

OCTOBER 2009 ABUSE MEDICAL SUMMARY for Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council <http://dvc.sccgov.org>

This summary includes selected articles indexed by the National Library of Medicine Aug 2009. To obtain a copy of the abstracts, go to pubmed.gov, and place the Pubmed ID numbers (PMID) in the search box, separated by commas.

Purpose: to provide members of the DVC with up-to-date information on effects of abuse and neglect on health and well being throughout the life cycle. This information can be a motivator for individual as well as policy change.

Child Abuse

Fujiwara T, Barber C, Schaechter J, Hemenway D.

Characteristics of infant homicides: findings from a U.S. multisite reporting system.

Pediatrics. 2009 Aug;124(2):e210-7. PMID: 19620199.

In a multistate study examining infant homicides, 75% were "Type 1" – involving beating/shaking, which were usually characterizing as being committed by a male (father or boyfriend of mother), the infant was transported to the hospital, and a false story was given. "Type 2" cases were usually committed by women, involved poisoning, drowning, withdrawal of food or water, and most infants were not taken to the hospital.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Fuller-Thomson E, Brennenstuhl S.

Making a link between childhood physical abuse and cancer: results from a regional representative survey.

Cancer. 2009 Jul 15;115(14):3341-50. PMID: 19472404.

In this Canadian study of over 13,000 adults, controlling for multiple risk factors, childhood physical abuse was associated with 49% higher risk of lifetime diagnosis of cancer.

Talbot NL, Chapman B, Conwell Y, McCollum K, Franus N, Cotescu S, Duberstein PR.

Childhood sexual abuse is associated with physical illness burden and functioning in psychiatric patients 50 years of age and older.

Psychosom Med. 2009 May;71(4):417-22. PMID: 19251869.

163 patients older than age 50 being treated for mood disorders were assessed as to lifetime history of medical problems as well as present pain and physical functioning. Those with a history of severe childhood sexual abuse had an increased life illness burden comparable to adding 8 years of age.

Wiersma JE, Hovens JG, van Oppen P, Giltay EJ, van Schaik DJ, Beekman AT, Penninx BW.

The importance of childhood trauma and childhood life events for chronicity of depression in adults.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2009 Jul;70(7):983-9. PMID: 19653975.

In this study from the Netherlands of 1230 adults with major depression, those who had suffered childhood abusive trauma, but not adverse childhood life events, were more than two times more likely to experience chronic, rather than a limited episode, of depression.

Clements-Nolle K, Wolden M, Bargmann-Losche J.

Childhood trauma and risk for past and future suicide attempts among women in prison.

Womens Health Issues. 2009 May-Jun;19(3):185-92. PMID: 19447323.

In a survey of 247 women in prison in Nevada, a history of childhood trauma was very common, and served as an independent risk factor for attempted suicide.

Sachs-Ericsson N, Cromer K, Hernandez A, Kendall-Tackett K.

A review of childhood abuse, health, and pain-related problems: the role of psychiatric disorders and current life stress.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2009;10(2):170-88.PMID: 19333847.

Analysis of multiple factors involved in increased childhood abuse survivors' health problems, including alterations in brain functioning leading to increased vulnerability to stress, decreased immune function, mental health issues and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

van der Made F, Bloemers J, van Ham D, El Yassem W, Kleiverda G, Everaerd W, Olivier B, Tuiten A.
Childhood sexual abuse, selective attention for sexual cues and the effects of testosterone with or without vardenafil on physiological sexual arousal in women with sexual dysfunction: a pilot study.

J Sex Med. 2009 Feb;6(2):429-39. PMID: 19138366.

In this small study of women with hypoactive sexual desire disorder, testing demonstrated increased arousal with testosterone and vardenafil (similar to Viagra) for women without a childhood sexual abuse history; however women with a history of childhood sexual abuse experienced either no change or decreased desire in response to these medications.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Decker MR, Seage GR 3rd, Hemenway D, Raj A, Saggurti N, Balaiah D, Silverman JG.

Intimate partner violence functions as both a risk marker and risk factor for women's HIV infection: findings from Indian husband-wife dyads.

J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2009 Aug 15;51(5):593-600. PMID: 19421070.

