



Preventing ACEs Finding our gems and polishing them

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ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse

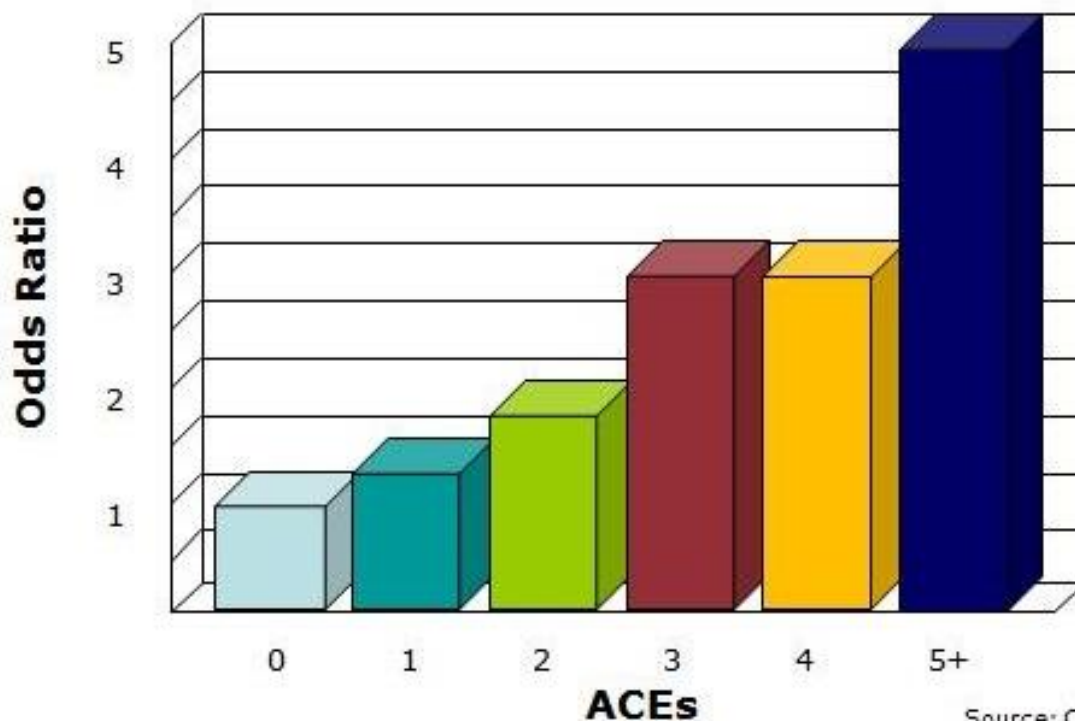


Divorce

Felitti et al



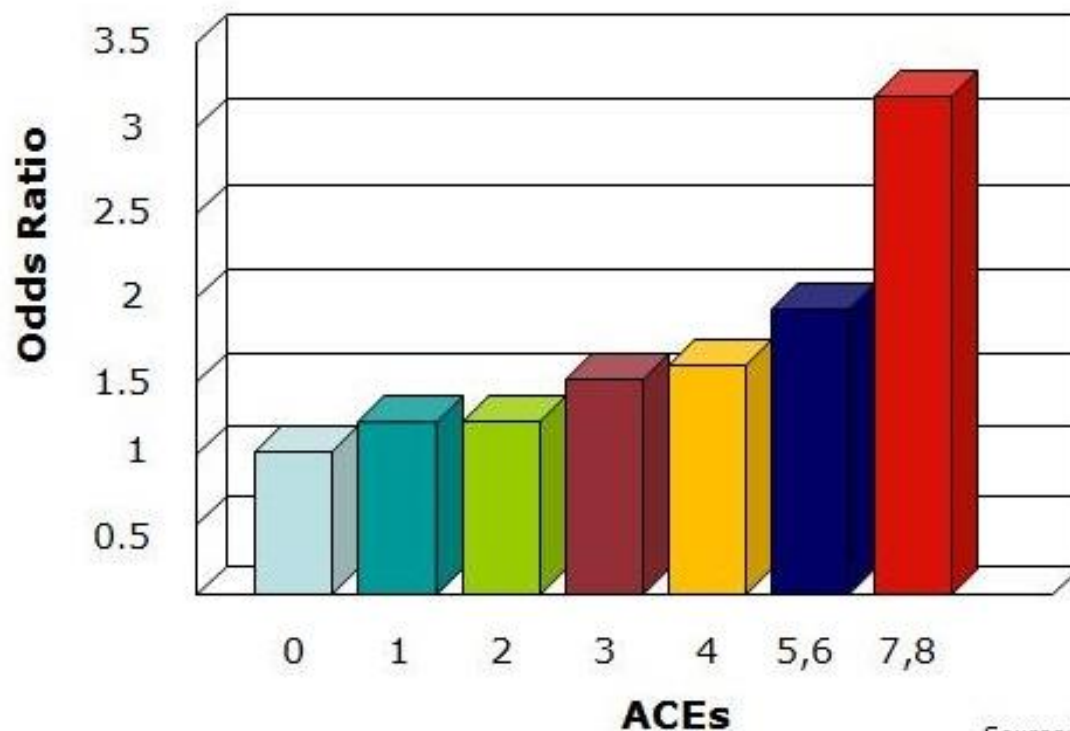
Risk Factors for Adult Depression are Embedded in Adverse Childhood Experiences



Source: Chapman et al, 2004



Risk Factors for Adult Heart Disease are Embedded in Adverse Childhood Experiences



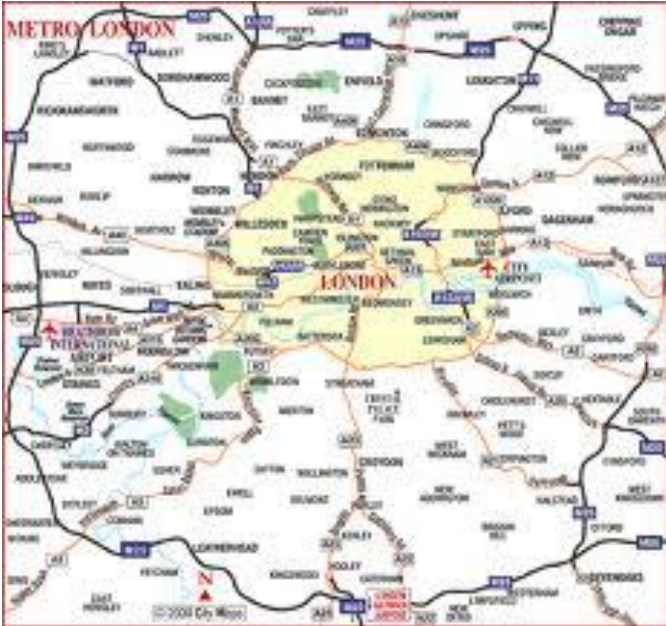


The ACES load...

