

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL OCTOBER 2012

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine August 2012. 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. PTSD = Post Traumatic Stress Disorder IPV = Intimate Partner Violence
For questions or comments about this summary, or to be placed on an email list to receive this monthly summary, please contact Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu . For back issues see <http://abuseresearch.info>

Child Abuse

Jernbro C, Svensson B, Tindberg Y, Janson S.

Multiple psychosomatic symptoms can indicate child physical abuse.

Acta Paediatr. 2012 Mar;101(3):324-9. PMID: 22054216

In this Swedish study of 2771 pupils in grades 4,6, and 9 from 44 schools, those with at least 3 vague symptoms such as headache, stomachache, or dizziness were 2.12 times more likely to be physically abused.

Lee SJ, Taylor CA, Bellamy JL.

Paternal depression and risk for child neglect in father-involved families of young children.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 May;36(5):461-9. PMID: 22633873

Of 1,089 families with a 3-to-5 year old child, paternal depression was significantly associated with an increased risk of child neglect even after accounting for factors such as maternal depression and economic hardship. Authors suggest the importance of also screening fathers for depression during well-baby visits.

Tanoue K, Matsui K, Nozawa K, Aida N.

Predictive value of early radiological findings in inflicted traumatic brain injury.

Acta Paediatr. 2012 Jun;101(6):614-7. PMID: 22353249

Description of brain imaging changes during the first month after abusive childhood head trauma that were most associated with poor long-term outcomes.

Lane WG, Dubowitz H, Langenberg P, Dischinger P.

Epidemiology of abusive abdominal trauma hospitalizations in United States children.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):142-8. PMID: 22398302

Using a national database, rates of abusive abdominal trauma were higher for infants than any other age group, with organs most commonly injured liver (64%), kidney (19%), and stomach/intestines (12%).

Wood JN, Pecker LH, Russo ME, Henretig F, Christian CW.

Evaluation and referral for child maltreatment in pediatric poisoning victims.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;36(4):362-9. PMID: 22571909

In an analysis of 928 child poisonings from an urban children's hospital, only 13% were evaluated by the hospital child protection team and only 4% referred to CPS. CPS referral was more likely for illicit drugs and more severe poisoning. Authors suggest the need to develop clinical guidelines on CPS referral for poisoning.

Jackson J, Carpenter S, Anderst J.

Challenges in the evaluation for possible abuse: presentations of congenital bleeding disorders in childhood.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):127-34. PMID: 22398301

Reviewing possible abuse cases at a Hemophilia Treatment Center and the mimics of abuse, authors suggest that children with bleeding disorders and suspicion of abuse have a collaborative evaluation with a pediatric hematologist and a child abuse pediatrician.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Van Voorhees EE, Dedert EA, Calhoun PS, Brancu M, Runnals J, Beckham JC; VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Workgroup.

Childhood trauma exposure in Iraq and Afghanistan war era veterans: implications for posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and adult functional social support.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 May;36(5):423-32. PMID: 22633055

In a study of 1301 veterans who served after 2001, and after controlling for combat exposure, childhood trauma (both abuse related and non-abuse related) significantly correlated with PTSD symptoms. In addition, PTSD symptoms of avoidance and numbing reduced the veteran's ability to seek needed social support.

Liu RT, Jager-Hyman S, Wagner CA, Alloy LB, Gibb BE.

Number of childhood abuse perpetrators and the occurrence of depressive episodes in adulthood.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;36(4):323-32. PMID: 22565039

For a group of college students with a history of childhood maltreatment followed for 2.5 years, an increased number of perpetrators of that childhood emotional or sexual abuse (but not physical abuse) was associated with increased risk of depression beyond the increased risk of maltreatment alone.

Stroebe SS, O'Keefe SL, Beard KW, Kuo SY, Swindell SV, Kommor MJ.