In a study of over 20,000 husband-wife couples in India, 1/3 of wives experienced IPV. 0.4% of the husbands were infected with HIV. The wives of abusive infected husbands were 7 times more likely to become infected with HIV than were wives of non-abusive infected husbands. Per the authors, this is the first evidence that abused wives face elevated HIV transmission within abusive relationships.

Cultural Issues

Lee HY, Eaton CK.

Financial abuse in elderly Korean immigrants: mixed analysis of the role of culture on perception and help-seeking intention.

J Gerontol Soc Work. 2009 Jul;52(5):463-88. PMID: 19585323.

When faced with a hypothetical example of elder financial abuse, 1/3 of elderly Korean immigrants, especially traditional males, would not report the abuse. Their reasons are explored, including shame and mistrust of a third party intervention.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Dong X, Simon M, Mendes de Leon C, Fulmer T, Beck T, Hebert L, Dyer C, Paveza G, Evans D.

Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population.

JAMA. 2009 Aug 5;302(5):517-26. PMID: 19654386.

In a prospective study of 9318 elderly Chicago area residents, those who were reported for elder self-neglect were 5.82 times more likely, and those reported for elder abuse 1.88 times more likely, to die in the following year as opposed to non-abused elders.

Perpetrators

Bell KM, Orcutt HK.

Posttraumatic stress disorder and male-perpetrated intimate partner violence.

JAMA. 2009 Aug 5;302(5):562-4. PMID: 19654390.

Article discusses the research and reasons behind men with PTSD being more likely to commit IPV, and that issues of PTSD need to be addressed in batterer's intervention groups.

Ernst AA, Weiss SJ, Hall J, Clark R, Coffman B, Goldstein L, Hopley K, Dettmer T, Lehrman C, Merhege M, Corum B, Rihani T, Valdez M.

Adult intimate partner violence perpetrators are significantly more likely to have witnessed intimate partner violence as a child than nonperpetrators.

Am J Emerg Med. 2009 Jul;27(6):641-50. PMID: 19751620.

In a sample of over 200 male and female patients presenting to an ED in New Mexico, 19% identified themselves as perpetrators of IPV. There was a significant statistical correlation of being a perpetrator and having witnessed IPV as a child, as well as a correlation with a spouse with a substance abuse problem.

Police and Court System

Gondolf EW.

Implementing mental health treatment for batterer program participants: interagency breakdowns and underlying issues.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Jun;15(6):638-55. PMID: 19342618.

Article details analysis of the breakdowns and inconsistencies in a court-mandated batterer referral system.

Hodell EC, Golding JM, Yozwiak JA, Bradshaw GS, Kinstle TL, Marsil DF.

The perception of elder sexual abuse in the courtroom.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Jun;15(6):678-98. PMID: 19299250.

Mock jurors were very likely to question the credibility of elders in elder sexual abuse cases.

Providers

Herrman JW.

There's a fine line...adolescent dating violence and prevention.

Pediatr Nurs. 2009 May-Jun;35(3):164-70. PMID: 19681377.

Review of teen dating abuse for pediatric nurses.

Smith M.

Creating the space for healing. Antepartum care in women with trauma history.

Midwifery Today Int Midwife. 2009 Summer;(90):9-12, 62-4. PMID:19627048.

Very sensitive and insightful article on how to observe, interact with, and support a child abuse survivor in an obstetrics/labor setting.

Reis BY, Kohane IS, Mandl KD.

Longitudinal histories as predictors of future diagnoses of domestic abuse: modelling study.

BMJ. 2009 Sep 29;339:b3677. PMID: 19789406.

Six year longitudinal analysis of a statewide database of all hospital, clinic and ED visits for 561,216 adult patients revealed certain factors which were predictive of an eventual diagnosis of abuse. For women, these were: increased number of overall visits, a psychiatric diagnosis, a substance abuse diagnosis, and a poisoning episode.

Other of Interest

Lenahan PM.

Intimate partner violence: what do movies have to teach us?

Int Rev Psychiatry. 2009 Jun;21(3):189-99. PMID: 19459093.

Review of classic and recent films that include abuse, and suggestions for titles that can be used for educational purposes.

Lehrner A, Allen NE.

Still a movement after all these years? Current tensions in the domestic violence movement.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Jun;15(6):656-77. PMID: 19269931.

Discussion of the changes and challenges of the domestic violence movement, which began as a social change movement in the 1970s.