

# Babies, Children and Alcohol Child Advocacy

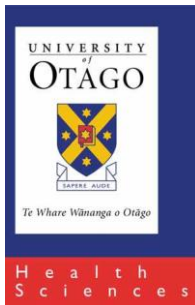
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‘My father is an alcoholic’



Yeah, right

Some parents have a significant  
problem with alcohol

this affects their children

Why?

Why are the parents drinking?

Could it be because of their childhood ?

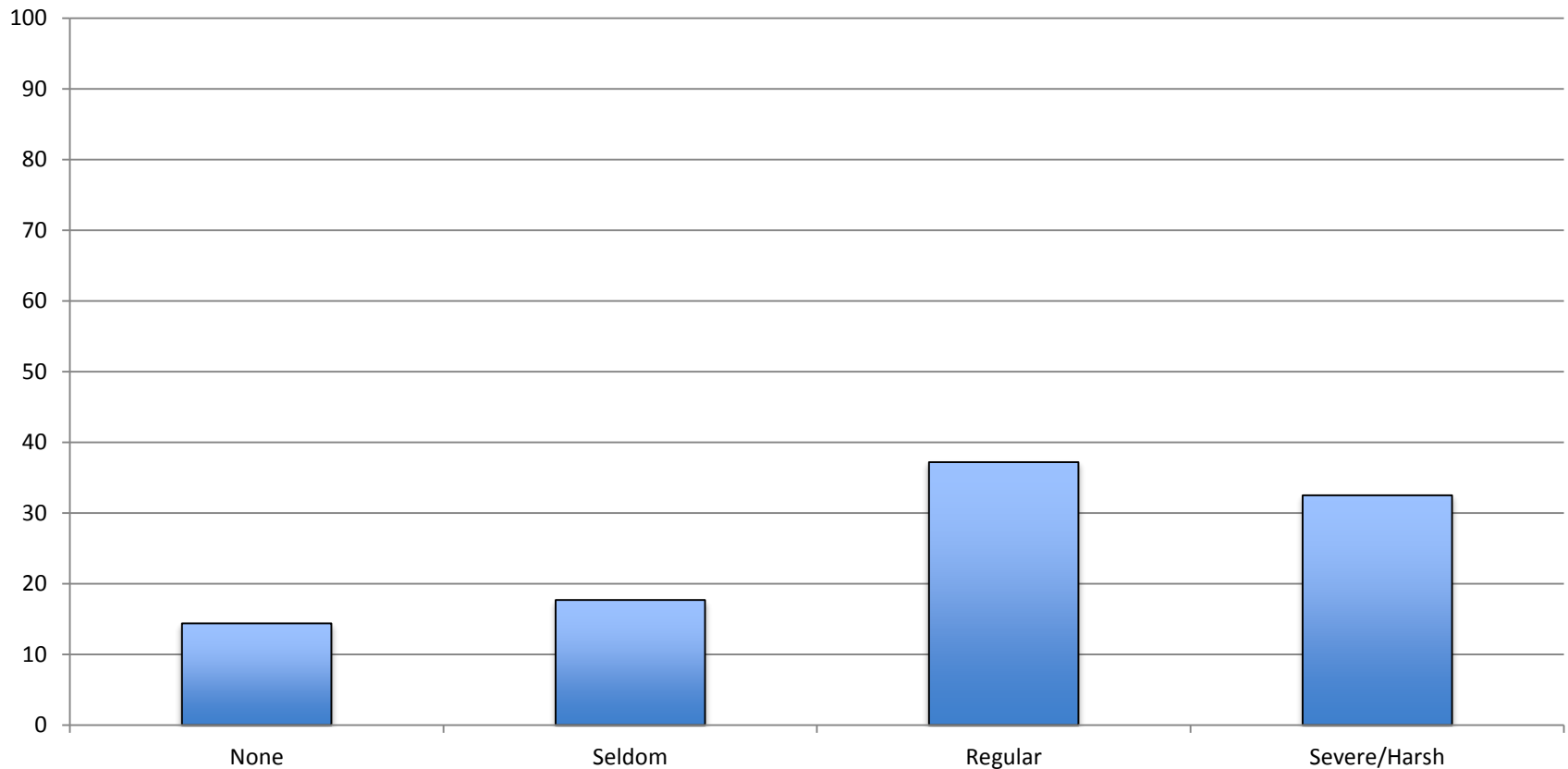
exposure to adverse  
circumstances

# Child Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
  - Exposure to Inter-parental violence
- Neglect

At 18, just over 10% NZ children report exposure to regular or severe/harsh physical punishment prior to 16