Father-daughter incest: data from an anonymous computerized survey.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(2):176-99. PMID: 22452300

From an anonymous computer survey, 19 adult women out of 1521 reported themselves as victims of father-daughter incest. This group, compared to those with childhood sexual abuse from others and to a no abuse category, felt more damaged, estranged, and shamed, had more sexual partners at an early age, were more depressed, and had more sexual satisfaction and communication difficulties.

Stoltenberg SF, Anderson C, Nag P, Anagnopoulos C.

Association between the serotonin transporter triallelic genotype and eating problems is moderated by the experience of childhood trauma in women.

Int J Eat Disord. 2012 May;45(4):492-500. PMID: 22271509

For 439 college students, those with a certain type of serotonin gene that produced less serotonin, had increased sensitivity to the negative impact of childhood trauma, causing significantly more reported eating problems.

Pereira J, Vickers K, Atkinson L, Gonzalez A, Wekerle C, Levitan R.

Parenting stress mediates between maternal maltreatment history and maternal sensitivity.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 May;36(5):433-7. PMID: 22633056

In a community sample of 291 mothers with 6 month old infants, mothers who reported more maltreatment in childhood were less sensitive when interacting with their infants.

Lehto SM, Elomaa AP, Niskanen L, et al.

Serum adipokine levels in adults with a history of childhood maltreatment.

Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2012 Jun 1;37(2):217-21. PMID: 22336057

Adiponectin is a protein produced by fat cells, important in many process relating to control of blood sugar, fat, weight loss, and atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries). In this Finnish study of 147 participants with a history of mental health issues, those with a history of childhood maltreatment, compared to a no maltreatment group, had significantly lower adiponectin levels, leaving them at increased risk for processes such as diabetes and heart disease.

van Reedt Dortland AK, Giltay EJ, van Veen T, Zitman FG, Penninx BW.

Personality traits and childhood trauma as correlates of metabolic risk factors.

Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2012 Jan 10;36(1):85-91. PMID: 22001949

From a study of 2755 adults from the Netherlands, looking at a wide variety of factors, childhood sexual abuse was the most important factor correlated to risk of metabolic syndrome, including high lipid levels and abdominal obesity.

McIntyre RS, Soczynska JK, Liauw SS, et al.

The association between childhood adversity and components of metabolic syndrome in adults with mood disorders: results from the international mood disorders collaborative project.

Int J Psychiatry Med. 2012;43(2):165-77. PMID: 22849038

In this joint Canadian/US project looking at patients with a diagnosis of depression or bipolar disorder and metabolic syndrome, any childhood adversity was associated with elevated blood pressure, and childhood sexual abuse was associated with obesity; however this study did not show a difference in lipid levels.

Adolescents

Mason B, Smithey M.

The effects of academic and interpersonal stress on dating violence among college students: a test of classical strain theory.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Mar;27(5):974-86. PMID: 21987517

For 142 college undergrads, general stress and longer time in a relationship were associated with more dating violence; however the added stress of more hours working at a job decreased dating violence, possibly due to less time spent together.

Mota N, Elias B, Tefft B, Medved M, Munro G, Sareen J.

Correlates of suicidality: investigation of a representative sample of Manitoba First Nations adolescents.

Am J Public Health. 2012 Jul;102(7):1353-61. PMID: 22676500

In a Canadian study of First Nations adolescents, several variables were found to be associated with increased risk of suicidality, including being female, depressed, substance use, and abuse or fear of abuse. Perceived community caring was protective.

Lepistö S, Joronen K, Åstedt-Kurki P, Luukkaala T, Paavilainen E.

Subjective well-being in Finnish adolescents experiencing family violence.

J Fam Nurs. 2012 May;18(2):200-33. PMID: 22274937

For 1393 Finnish adolescents, those who came from a violent home, compared to those who did not, reported poorer overall health, had more “inner disequilibrium”, and had markedly stronger relationships with friends.

Shin SH, Miller DP.

A longitudinal examination of childhood maltreatment and adolescent obesity: results from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (AddHealth) Study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):84-94. PMID: 22398304

Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent health with over 8,000 participants, and controlling for 14 separate factors, childhood neglect plus physical abuse was associated with higher BMI (weight adjusted for height) at baseline, and for neglect a quicker rate of BMI growth over time.