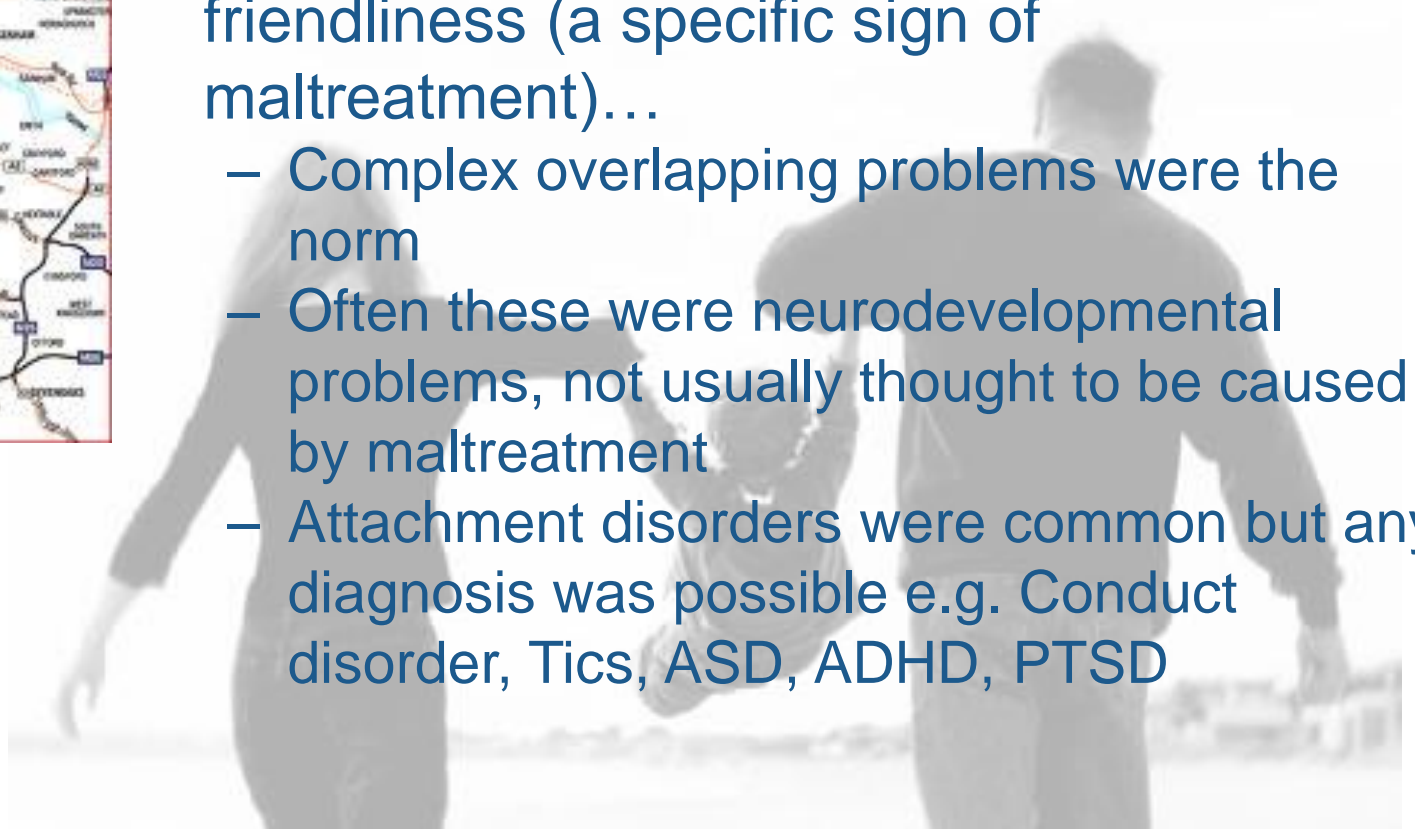


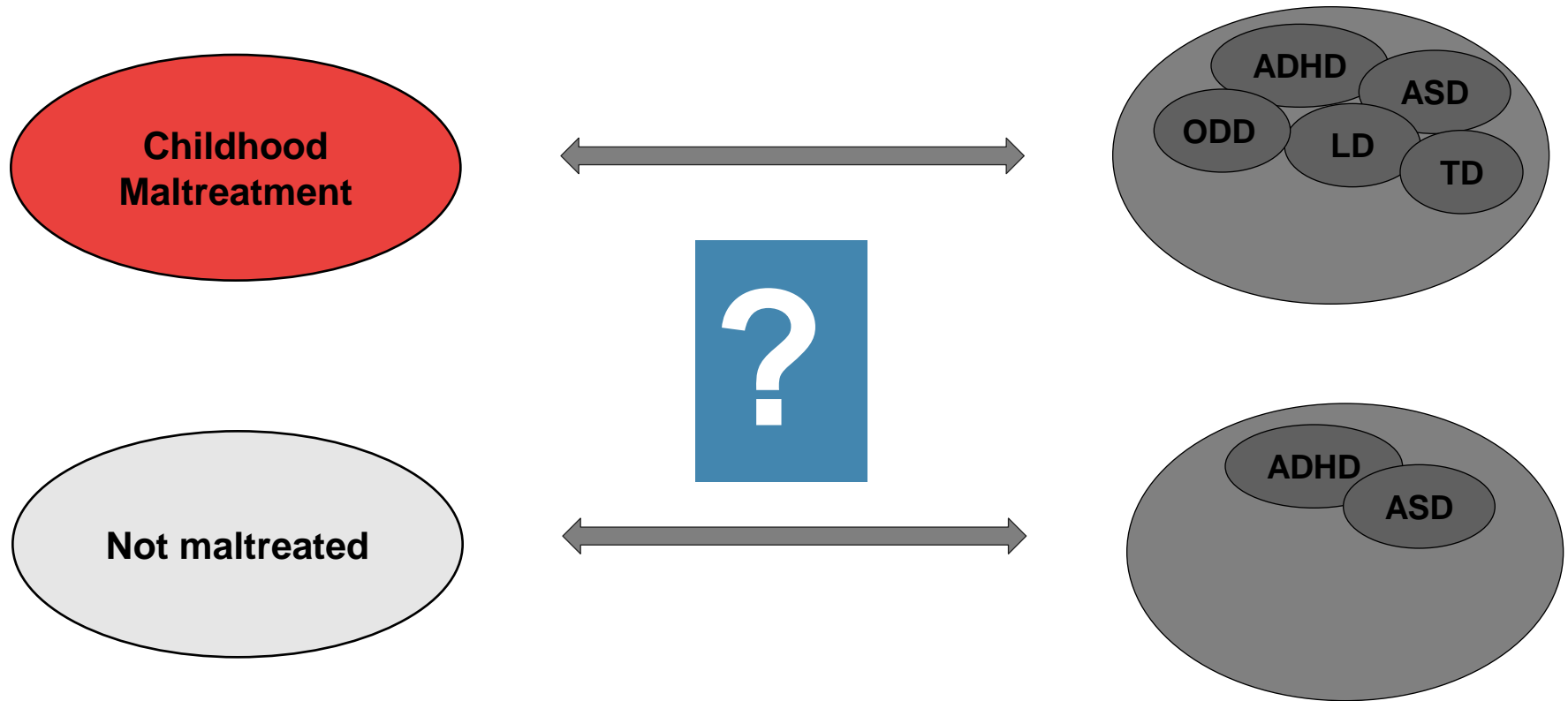


Maltreatment-associated psychiatric problems (MAPP)



