

How Are The Babies Doing?



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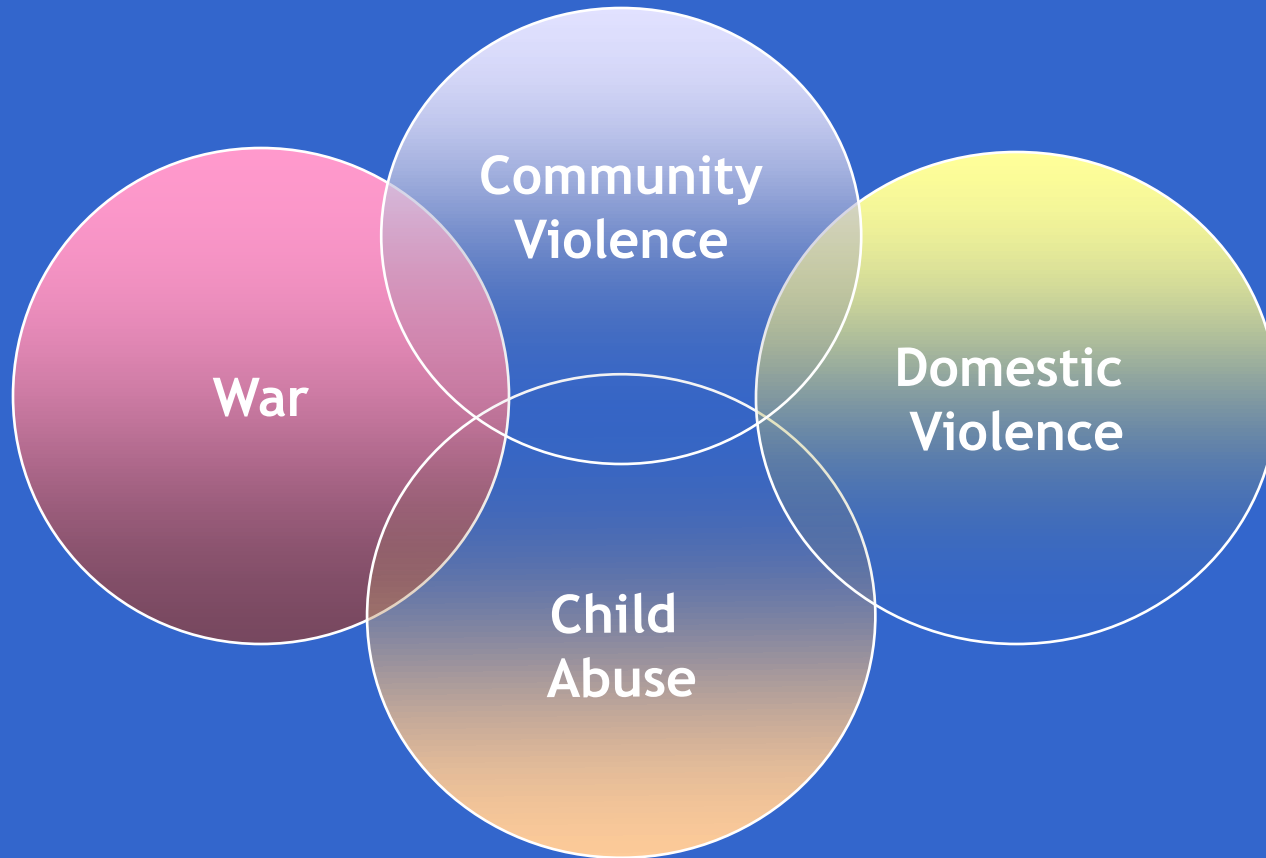
....Our Babies Urgently Need Help

- More children die from abuse in their first year of life than at any other time
- Half of child abuse victims are under age 7
- 85% of abuse fatalities are under age 6
- U.S. ranks **THIRD** among 27 industrialized countries in child maltreatment deaths



(Gentry, 2004; UNICEF, 2003; Children's Bureau, 2003)

Children's Exposure to Violence



Sources of Violence Overlap

- Children exposed to domestic violence
 - 15 times more likely to be abused than the national average
 - 30-70% overlap with child abuse
 - At serious risk of sexual abuse
- Battered women statistically more likely to abuse their children than comparison groups as the result of traumatic stress

(Osofsky, 2003; Edleson, 1999; Margolin & Gordis, 2000; McCloskey, 1995)

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Traumatic Expectations and Sense of Self

- Shattering of developmental expectations
- Protector is helpless to protect or actually hurts
- “Unresolvable fear”: Nowhere to turn for help
- Contradictory feelings toward each parent
- Aggression as a form of self-protection:
 - “I am strong, I do what you do”