Shenk CE, Putnam FW, Noll JG.

Experiential avoidance and the relationship between child maltreatment and PTSD symptoms.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):118-26. PMID: 22398300

For 51 adolescents maltreated as children, those who showed more “experiential avoidance” (an unwillingness to re-experience painful events, such as unwanted thoughts, emotions, or memories) were more likely to subsequently develop symptoms of PTSD.

Shin SH, Hong HG, Wills TA.

An examination of pathways from childhood maltreatment to adolescent binge drinking.

Am J Addict. 2012 May-Jun;21(3):202-9. PMID: 22494222

Using a large national database of 6337 adolescents and controlling for many variables, a history of childhood maltreatment was significantly associated with adolescent binge drinking.

Rosenkranz SE, Muller RT, Henderson JL.

Psychological maltreatment in relation to substance use problem severity among youth.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 May;36(5):438-48. PMID: 22622223

Studying all types of childhood abuse in a group of young adults entering an outpatient treatment program for substance abuse, only emotional abuse or emotional neglect was a predictor of substance use severity, especially for females.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Lamers-Winkelmann F, Willemsen AM, Visser M.

Adverse childhood experiences of referred children exposed to intimate partner violence: consequences for their wellbeing.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):166-79. PMID: 22280846

In this Dutch study of 208 children referred for exposure to parental IPV, the children turned out to have many other adverse factors such as abuse and neglect – the mean number of adverse childhood experiences (ACE score) was 5, with 20% having a score of 7 or more.

Chan KL, Brownridge DA, Fong DY, Tiwari A, Leung WC, Ho PC.

Violence against pregnant women can increase the risk of child abuse: a longitudinal study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;36(4):275-84. PMID: 22565038

From a study following Chinese women at 7 public hospitals in Hong Kong over time, IPV against women during pregnancy predicted subsequent significantly increased risk of child abuse and neglect of the newborn.

Makhubela MS.

Exposure to domestic violence and identity development among adolescent university students in South Africa.

Psychol Rep. 2012 Jun;110(3):791-800. PMID: 22897085

For 108 South African undergraduates, exposure to DV at home was associated with lower scores of identity developments such as trust, autonomy and initiative.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Humphreys J, Epel ES, Cooper BA, Lin J, Blackburn EH, Lee KA.

Telomere shortening in formerly abused and never abused women.

Biol Res Nurs. 2012Apr;14(2):115-23. PMID: 21385798

Compared to a control group, 61 survivors of IPV had significantly shorter telomeres (a test related to premature aging of cells) – even shorter with longer time in the abusive relationship.

Schafer KR, Brant J, Gupta S, Thorpe J, Winstead-Derlega C, Pinkerton R, Laughon K, Ingersoll K, Dillingham R.

Intimate partner violence: a predictor of worse HIV outcomes and engagement in care.

AIDS Patient Care STDS. 2012 Jun;26(6):356-65. PMID: 22612519

Of 251 patients in a public HIV clinic, IPV prevalence was 33.1% with no difference by gender or sexual orientation. IPV exposure and especially being threatened by a partner was associated with a low CD4 count and a detectable viral load (both indicators of poorer HIV status) as well as a high “no show” rate for clinic visits.

Cultural Issues

Peragallo N, Gonzalez-Guarda RM, McCabe BE, Cianelli R.

The efficacy of an HIV risk reduction intervention for Hispanic women.

AIDS Behav. 2012 Jul;16(5):1316-26. PMID: 21969175

This culturally specific intervention program for Hispanic women was effective in decreasing chlamydia infections, improving condom use, and decreasing substance abuse.

Gray CM, Montgomery MJ.