- In adopted children with a history of ACEs in early childhood and indiscriminate friendliness (a specific sign of maltreatment)...
 - Complex overlapping problems were the norm
 - Often these were neurodevelopmental problems, not usually thought to be caused by maltreatment
 - Attachment disorders were common but any diagnosis was possible e.g. Conduct disorder, Tics, ASD, ADHD, PTSD

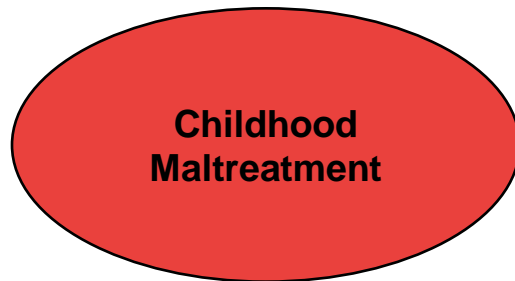




Dinkler et al 2013



- ***Is child maltreatment a risk factor for an increased NDD load when controlling for familial effects?***

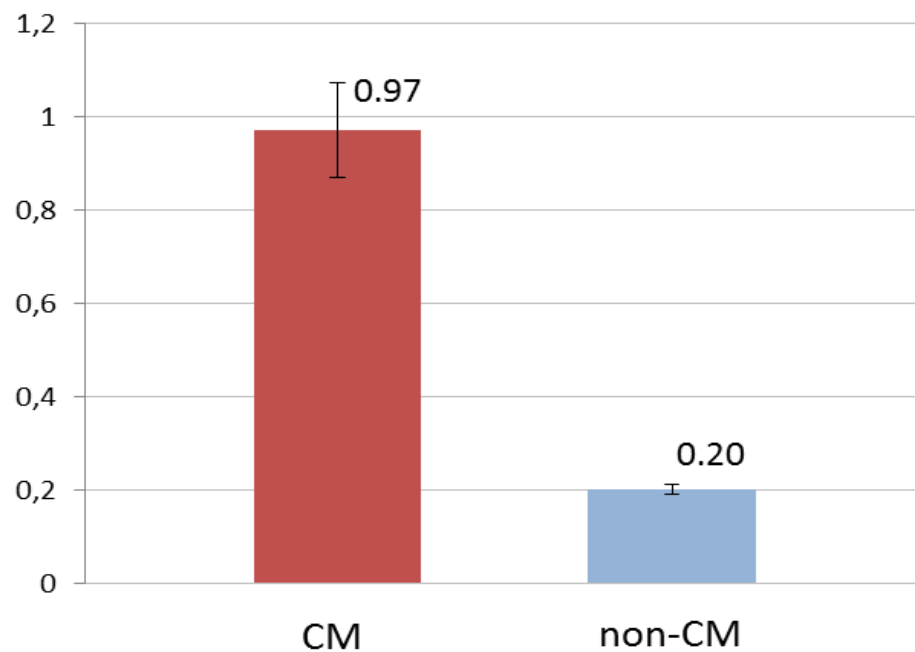


The CATSS twins

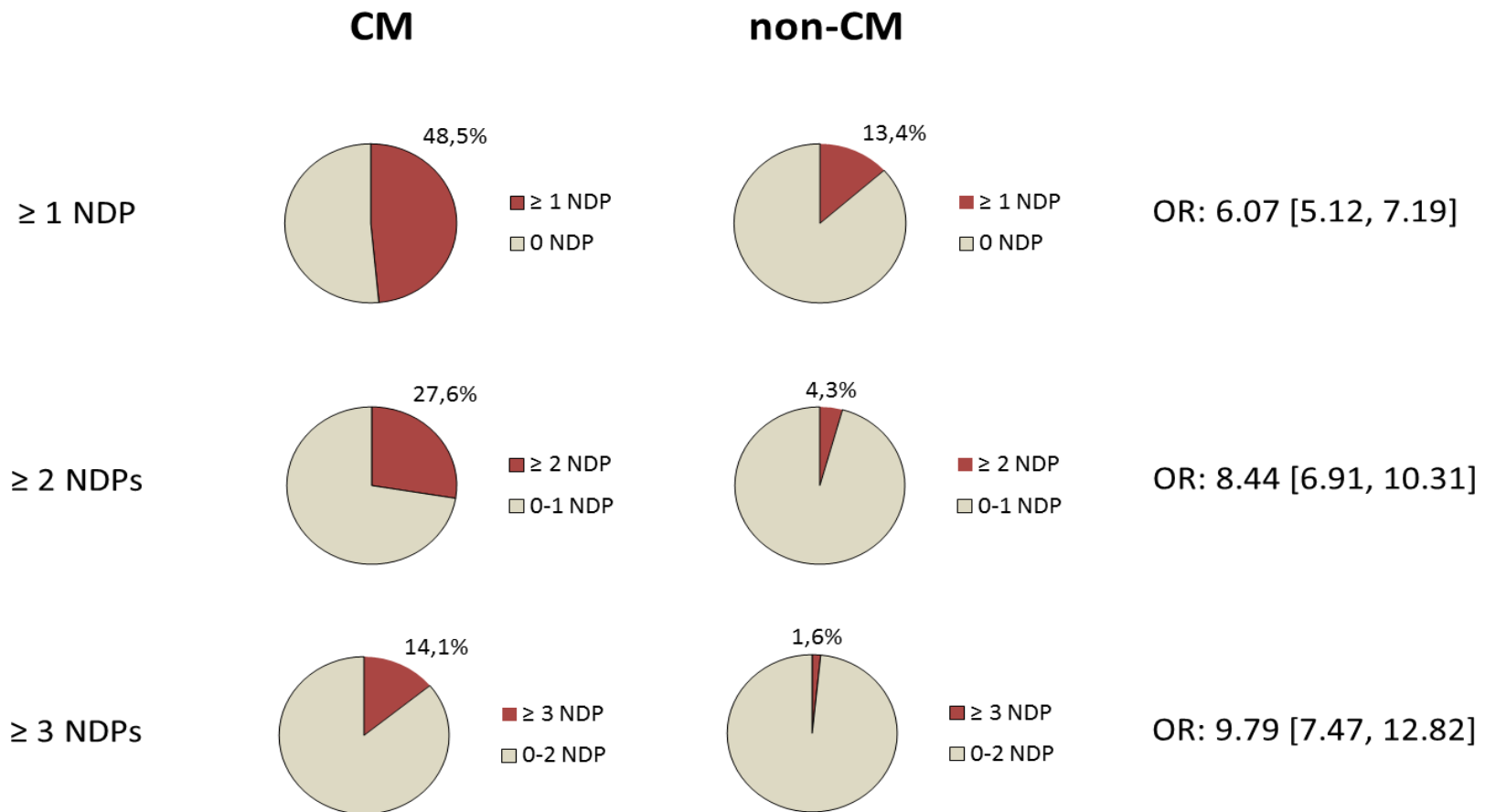
- born July 1998 - December 2005 in Sweden
- $N = 13,052$ (49.6% females) aged 9
- all data parent-reported
- measure of child maltreatment
- measure of neurodevelopmental problems