Young Children Only Do Well When They Have Safe, Caring Relationships



Posttraumatic Stress In Infants and Young Children

- Re-experiencing trauma: excessive crying, unprovoked aggression
- Avoidance: attachment disorder, social withdrawal, fear of exploring
- Increased arousal: attention problems, hypervigilance, restlessness, recklessness
- **New Symptoms**
 - Aggression
 - Sexualized behavior
 - New fears
 - Loss of developmental milestones (Regression)



The Forgotten Mental Health Needs of Children in Child Welfare

- About half of these children have a diagnosed mental health need
- 75% of diagnosed children did not receive mental health treatment within 12 months of a child abuse or neglect investigation
- Children of color are disproportionately affected



Pre-publication Copy: Improving the Quality of Health Care for Mental and Substance-Use Conditions, Institute of Medicine, 2006)

Removing Children Should be the Last Resort

- Funding for foster care: \$7 billion/year
- Funding for prevention and support: \$900 million
- Funding streams should prioritize keeping parents and children together:
 - Removing the batterer, not the child
 - Substance abuse/mental health treatment
 - Safe and stable housing
 - Job training and placement
 - Parent-child intervention and treatment



Parent as Protective Shield



Overarching Intervention Goals

- RESTORE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESS

- Affect Regulation

- Trust in Human Relationships

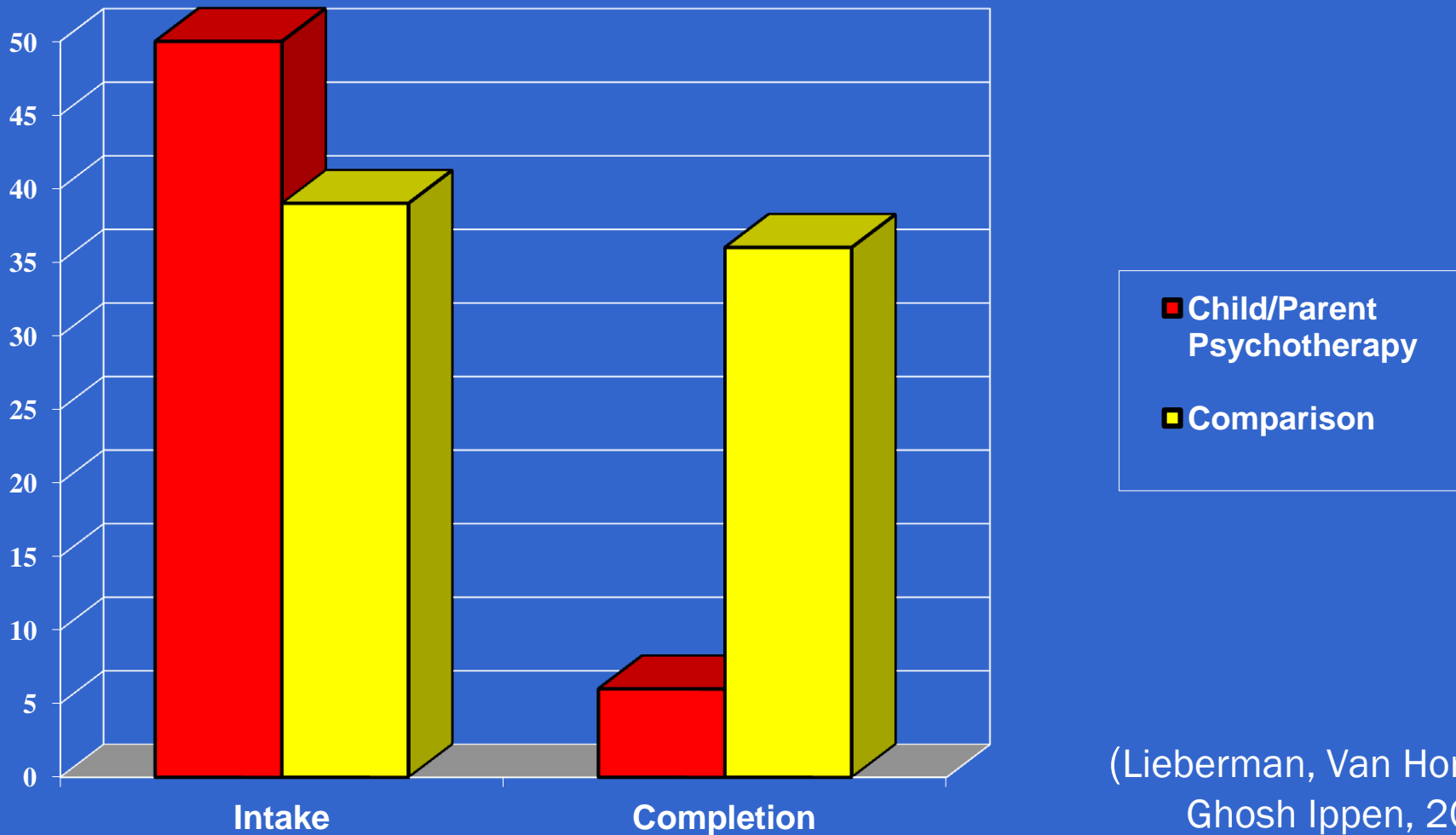
- Joy in Exploration and Learning



Relationship-Based Therapeutic Strategies

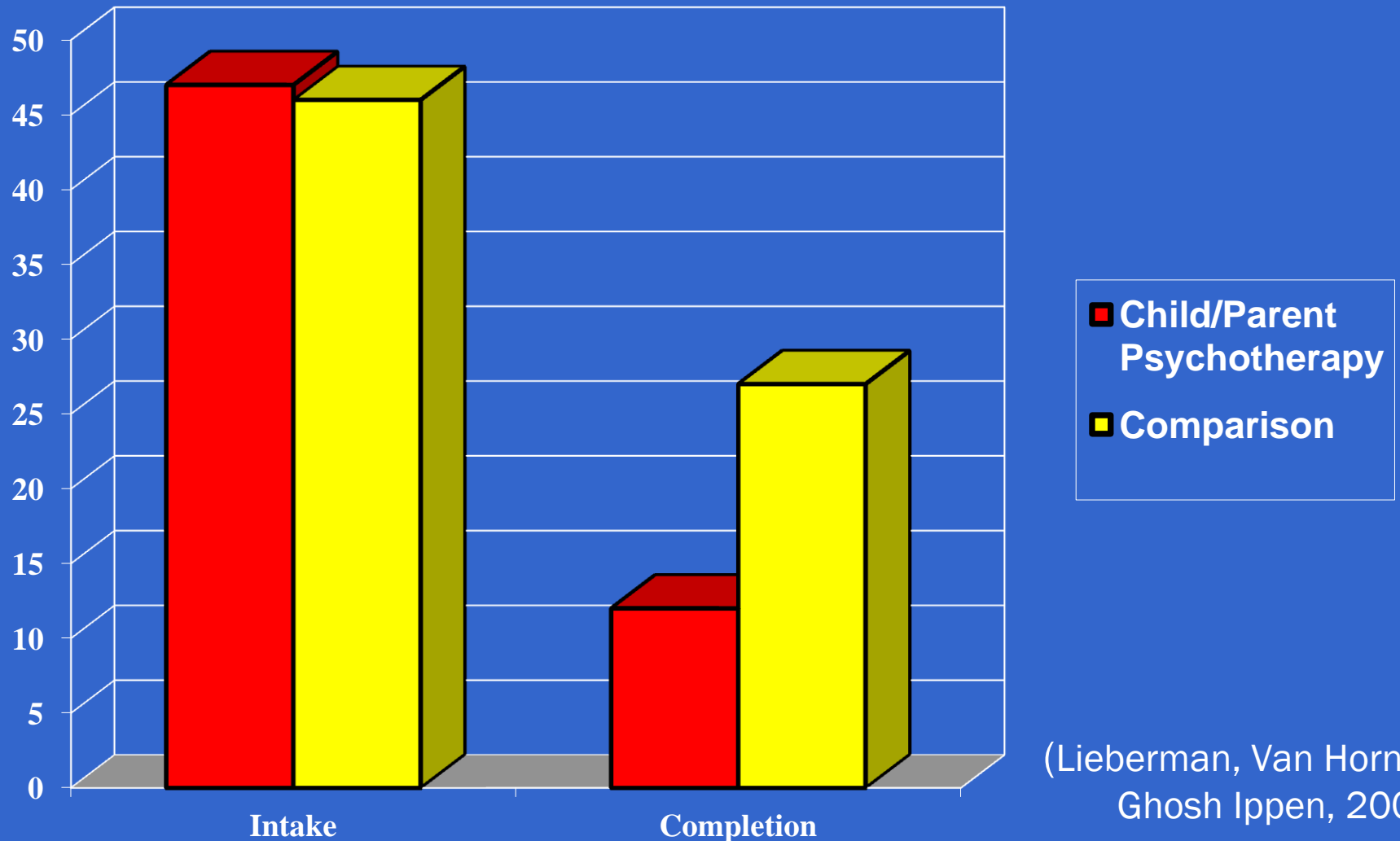
- Joint play-centered parent-child sessions
- Translate for the parent the meaning of the child's behavior
- Reframe perceptions to promote empathy
- Empathy as a tool to tolerate ambivalence
- Use play and words to narrate the trauma

Child-Parent Psychotherapy: Child PTSD Before/After Treatment



(Lieberman, Van Horn, & Ghosh Ippen, 2005)

Child-Parent Psychotherapy: Maternal PTSD Before/After Treatment



Where Are The Fathers?

