

Appendix D

Risk factors for child sexual abuse (CSA) and neglect

Risk factors for child sexual abuse (CSA) and neglect

CSA risk factor	Sources	Neglect risk factor	Sources
Child-individual level factors			
Age (teenager)	Black et al (2001) Runyan et al (2002) Radford et al (2011)	Low social competence	Stith et al (2009)
Gender (female)	Black et al (2001) Runyan et al (2002) Radford et al (2011)	Less interaction with their parent/s	Schumacher et al (2001)
Ethnicity (black) ¹	Black et al (2001)	Exhibiting problematic behaviours	Schumacher et al (2001)
Lower intellectual performance/ academic achievement	Black et al (2001)		
Parental characteristics, behaviours and difficulties			
Parent, particularly mother, also reporting experiences of CSA	Finkelhor et al (1997)	Fertility (greater number of live births, more pregnancies, more unplanned conceptions)	Schumacher et al (2001)
Unavailability of mother due to employment (outside the home), disability or illness	Finkelhor and Baron (1986)		
Parents self-reporting neglectful behaviours –eg, leaving child at home, not giving enough food, or misusing substances (to the extent they cannot care for their child)	Finkelhor et al (1997)	Low self-esteem	Schumacher et al (2001) Stith et al (2009)
		Lack of social support	Schumacher et al (2001)
		Impulsivity	Schumacher et al (2001)
		Substance abuse diagnosis	Schumacher et al (2001)
		Stress	Schumacher et al (2001) Stith et al (2009)
		Unemployment	Stith et al (2009)
		Low educational achievement	Sidebotham and Golding (2001)
		Mental illness, substance abuse diagnosis, domestic violence or learning disability, particularly in combination	Davies and Ward (2012) Cleaver et al (2011)
		Young age of parents	Sidebotham and Golding (2001)

Parent-child relationship			
Poor quality of parent-child relationship (particularly mother-daughter relationship)	Finkelhor and Baron (1986) Black et al (2001)	Poor quality of parent-child relationship	Stith et al (2009)
More likely to leave a child home without adequate supervision	Black et al (2001)	Less interaction between parent and child, or less positive interaction	Schumacher et al (2001)
Less satisfied with parenting	Black et al (2001)		
Family structure and context			
Single parent and stepfamilies	Finkelhor and Baron (1986) Black et al (2001) Putnam (2003) Sidebotham and Heron (2006)	Family size	Stith et al (2009) Sedlak et al (2010)
Lower family income	Black et al (2001)	Unemployment	Freisthler et al (2006) Sedlak et al (2010)
Lower parental occupational status	Black et al (2001)	Poverty	Schumacher et al (2001) Freisthler et al (2006) Daniel et al (2011) Davies and Ward (2012)
		Social isolation/lack of social support	Davies and Ward (2012) Ward et al (2012)
Community variables			
Dangerous/violent communities	Black et al (2001)	Large urban areas	Schumacher et al (2001)

¹ Evidence on ethnicity in this review is based solely on US studies and therefore conclusions may not be transferrable to a UK context.