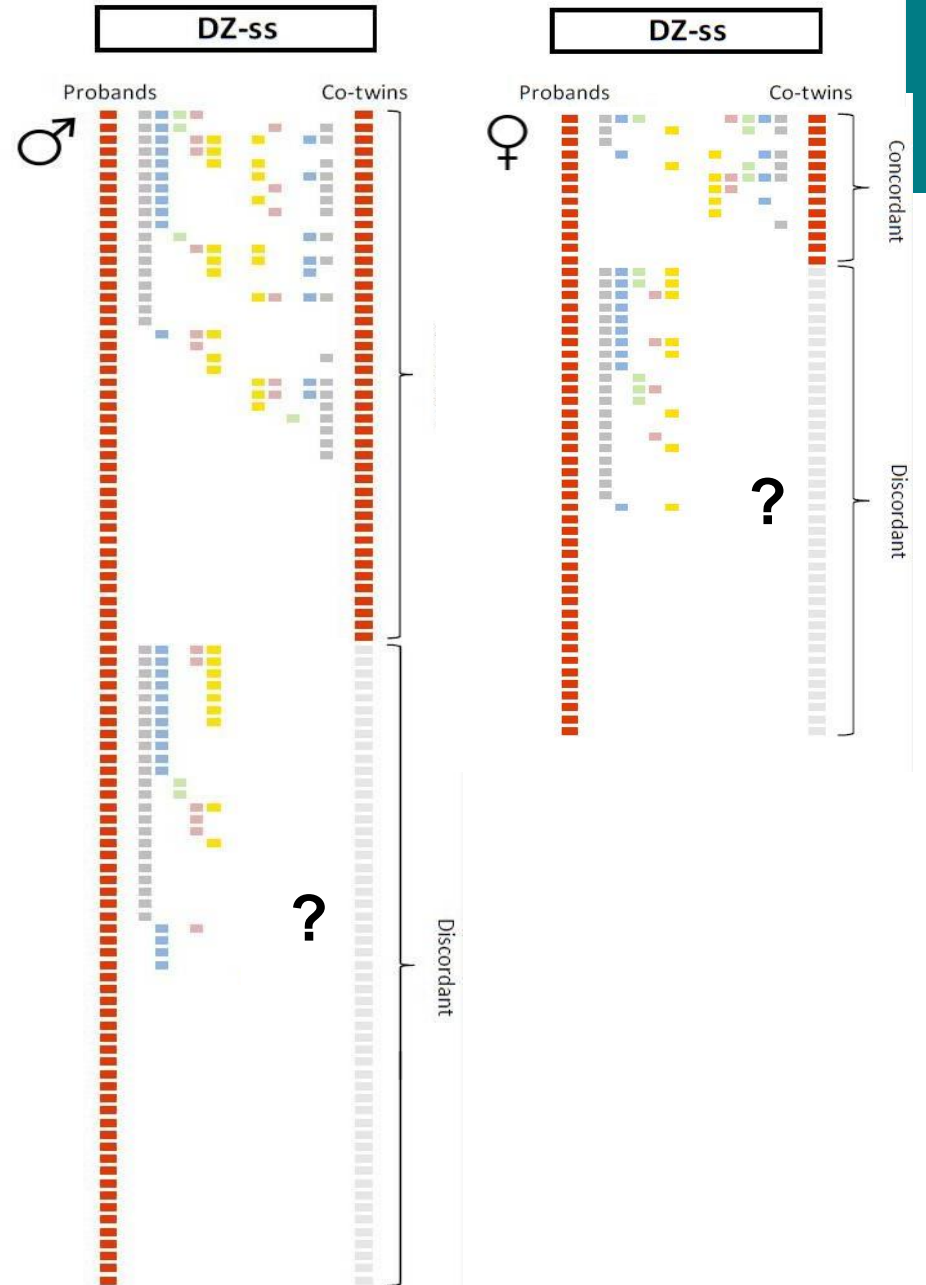
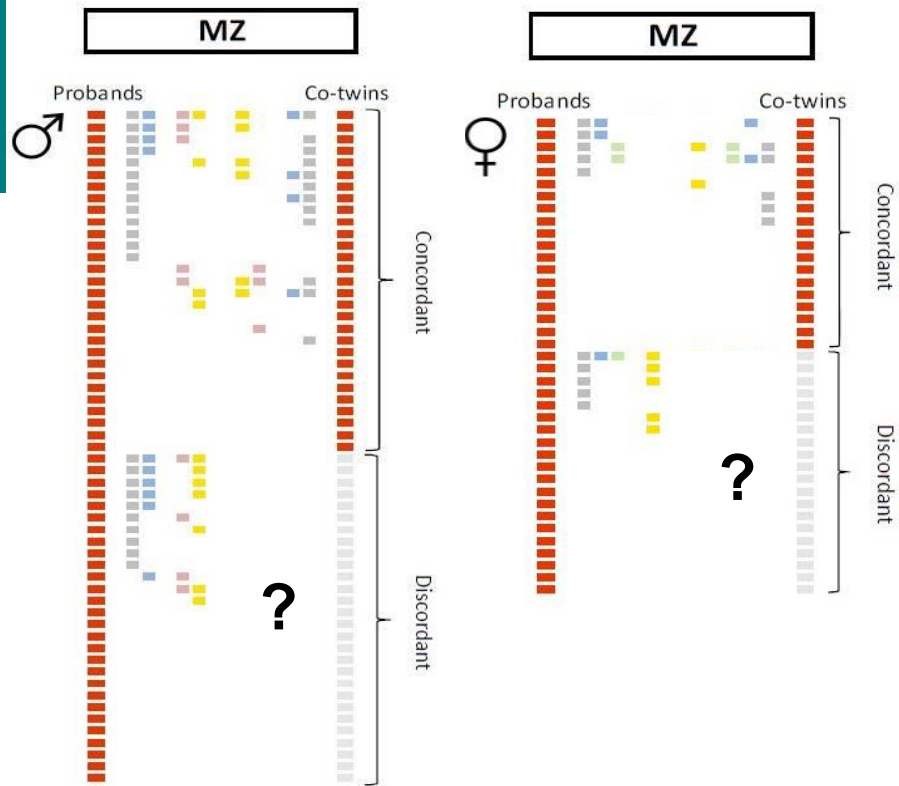
Mean number of neurodevelopmental disorders

