

Families with Children – How their Worries are Identified, Discussed and Intervened in Social and Health Care by Nurses

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Background: Families with children use health and social care services worldwide. Although service systems differ, the needs of families with children are mostly the same worldwide. Those services need to be developed to detect early signs concerning worries or risks needing extra support before patterns like abuse develop within the family. These worries include e.g. loneliness, poverty, rigidity in childrearing and family conflict. Research evidence shows that risk assessment tools are useful as a part of broad assessment of family situations, to detect those signs and risks early enough. The internationally validated Child Abuse Potential Inventory Scale (CAPI) has been validated also in Finland in 2011-2016. The second phase of validation process included testing the short version of this tool (the BriefCAP) in clinical practice. The Scale has been implemented in the normal clinical care of maternity and child health care by nurses during 2017.

Aim: This paper describes parents experiences based on data collected using the child maltreatment risk assessment tool (BriefCAP) in Finland.

Methods: Parents attending maternity and child welfare clinics and hospital wards completed BriefCAP questionnaires (N=450). The sample included parents expecting a baby or with children under 12 years. The criteria were that they were visiting a health care setting involved in this clinical testing phase and were willing to participate. The data were analysed by statistical methods.

Results: Parents' worries included e.g. loneliness (13 %), rigidity in childrearing (23 %), poverty (13 %), feelings of persecution (8 %), family conflict (8 %) and distress (19 %).

Conclusion: BriefCAP provides a starting point to discuss with parents' about their worries. The support provided depends on the family needs. It is planned that BriefCAP will be implemented nationally for use after 2018 in Finland.

In this presentation the results will be discussed, integrated and applied broadly in the international context of services of families with children.

Biography:

Eija Paavilainen, PhD, works as a Professor (Nursing Science) at Faculty of Social Sciences/Health Sciences in University of Tampere, from 2001. She has also a research position in Etelä-Pohjanmaa Hospital District, from 2002, and was Professorial Research Fellow in Institute of Advanced Social Research, University of Tampere, during 2011-2012. Her main research and expertise areas concern families in challenging life situations. Her largest research projects concern family violence, child maltreatment, and family risks, and support for families with children. Those research projects are or have been funded e.g. by Academy of Finland, Boards of Hospital Districts, and Ministry for Social Affairs and Health, Finland. She has about 200 conference presentations and over 200 scientific and other publications. She has acted in Editorial Board of Child Abuse Review during 2012-2017.