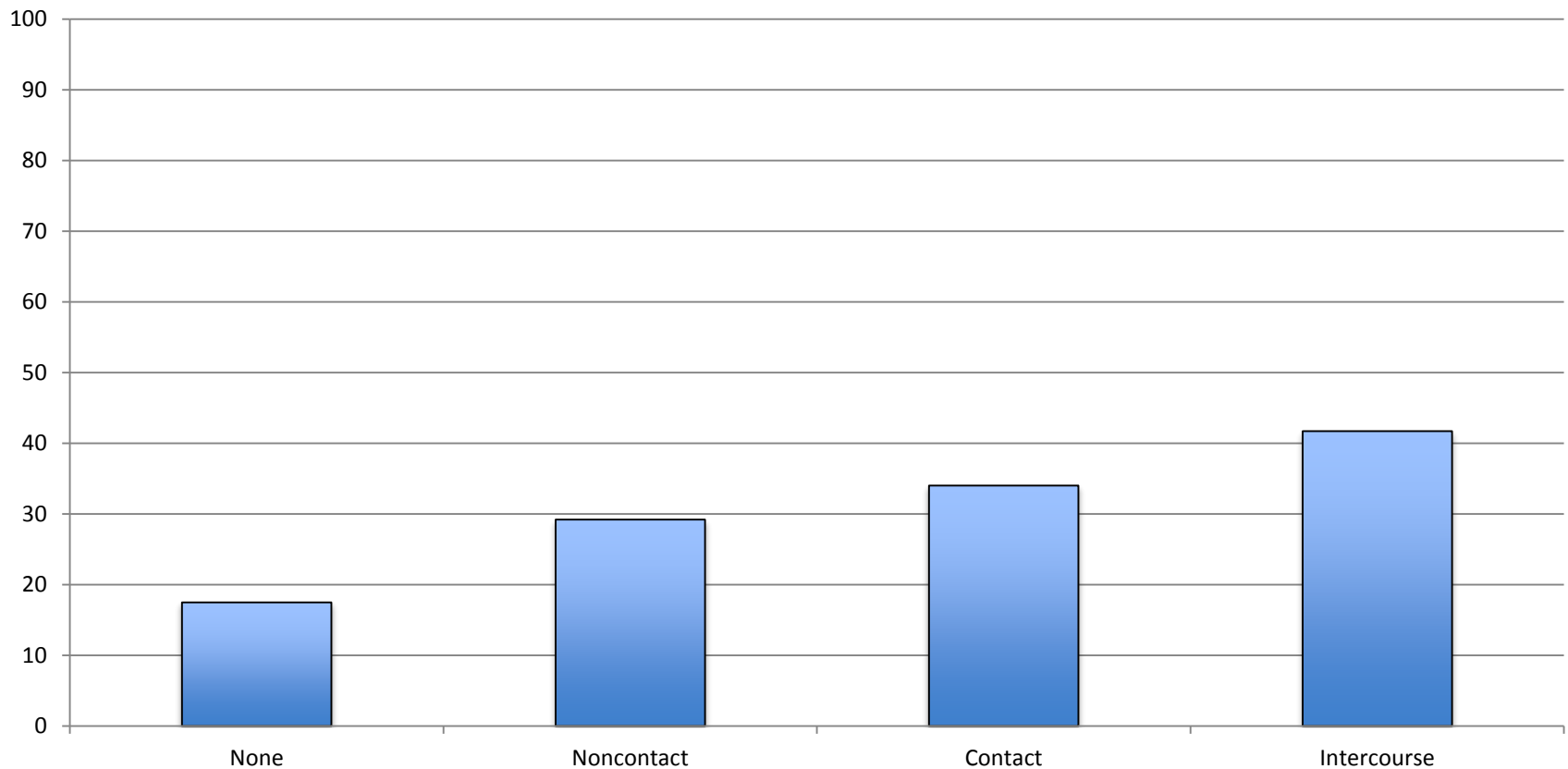
### % Alcohol abuse / Dependence at 18 years



*Fergusson, Lynskey Child Abuse & Neglect 1997*

At the age of 18, just over 10% of NZ children report exposure to CSA before 16 years