with CI bars



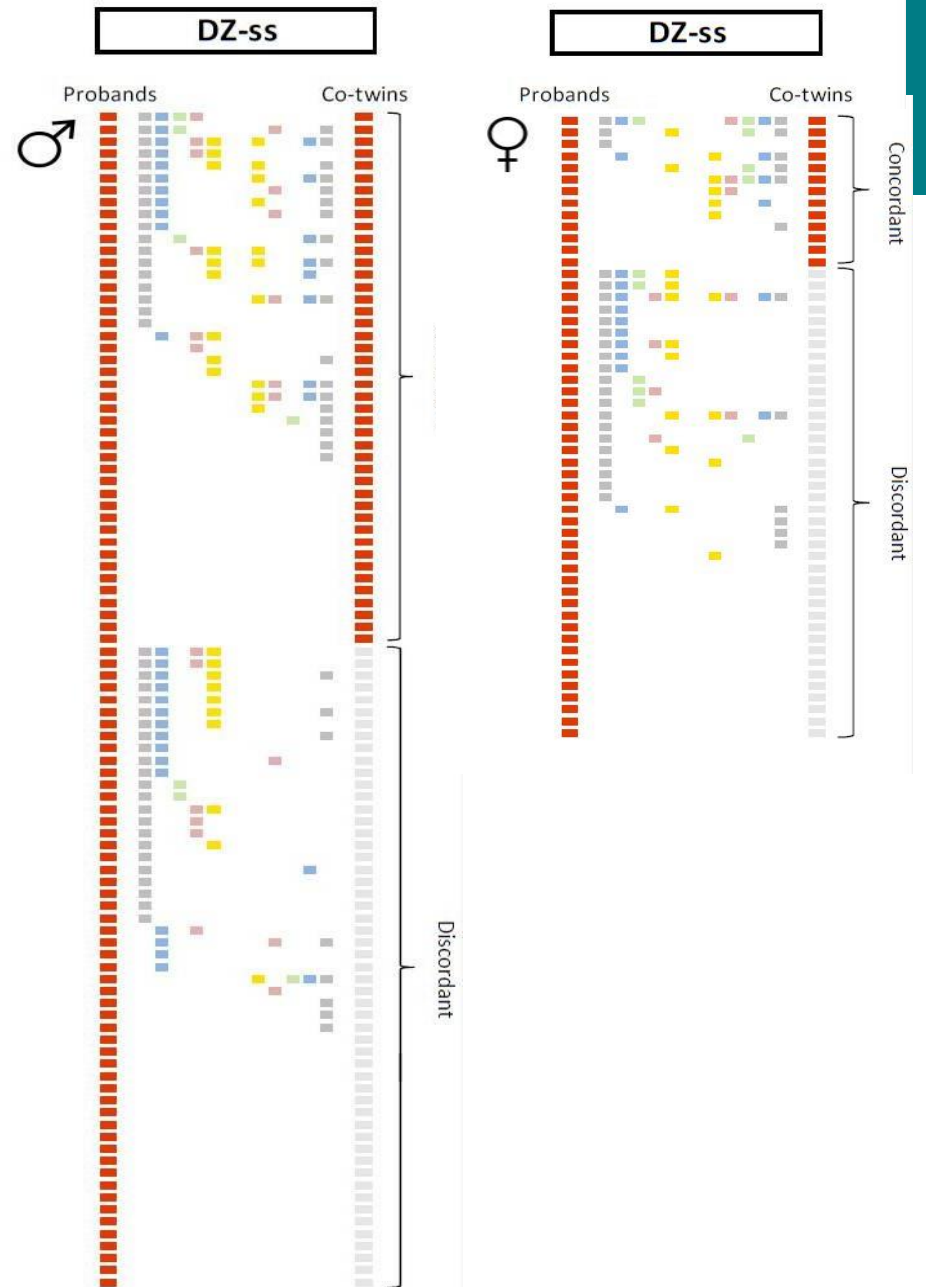
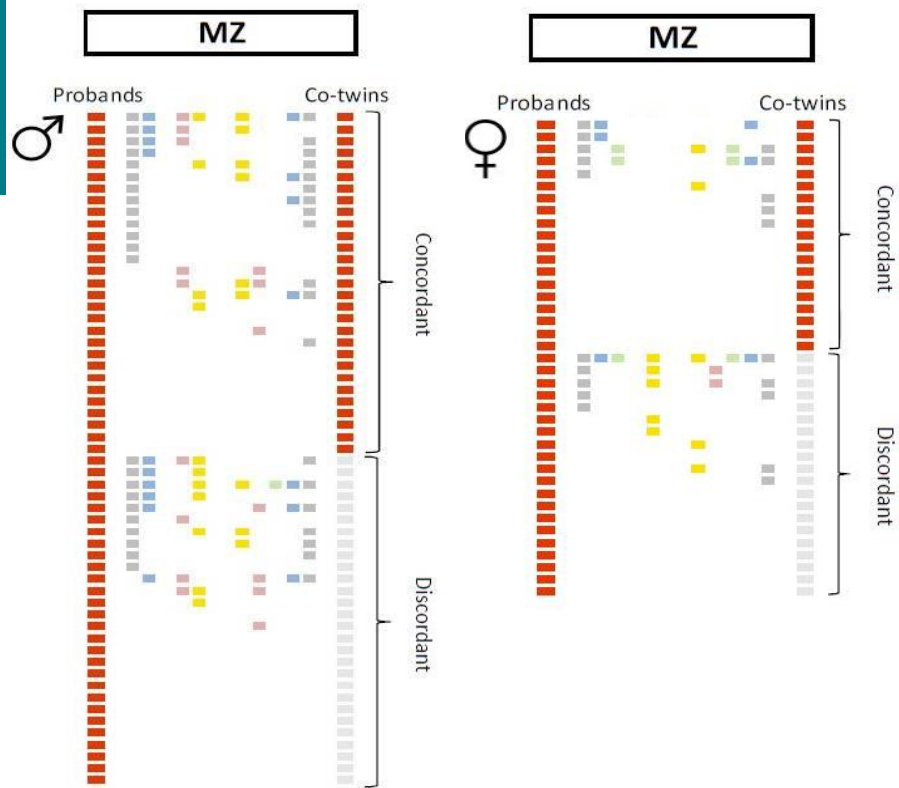
$p = <.001, r = .24$





