

# Primary Prevention of Child Abuse: Assessing the Parenting and Child-rearing Attitudes of Adolescents in Inner City Baltimore

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## ***Abstract***

The Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) was administered to 2,415 adolescents enrolled in six secondary public schools in Baltimore with the expressed purpose of assessing their parenting and child-rearing attitudes. Seventy-one percent of the respondents were females while 29% of the respondents were males. Ages ranged from 12 years to 21 years. Ninety-six percent of the adolescents completing the inventory were Black. Results of the study indicate approximately 10% to 12% of the adolescents responding to the inventory fell -1 to -4 standard deviations from the mean in each of the four assessed parenting patterns. Approximately 10% of the scores ranged from +1 to +3 standard deviations above the mean. Scores generated from adolescents enrolled in the jail school indicate the greater risk for abuse while adolescents enrolled in the local high school for pregnant teens indicate more positive, less abusive attitudes. Males expressed significantly ( $p < .001$ ) more abusive attitudes than females. The data further indicate that the younger the adolescent the more abusive his/her attitudes are toward parenting and child rearing.