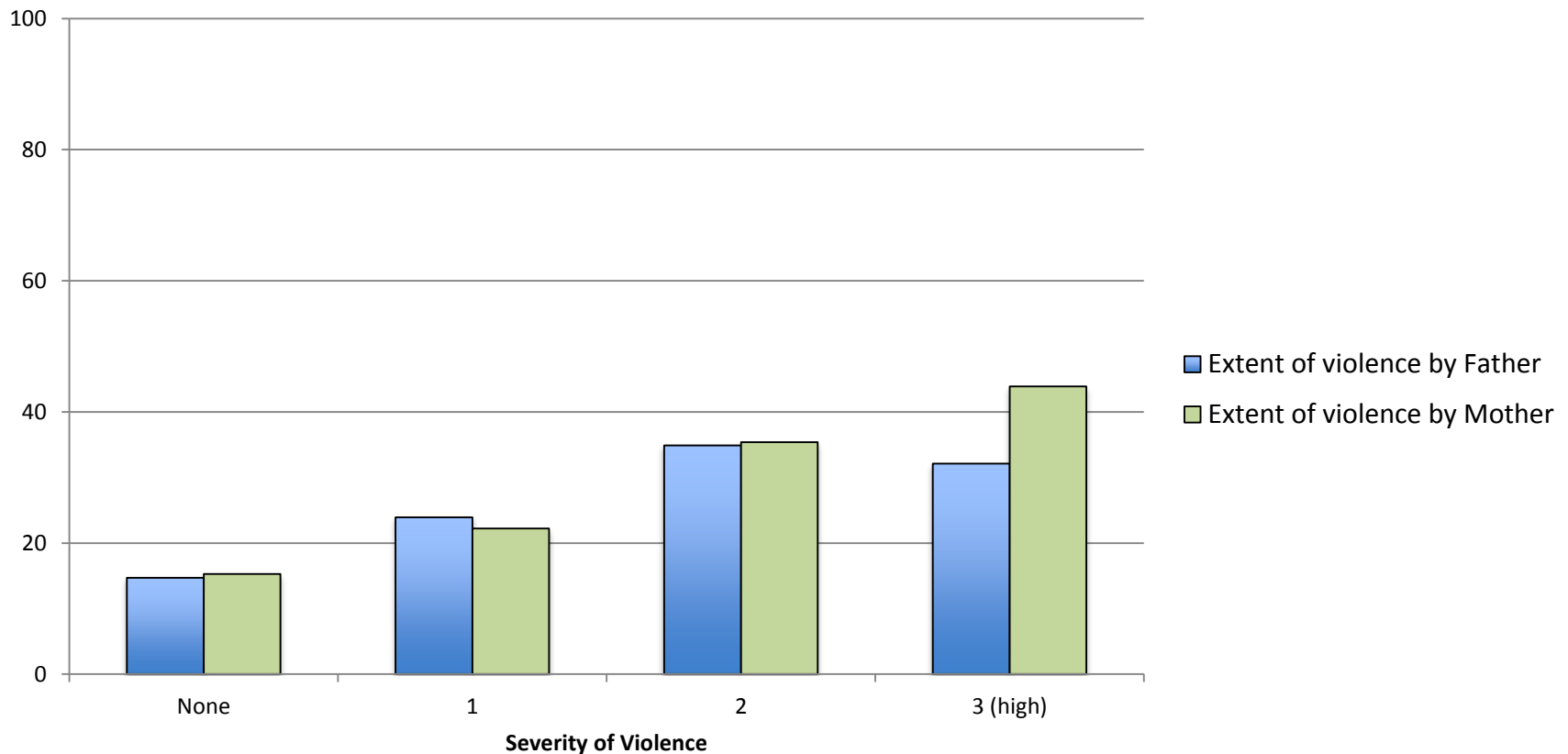
**% Alcohol Abuse /Dependence at 18 years**





At age 18, 38-39% of NZ children report exposure to inter-partner violence before age 16

**% Alcohol abuse / Dependence at 18 years**



*Fergusson, Horwood. Child Abuse & Neglect 1998*

# Socioeconomic Status & Alcohol and Drug Dependence Dunedin Multidisciplinary Longitudinal Study

- At 26 years
  - If low SES as child and adult, 21% are alcohol dependent
    - some dose response - not significant
- At 32 years
  - 14.4% were alcohol or drug dependent
    - Low SES OR 2.11 (1.16,3.84)
  - Familial liability to poor health, childhood / adolescent characteristics, low childhood IQ, childhood maltreatment and adult SES contributed to 55% of the excess risk

*Melchior et al. Am J Epidemiol 2007*  
*Poulton et al Lancet, 2002*

## Green Paper

# “Every Child Thrives, Belongs, Achieves”

At any point in time approximately 15 per cent of children (163,000) can be considered vulnerable

# So who are the 15% of vulnerable children?

- 17% of girls have experienced sexual abuse
- Around 20% of children live in poverty
- 38-39% of children witness interparental violence
- 20% of parents have mental health issues

How will an action plan for our most vulnerable 15% of children help these groups?

How do we work out who the 15% more vulnerable children are?

Is this a stable population?

How do we decrease the adverse effects of alcohol on children in our society ?

Optimise the childhood experience for  
all our children

Break the cycle of disadvantage

We need to be very clear about what we want for our children





We are supposed to be the grown-  
ups

Its up to us to sort this out