Legend

- Childhood Maltreatment
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Learning Disorders
- Tic Disorders
- Oppositional-Defiant Disorder

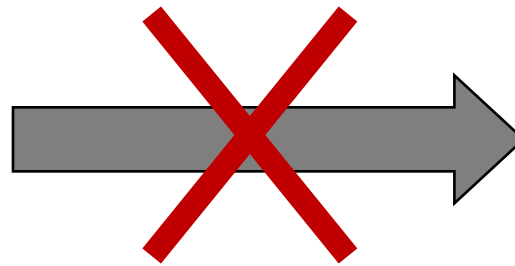


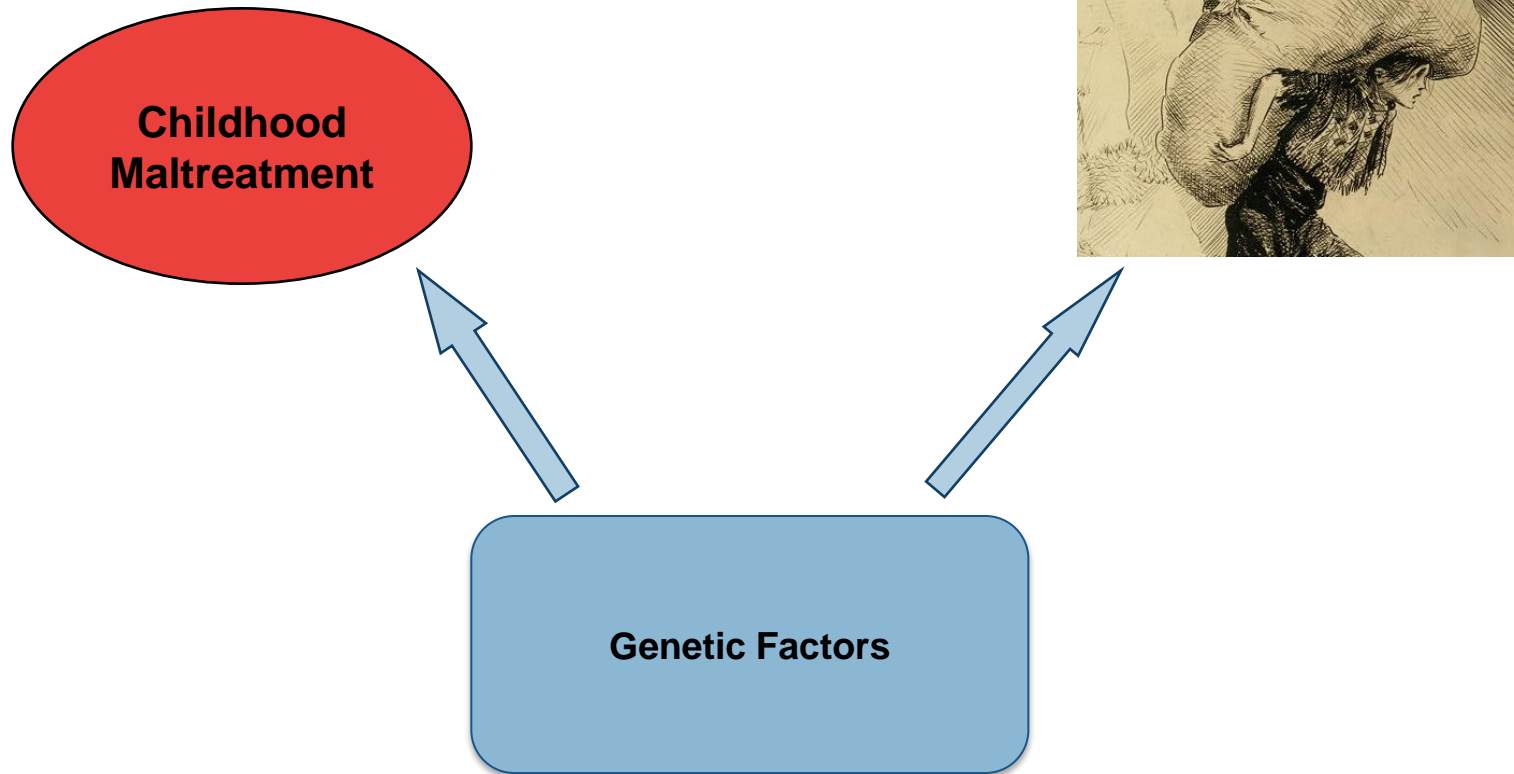
Legend

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**Childhood
Maltreatment**



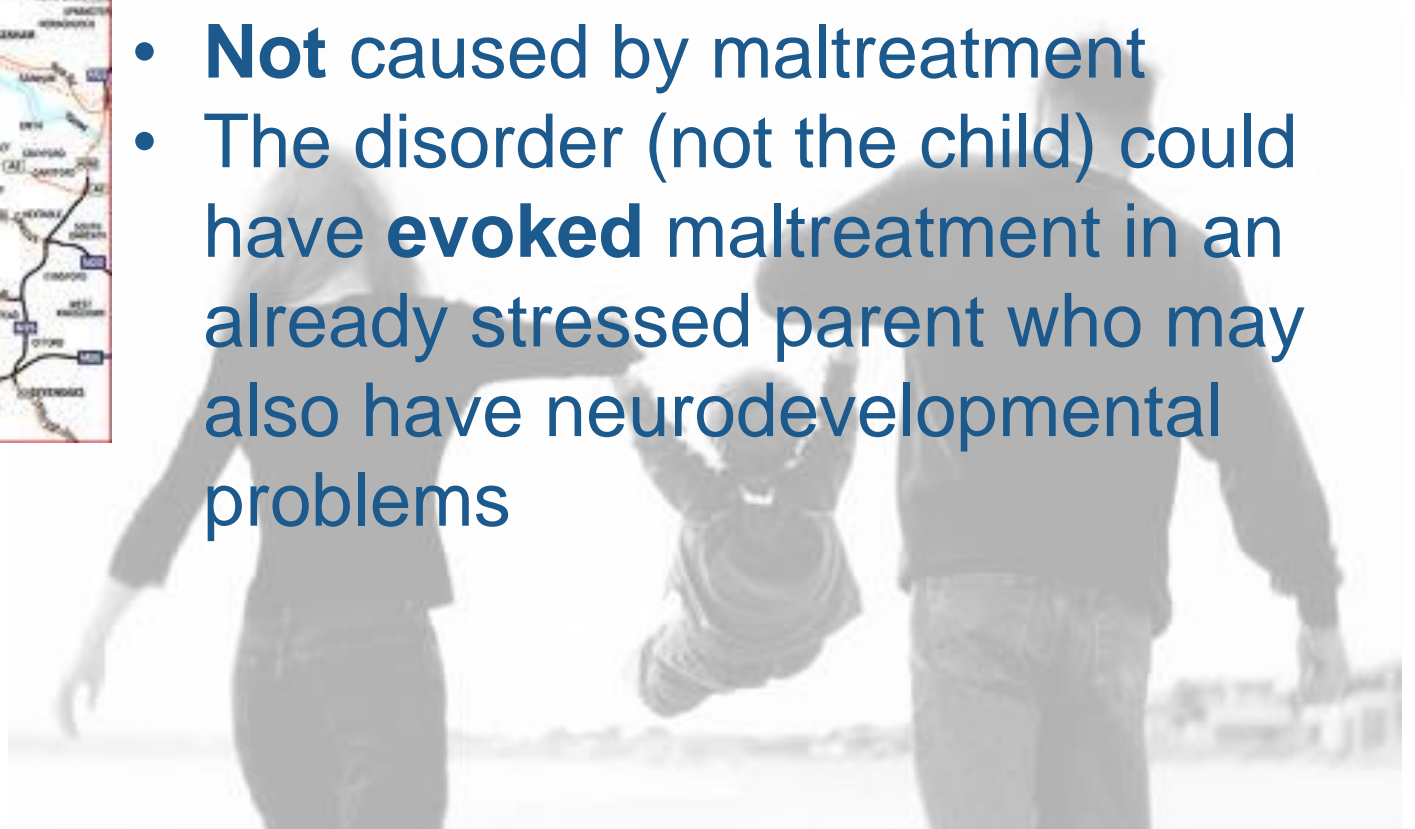




Maltreatment-associated psychiatric problems (MAPP)