Links between alcohol and other drug problems and maltreatment among adolescent girls: perceived discrimination, ethnic identity, and ethnic orientation as moderators.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 May;36(5):449-60. PMID: 22608406

For 168 adolescent Black and Hispanic girls participating in a school-based substance use intervention, childhood maltreatment was linked to PTSD symptoms, which were linked to substance use. The effect of maltreatment was higher on girls who perceived greater ethnic discrimination; ethnic orientation/identity had a protective effect.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Dong X, Simon MA, Evans DA.

Prevalence of self-neglect across gender, race, and socioeconomic status.

Gerontology. 2012;58(3):258-68. PMID: 22189358

In a group of 4627 older adults in 4 adjacent neighborhoods in Chicago, self-neglect including hoarding, hygiene and other environmental hazards was higher in black older adults and those with lower levels of education and income.

Perpetrators

Farmer M, Beech AR, Ward T.

Assessing desistance in child molesters: a qualitative analysis.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Mar;27(5):930-50. PMID: 22203639

Of British child molesters who received treatment, those less likely to re-offend reported an enhanced sense of self control and that treatment was a turning point in their life, and they were more likely to be involved in a social network. Those deemed likely to re-offend blamed their problems on external events and remained socially isolated and alienated.

Bonham E, Vetere AL.

A qualitative study using a systemic perspective exploring the remediation of abusive interactions in intimate heterosexual couples.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Mar;27(5):916-29. PMID: 22203613

In-depth interviews with 6 heterosexual couples after the male abusive partner had received a therapeutic intervention, on how they both perceived the violence as ending and how they successfully continued their relationship.

Strassberg DS, Eastvold A, Wilson Kenney J, Suchy Y.

Psychopathy among pedophilic and nonpedophilic child molesters.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;36(4):379-82. PMID: 22571910

In assessing a group of 104 child molesters, those who were non-pedophiles were significantly more psychopathic than the pedophiles.

Police and Court System

Hershkowitz I, Lamb ME, Orbach Y, Katz C, Horowitz D.

The development of communicative and narrative skills among preschoolers: lessons from forensic interviews about child abuse.

Child Dev. 2012 Mar-Apr;83(2):611-22. PMID: 22181976

Among 299 preschoolers, 3-4 year old children responded slightly more informatively to specific directive recall prompts whereas children 5 and older were more responsive to open-ended recall prompts.

Providers

Coker AL, Garcia LS, Williams CM, Crawford TN, Clear ER, McFarlane J, Ferguson JE 2nd.

Universal psychosocial screening and adverse pregnancy outcomes in an academic obstetric clinic.

Obstet Gynecol. 2012 Jun;119(6):1180-9. PMID: 22617583

After instituting standardized universal psychosocial screening in a Kentucky prenatal clinic (including past and present abuse, depression, smoking, substance abuse, and housing instability) along with prior established counseling and referral, there was a significant decrease in low birth weight babies, preterm births, and any maternal complications; also newborn Apgar scores were higher.

Sprague S, Madden K, Dosanjh S, Petrisor B, Schemitsch EH, Bhandari M.

Screening for intimate partner violence in orthopedic patients: a comparison of three screening tools.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Mar;27(5):881-98. PMID: 21987513

Comparing screening methods for Canadian women seen in orthopedic clinics at two level 1 trauma centers, the WAST (Woman Abuse Screening Tool) identified 37.2% of the IPV victims detected and the PVS (Partner Violence Screen) identified 27.7% , whereas direct questioning identified 89.4% of the IPV victims.

Kim-Spoon J, Haskett ME, Longo GS, Nice R.

Longitudinal study of self-regulation, positive parenting, and adjustment problems among physically abused children.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):95-107. PMID: 22398303

For 95 physically abused children followed for 2 years, those with subsequent behavioral problems and low self-control were significantly helped with positive parenting behaviors.

Davidson MM, Nitzel C, Duke A, Baker CM, Bovaird JA.

Advancing career counseling and employment support for survivors: an intervention evaluation.

J Couns Psychol. 2012 Apr;59(2):321-8. PMID: 22506911

This 5 week career group counseling intervention for survivors of IPV was effective in improving career-search self-efficacy, and decreasing anxiety and depression.

