

# Preface

Our interest in the intergenerational transmission of child maltreatment (ITCM) originated from our work with youth aging out of foster care. We saw firsthand how youth aging out who were parents often struggled to overcome obstacles they faced. All were striving to provide a better life for their children, but perhaps did not have the resources or support that we often take for granted as parents. We studied the experiences of youth aging out and increasingly became convinced that a potential opportunity to prevent future maltreatment was to target youth in and aging out of the foster care system. It started with our article in the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, published in 2014 that outlined existing research and policies and the need to focus on pregnant and parenting youth in and aging out of foster care in an effort to prevent ITCM (Geiger and Schelbe 2014). We realized through our work with youth aging out how important and prevalent the experience of parenting was for youth aging out and sought ways to better understand ITCM. Neither of us has worked on empirical studies examining ITCM, yet we understand that ITCM plays a role in our work with youth aging out. Accordingly, we started our investigation of ITCM among various populations, including youth aging out in *Advances in Child Abuse Prevention Knowledge*, edited by Deb Daro, Anne Cohn Donnelly, Lee Ann Huang, and Byron Powell in 2015. We have begun to investigate the parenting attitudes of youth aging out and how they might fare as parents in the future (Geiger and Schelbe under review) and what the experiences of parents aging out are given the myriad of challenges they face in their daily life. This SpringBrief started after Jennifer Hadley at Springer read an abstract in the program of the 2014 National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and reached out to Lisa to gauge her interest in writing a Spring Brief on ITCM. We pursued the opportunity with the hope that this knowledge can inform future research, programs, and policies related to prevention and intervention development with parents and families.

It is our hope that this book can be a resource to students, practitioners, and researchers studying and working in the child maltreatment field. Despite decades of research and interventions, child maltreatment and its etiology remain a very complex and complicated phenomenon. This book synthesizes what is known about ITCM to guide those who are developing interventions and conducting child

maltreatment prevention research. We aimed to comprehensively review what is known about ITCM, critique the current literature, and offer direction for future research and interventions. The book is based on the premise that to effectively prevent child maltreatment, understanding the nature of ITCM is of utmost importance.

Tallahassee, FL, USA  
Chicago, IL, USA

Lisa Schelbe  
Jennifer M. Geiger

Intergenerational Transmission of Child Maltreatment

Schelbe, L.; Geiger, J.M.

2017, XV, 89 p. 1 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-43822-1