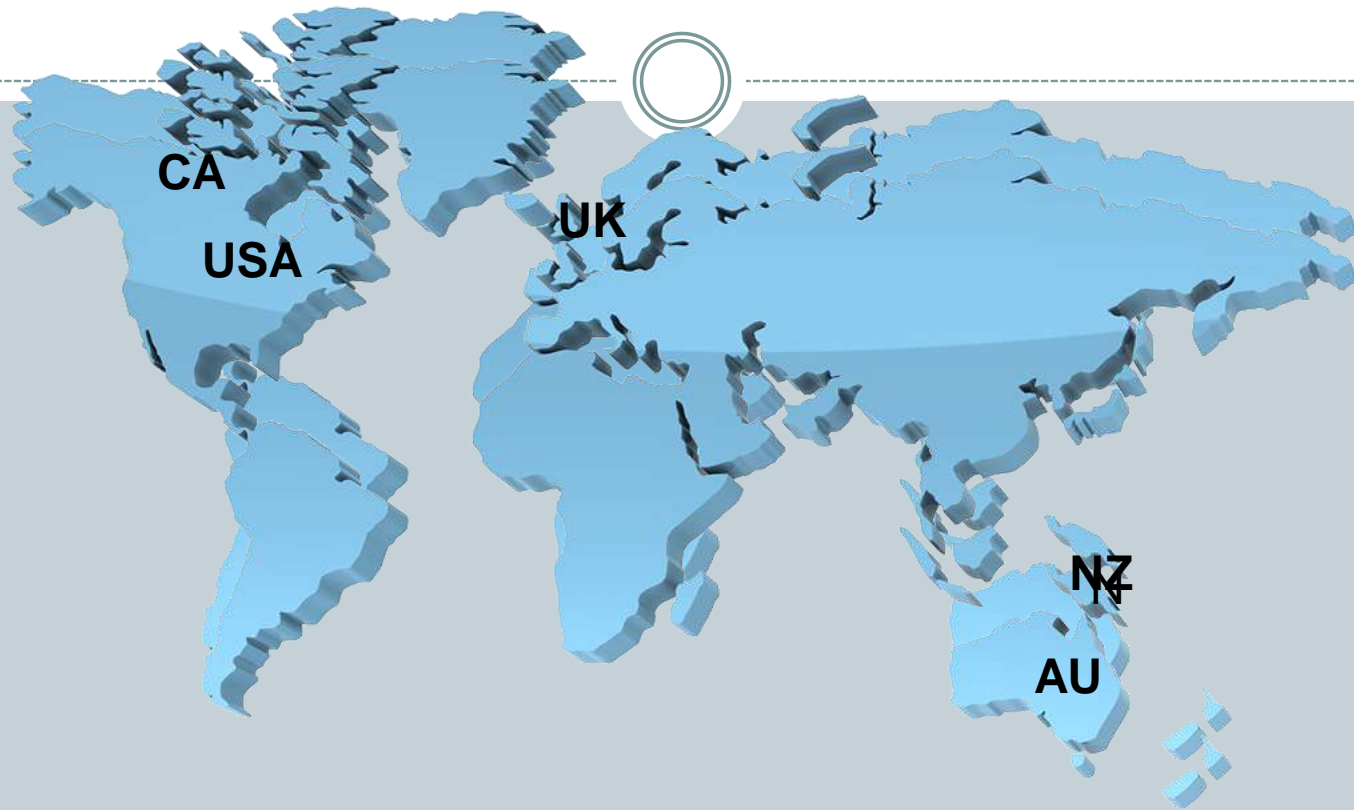
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Very High Income Countries Sponsoring Research on Parenting Interventions



Selected 22 Evaluation Studies

Criteria for inclusion:



- Interventions directed at parenting
- Random Controlled Trial (RCT)
- Outcomes reflecting child abuse
- Published sources

Sample programs



- Healthy Start
- Nurse Family Partnership (Nurse visiting)
- Triple P
- Incredible years
- Infant Parent Psychotherapy
- Supporting Fathers Prevention