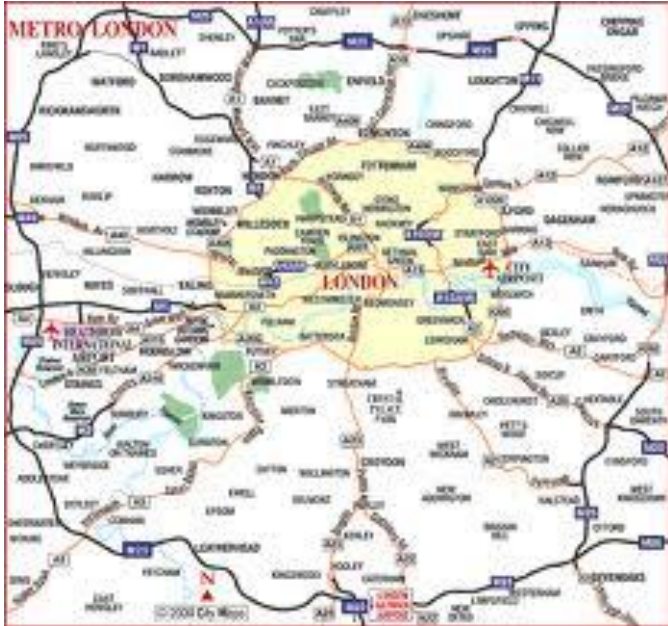


- Complex and often comorbid
- Associated with maltreatment
- **Not** caused by maltreatment
- The disorder (not the child) could have **evoked** maltreatment in an already stressed parent who may also have neurodevelopmental problems





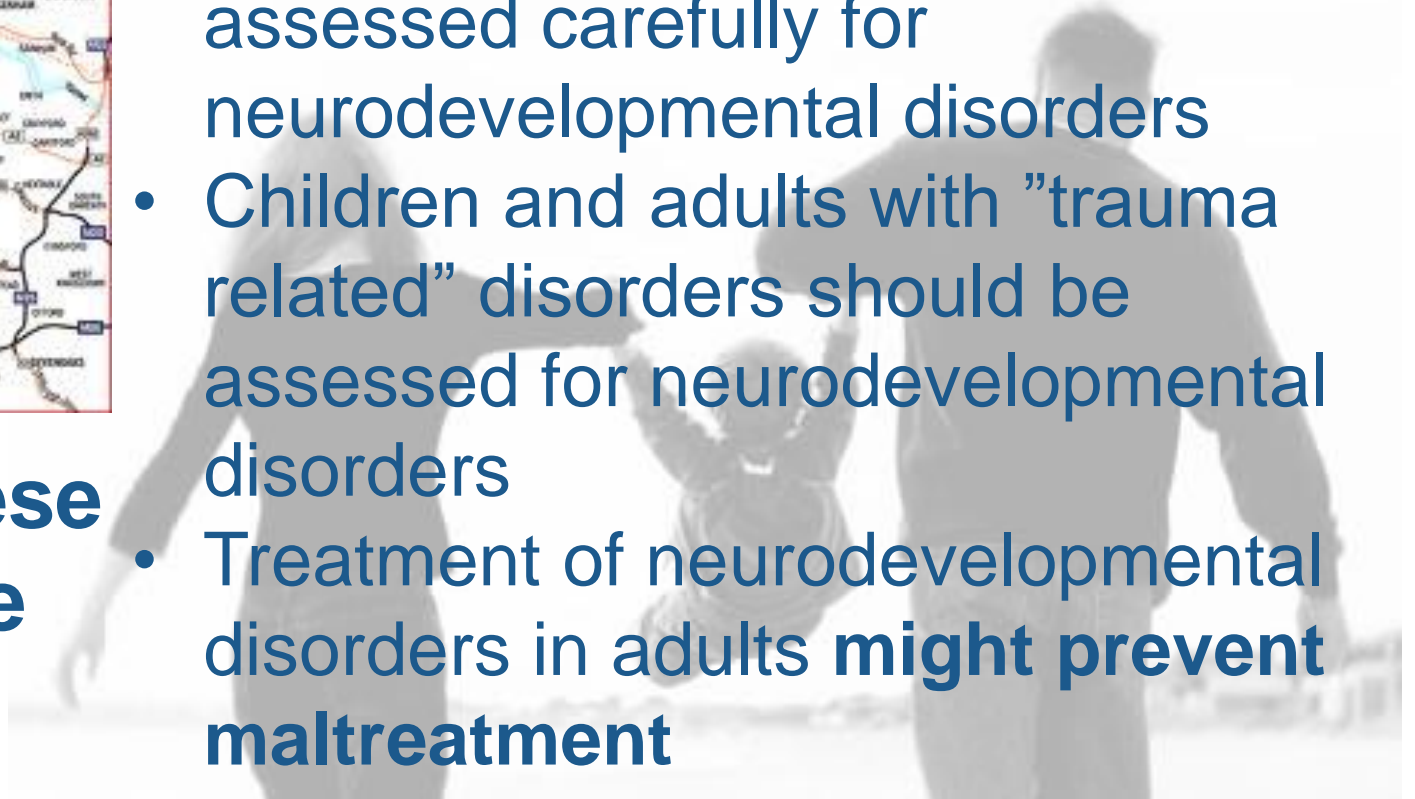
Maltreatment-associated psychiatric problems (MAPP)



Where are these children in the population?

