

**Nursing Education Research Conference 2020**  
**Measuring Polyvictimization Among Children in Fragile Families**  
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**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to test the pathways to polyvictimization model, a conceptual model developed by Dr. David Finkelhor, as an accurate measure of victimization among children in fragile families. Assessing polyvictimization, rather than single episodes of violence is critically necessary for many reasons. When episodes of violence and types of victimization are studied in isolation, nurses and other health care providers may fail to completely comprehend how and why the victimization is occurring. This limits the effectiveness of interventions because the focus of those interventions may only address one form of victimization (Barnes et al., 2016).

**Methods:** This study used a correlational research design that utilized data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a national, longitudinal research study that examined the possible consequences of childbearing outside of marriage. The Social-Ecological Model was used as the framework for this study.

Using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), the 11-factor hypothesized polyvictimization measurement model was tested to see if it could accurately assess victimization among children. CFA was also used to identify the strongest indicators of victimization in the model and to identify if the four hypothesized pathways to polyvictimization were able to predict the seven victimization types.

**Results:** Results found that the hypothesized polyvictimization measurement model is an accurate measure to assess victimization among children. Strong indicators of victimization were identified and strong correlation and predictor measures were discovered.

**Conclusion:** Polyvictimization often goes undetected and persists over long periods of time. Children who experience polyvictimization need to be identified because they are at particularly high risk of additional victimization and traumatic psychological effects. Nurses and other health care professionals need to be able to identify children on the path to polyvictimization or those children who are polyvictimized so that they might be able to direct prevention resources to these children and their families to prevent vulnerable children from becoming polyvictimized.

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**Title:**

Measuring Polyvictimization Among Children in Fragile Families

**Keywords:**

Assessment Model, Child Maltreatment and Polyvictimization

**Abstract Summary:**

Using Confirmatory Factor Analysis, an 11-factor hypothesized polyvictimization measurement model was tested to see if it could accurately assess victimization among children. Nurses and other health care professionals can utilize the model to identify children on the path to polyvictimization or those children who are polyvictimized.

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**Author Summary:** I started my career in labor and delivery at a hospital where Milwaukee's most vulnerable sought care. This work made me passionate about providing care to the most marginalized in Milwaukee and other communities. Thus, I began work as a public health nurse in Milwaukee and in 2007, became a full-time

faculty member at Marquette University's College of Nursing where I have taught hundreds of students and also conduct research on the polyvictimization of children.