

# Prevalence of childhood maltreatment among people with opioid use disorder: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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The Difference is Research

## Background

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) is a major public health issue

- Risk factors includes socioeconomic disadvantage and a history of childhood maltreatment

History of childhood maltreatment (CM) is the experience of

- Sexual, physical, or emotional abuse
- Physical or emotional neglect

CM is associated with adverse health /social health outcomes

- People with OUD who report a history of CM report

Despite associations, there has not been a systematic review or meta-analysis of CM among people with OUD

## Aims

To estimate the prevalence of each form of CM among samples of people with OUD

Examine sample characteristics and methodological factors related to variance

Compare prevalence estimates among people with OUD to comparable prevalence estimates from a meta-analysis of community samples

## Methods

We searched MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO and relevant reviews from January 1990 – June 2020 to identify studies of people with OUD that assess any form of CM

We extracted sample characteristics including age, sex, history of injecting drug use, recruitment methods, and inclusion / exclusion criteria. We assessed definitions of each type of CM for each study (e.g. age of childhood, description of CM, etc.)

We pooled estimates separately for each type CM using random-effects meta-analysis including...

- Sexual abuse stratified by sex
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Physical neglect
- Emotional neglect

Stratified meta-analyses and meta-regressions were utilized to assess heterogeneity

## Highlights

- CM is common among people with opioid use disorder (OUD)
- Women with OUD experience childhood sexual abuse (41%) more often than men (16%)
- People with history of injecting drug use report higher rates of CM
- Most studies evaluate childhood sexual or physical abuse among OUD treatment samples
- “Gold standard” definitions of CM produce the highest prevalence rates of CM

## Results

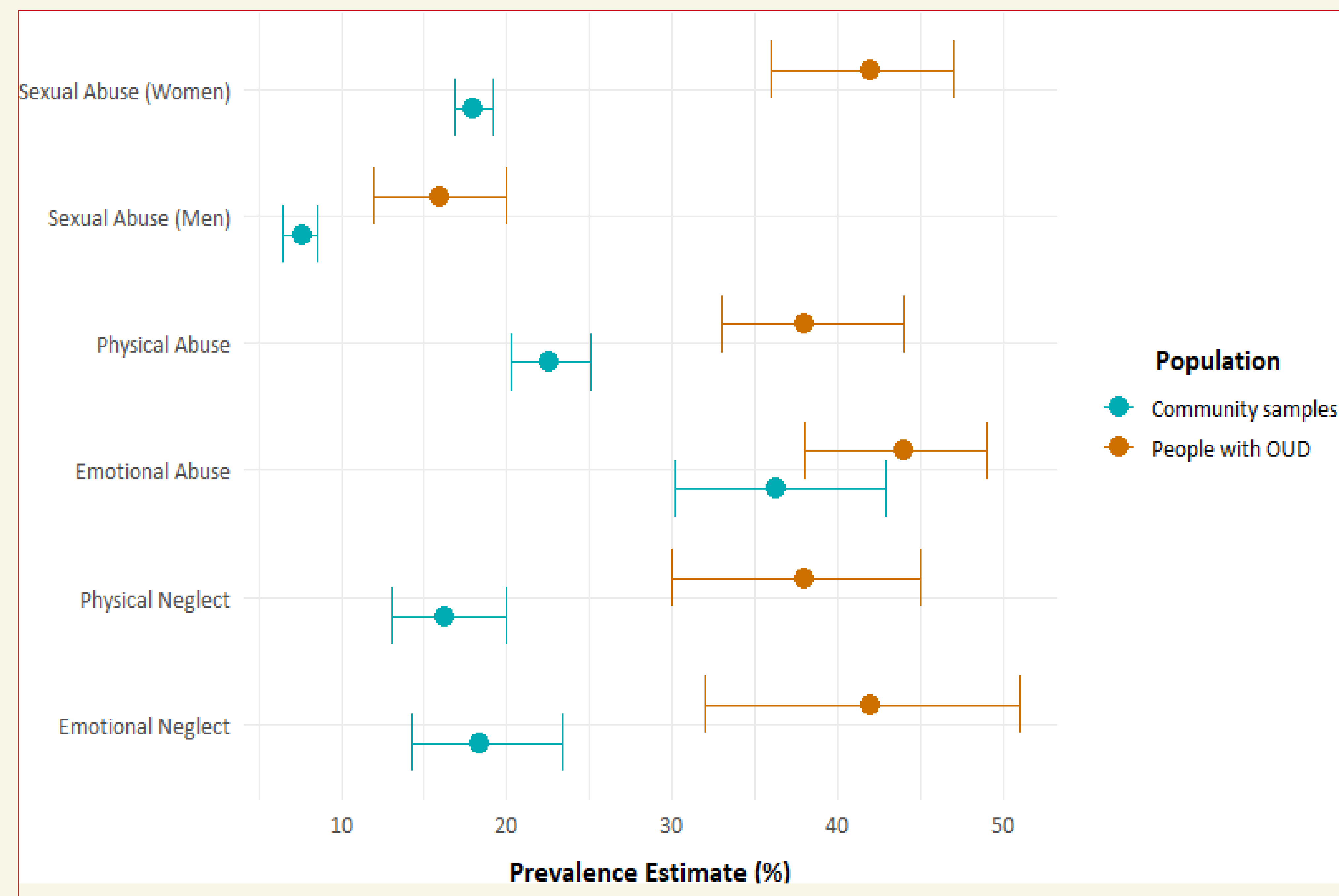
6,438 publications identified, 113 reported CM data,

- 62 studies and 21,871 individual observations were included in primary analyses

Sexual abuse (Women)	Sexual abuse (Men)	Physical abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect
k=38	k=25	k=48	k=31	k=17	k=17
41%	16%	38%	43%	38%	42%
95%CI 36-47%	95%CI 12-20%	95%CI 33-44%	95%CI 38-49%	95%CI 30-46%	95%CI 32-51%

- Higher rates of multiple types of CM were reported by women and people with a history of injecting drug use
- Most studies evaluated CM among people in OAT
- Validated instruments reported highest rates of most forms of CM
- CM estimates were significantly higher for all CM types, besides emotional abuse, compared to community samples

## Prevalence of CM among people with OUD compared to community samples



## Conclusion

CM is a common experience for people with OUD

- Supports current evidence that suggest CM is a strong risk factor OUD and shares common risk factors

Findings reinforce the need for trauma-informed interventions among people with OUD

- Particularly for women and people with a history of injecting drug use

Future research should consider the impact of CM on OUD presentations

- When assessment is appropriate, researchers and clinicians may use validated instruments (e.g. CTQ)
- Clinicians may consider how CM experiences affect opioid use and comorbid mental disorders

Limitations of the current research

- Only 1 study evaluated CM among people with CNCP & OUD
- Most studies evaluated physical/sexual abuse, despite research that other CM types have similar adverse effects

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