Implications

- **All** maltreated children should be assessed carefully for neurodevelopmental disorders
- Children and adults with "trauma related" disorders should be assessed for neurodevelopmental disorders
- Treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders in adults **might prevent maltreatment**





**Phase 1: Questionnaires
1700 children**



**Phase 2: In-depth
Assessments with
Parents**



**Phase 3: face to
face with children**



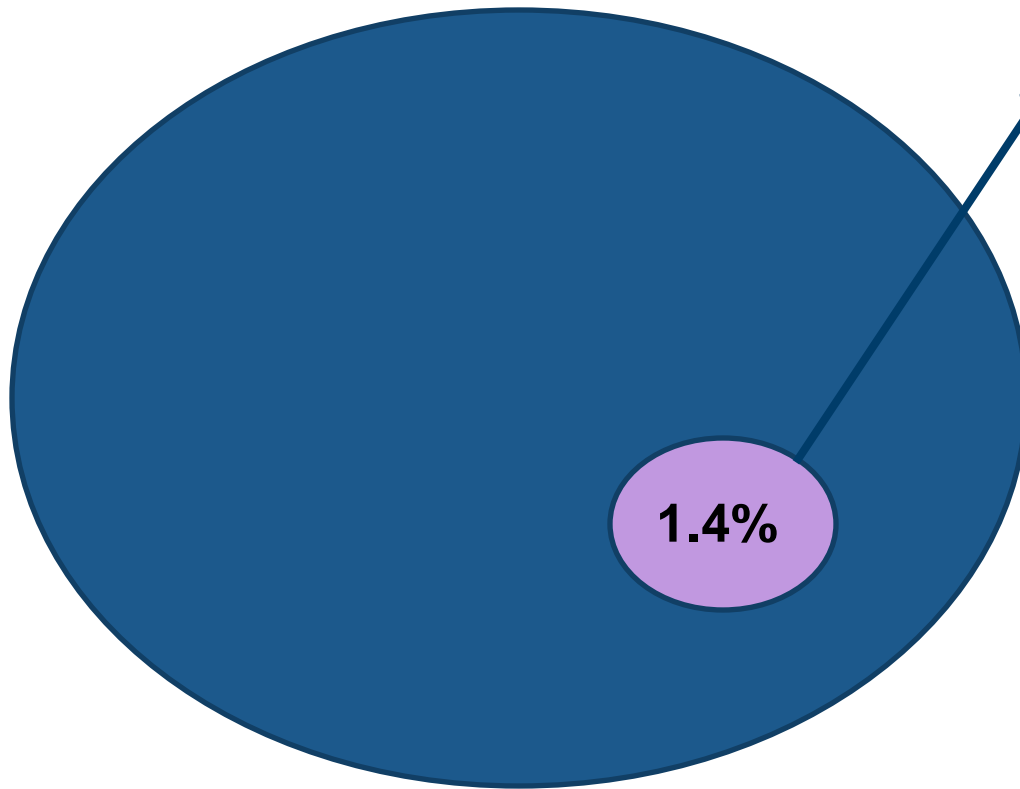
Phase 1: Questionnaires
1700 children
99% teachers 70% parents



Phase 2: In-depth Assessments with Parents



Phase 3: face to face with children **23 DSED or RAD**

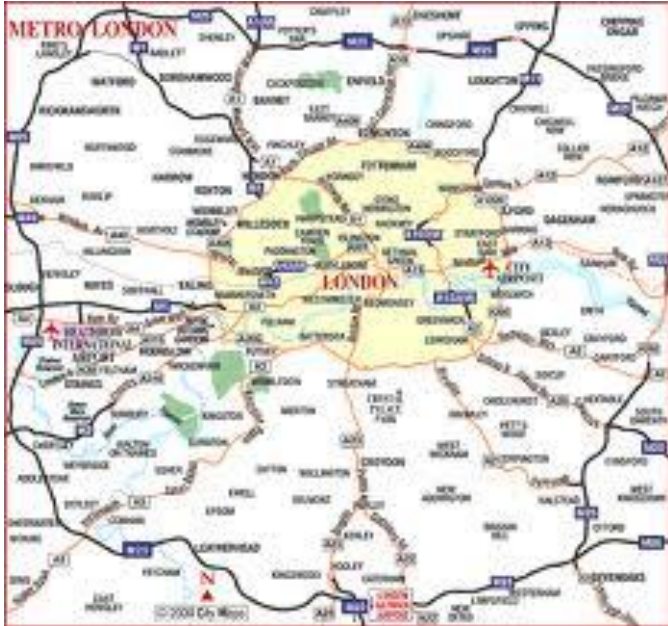


Of those children with an Attachment Disorder:

- ALL had at least one other diagnosis
- ADHD (54%)
- ODD (23%)
- CD (31%)
- PTSD (15%)
- ASD (15%)
- Tics – 1 child



Completing assessments with these families was challenging, with some receiving up to 12 phone calls and 12 home visits after giving consent in order to complete an assessment.



The most effective intervention is loving family care:

- Children who grew up in terrible conditions in Ceausescu's Romania had psychiatric and cognitive problems that resolved almost completely once adopted to the UK

O'Connor and Rutter

- Trial evidence has shown that changes to cortisol profile can be reversed with “extra nurturing” care

Dozier et al



Is introducing a mental health service for maltreated infants a cost-effective way of improving their mental health?



CHIEF
SCIENTIST
OFFICE



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.





Treatment of birth family with aim to reduce future ACES and improve child mental health –apparently successful in US in non-randomised study



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watch
this
space



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SCIENTIST
OFFICE



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.





If we open clinic doors to these children, will there be a Tsunami?

No. There were only **23** out of **1700** 6 and 7 year olds





Each of these children is
precious

...and we will need to put
a lot of effort in to find
them





**School-
health
Screening**

CAMHS
assertive
outreach



**Social work
Casework**

**Voluntary
sector**
Self referral