Hager AD, Runtz MG.

Physical and psychological maltreatment in childhood and later health problems in women: an exploratory investigation of the roles of perceived stress and coping strategies.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 May;36(5):393-403. PMID: 22609072

For 235 Canadian women, childhood psychological and physical maltreatment was associated with poorer health status and health symptoms. However, perceived present life stress and type of coping mechanism also played a role. Authors suggest that for women with this childhood history, stress reduction and improved coping skills may benefit physical symptoms.

Researchers

Macdonald G, Higgins JP, Ramchandani P, et al.

Cognitive-behavioural interventions for children who have been sexually abused.

Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2012 May 16;5:CD001930. PMID: 22592679

Cochrane review of CBT for children with a history of sexual abuse “confirms the potential of CBT” but highlights the need for more carefully conducted and reported trials.

Nelson HD, Bougatso C, Blazina I.

Screening women for intimate partner violence: a systematic review to update the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation.

Ann Intern Med. 2012 Jun 5;156(11):796-808. PMID: 22565034

In an update to the 2004 report from the US Preventive Services Task Force, authors felt that screening instruments could identify women experiencing IPV, that screening can provide benefits (varying by population), and that screening caused minimal adverse effects.

Frasier LD, Thraen I, Kaplan R, Goede P.

Development of standardized clinical training cases for diagnosis of sexual abuse using a secure telehealth application.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):149-55. PMID: 22405479

Description of a process to assess suitability of clinical cases to be used in an online practitioner educational program in childhood sexual abuse.

Macy RJ, Goodbourn M.

Promoting successful collaborations between domestic violence and substance abuse treatment service sectors: a review of the literature.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Oct;13(4):234-51. PMID: 22899704

Authors make suggestions for strategies to foster collaboration between DV and substance abuse services, which have distinctly different service delivery models.

Punyadeera C.

Human saliva as a tool to investigate intimate partner violence.

Brain Behav Immun. 2012 May;26(4):541-2. PMID: 22388099

Discussion of the validity of using saliva to measure physiological factors for stress and inflammation.

Other of Interest

Tiesman HM, Gurka KK, Konda S, Coben JH, Amandus HE.

Workplace homicides among U.S. women: the role of intimate partner violence.

Ann Epidemiol. 2012 Apr;22(4):277-84. PMID: 22463843

Between 2003 and 2008 there were 648 workplace homicides of women in the US. 39% were due to criminal intent, but the second category at 33% was perpetration by a personal relation (78% intimate partners). 51% perpetrated by intimate partners occurred in parking lots and public buildings.

Fang X, Brown DS, Florence CS, Mercy JA.

The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Feb;36(2):156-65. PMID: 22300910

From the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the CDC, estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is \$210,012 in 2010 dollars. "The total lifetime economic burden resulting from new cases of fatal and nonfatal child maltreatment in the United States in 2008 is approximately \$124 billion. In sensitivity analysis, the total burden is estimated to be as large as \$585 billion....Compared with other health problems, the burden of child maltreatment is substantial, indicating the importance of prevention efforts to address the high prevalence of child maltreatment."

Naved RT, Blum LS, Chowdhury S, Khan R, Bilkis S, Koblinsky M.

Violence against women with chronic maternal disabilities in rural Bangladesh.

J Health Popul Nutr. 2012 Jun;30(2):181-92. PMID: 22838160

Discussion of the emotional, physical and sexual abuse of women in rural Bangladesh who have chronic gynecologic disabilities such as uterine prolapse or urinary stress incontinence.

Fry D, McCoy A, Swales D.

The Consequences of Maltreatment on Children's Lives: A Systematic Review of Data From the East Asia and Pacific Region.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Oct;13(4):209-33. PMID: 22899705

A UNICEF consultant analyzes the "profound and far-reaching" effects of abuse on children in the East Asia and Pacific Region, calling for "urgent need for governments, civil society organizations, development agencies, and academia to advocate for, invest in, and collaborate across sectors for the strengthening of child protection systems."