Program Features



Program Feature

Number of Programs

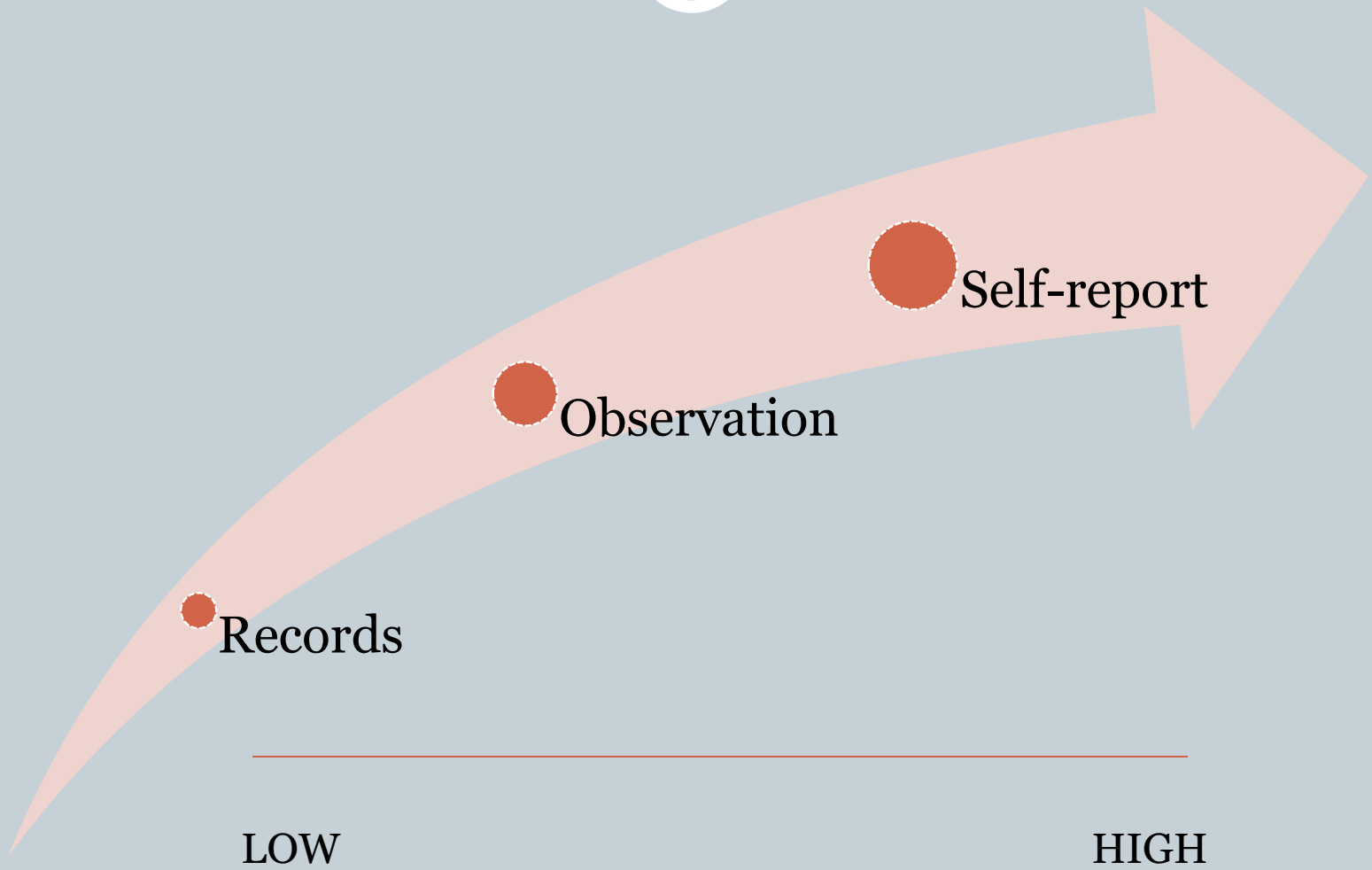
Home visiting only	11
Mothers exclusively	12
Fathers exclusively	1
Duration 8 weeks or less	7

Sample Outcomes



- Observations
- Parent-self report
 - harsh parenting
 - child abuse potential
 - parenting stress
- Official child abuse reports

Potential for bias in measuring outcomes



Percent of studies addressing other sources of bias



Sequence Generation	50%
Allocation Concealment	17%
Assessor Blind	40%
Attrition	50%
< 25%	

What programs stand out as effective?