- Among children under age 6:
 - 68% live with married parents
 - 23% live with a single parent
 - 9% live with a divorced, separated, or widowed parent
- Across the age range:
 - One in three children live in a father-absent home



(U. S. Census Bureau, 2009, 2010)

Father's Absence

- Children have higher rates of:
 - High school drop-out
 - Low academic achievement
 - Early sex, teen pregnancy
 - Illegal substance use
 - Contact with the police
 - Psychological problems
 - Lower adult competencies



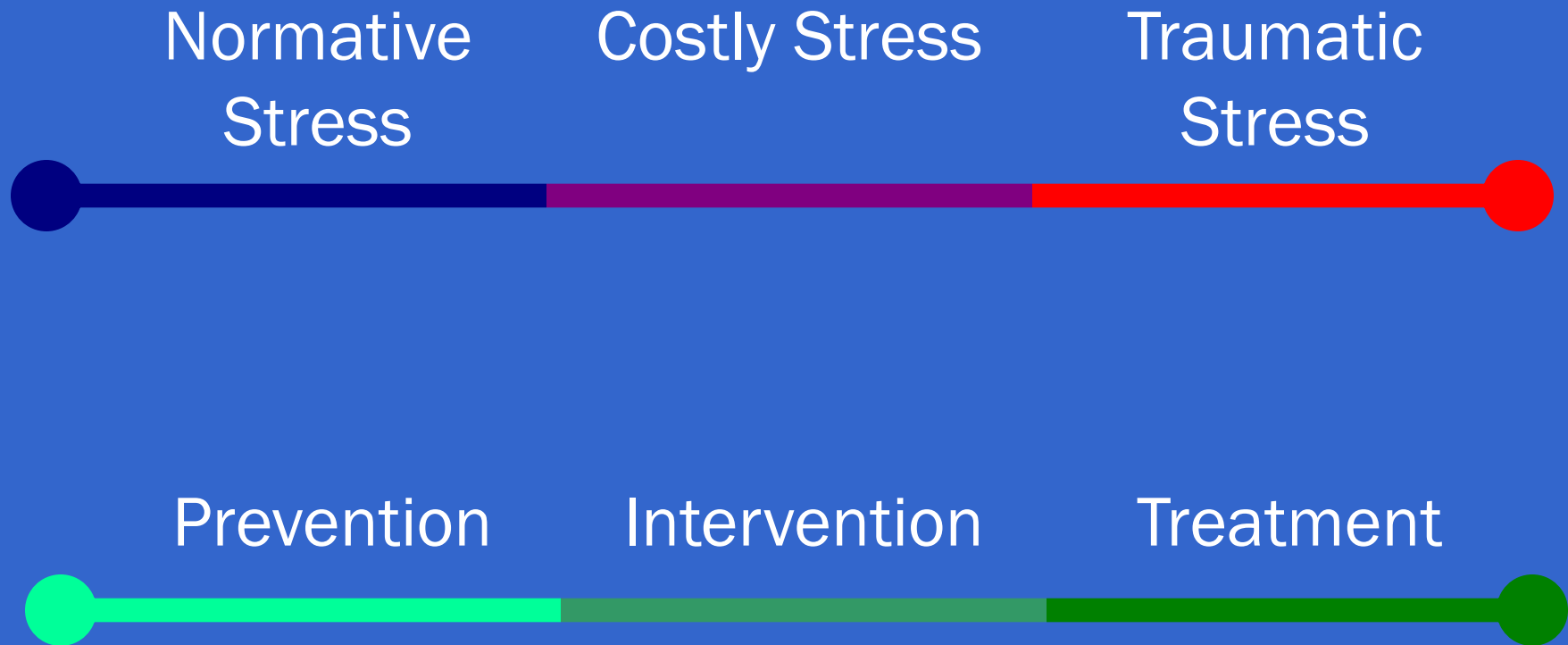
The Promise of Economic Interventions

- MN Family Investment Program
- Milwaukee New Hope Anti-Poverty Program
 - Increases in marriage rates
 - Increases in family income
 - Decreases in domestic violence

(McLanahan & Beck, 2010)



A Continuum of Services: Giving Mothers and Fathers a Place





NCTSN

The National Child
Traumatic Stress Network