Study and Year	Intervention	Outcome	Findings & Effect size
Cicchetti et al (2006)	Infant-Parent Attachment	Attachment classification	Disorganized attachment declined by half Large
Chaffin et al (2004)	Parent Child interaction treatment	Child abuse reports	Receipt of PCIT cut # of reports Large
Olds et al (1997)	Nurse family partnership	Child abuse reports	Lower for treatment group Moderate
Linares (2006)	Incredible Years	Self-reports	Positive differences Small
Prinz et al (2009)	Triple -P	Child abuse reports	Lower for families in Triple P Large
Dawe (2007)	PUP	Observational, self-report	Improved scores on PUP parents v. controls Small
Bugental & Schwartz	Enriched Healthy Families	Observational, self-report	Lower abuse scores for those in Enriched vs. Standard Health Families

Surprisingly weak findings



- **Healthy Start**
 - ✦ Dumont, Duggan, MacMillan
- **Early Start Home Visiting**
 - ✦ Fergusson
- **Father-only interventions**
 - ✦ Cowan
- **Multi-systemic therapy**
 - ✦ Henggeler

Conclusions



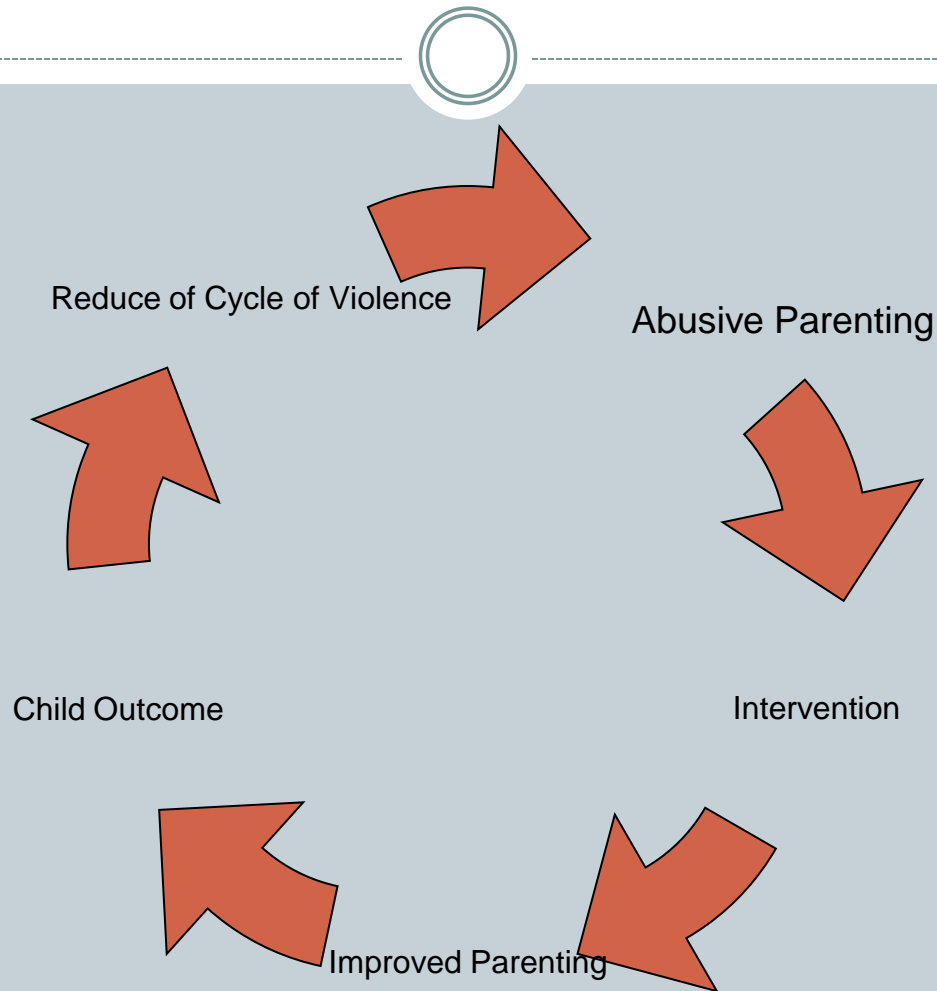
- Weak effects for popular programs
 - But **Enhancing** programs may improve effectiveness
- Clinic-based programs hard to replicate globally
- Cost-effectiveness rarely addressed

What is needed



- Innovation
- Cultural competence
- Prudence

Linking Intervention - to Parenting – to Child aggression



Should interventions be gender-based?



- Should interventions address gender bias against women and mothers directly?
- Should attitudes toward male and female children be addressed?
- Are gender stereotypes of parents modifiable?

Rapid changes in parenting expectations across regions and cultures

